

## Sayyid Al-Hakeem emphasizes youth are Iraq's real wealth, they require nurturing and empowerment



At the Baghdad Diwan for Youth Elites, Sayyid Ammar Al-Hakeem, Head of Al-Hikma National Movement, praised the current state of youth, stating that they are the future and leaders of Iraq, constituting the true wealth that needs development and effective utilization. As they represent the majority of the Iraqi population, His Eminence urged for investment in these potentials, asserting that enhancing youth capabilities can bring about a qualitative leap in Iraq. H.E. highlighted the challenges Iraq faced before and after 2003, emphasizing that transitioning from dictatorship to democracy came with the cost of combating terrorism in all its forms. H.E. explained that Iraq suffered from the oppression of the Saddam regime and its affiliates alongside terrorism. However, the blessed fatwa of the supreme religious authority turned the tide in favor of Iraq, altering all security and intelligence equations that predicted Iraq's liberation by around 2030.

H.E. stressed that terrorism targeted Iraq to create security, social, and political problems, exploiting internal divisions. H.E. noted that Iraq has overcome significant obstacles and faced a media campaign that demonized everything, obstructing achievements and presenting negativity as the norm. H.E. highlighted Iraq's struggle against imported sectarianism and emphasized that Iraq's stability is now a prerequisite for regional stability, a lesson learned through experience.

H.E. also mentioned the ongoing rapid reconstruction phase, stating that how Iraq is viewed by regional leaders differs from Iraqis' perception. He urged for optimism and focused on the positive aspects, cautioning against the Ba'athist regime's attempts to market itself as a positive example to current and future generations, disregarding the horrors of wars, sanctions, mass graves, and arbitrary executions.

H.E. expressed confidence in the youth, admiring their patriotism and vision for the future, and renewed his commitment to empowering them domestically and internationally. H.E. stated that the success of youth anywhere is a success for all, calling for an end to the discrepancy between the age allowed for forming a political party and the age allowed for candidacy. H.E. emphasized that the success of the government is linked to the supportive political system and the exceptional performance of the Prime Minister. H.E. called for supporting women and changing the unfair stereotypical image of them, noting their proven ability and potential to succeed and achieve significant accomplishments across various fields.