Sayyid Al-Hakeem Meets Local Basra Leaders, Emphasizes Provincial Development, Stability Importance

On the second day of his visit to Basra, Sayyid Ammar Al-Hakeem, Head of the National State Powers' Alliance, met with Governor Asaad Al-Eidani, Provincial Council Chairman Khalaf Al-Badran, as well as several council members, security leaders, administrative heads, and directors of service departments.

During the meeting, His Eminence congratulated those present on the blessed births of the Imams from Ahl Al-Bayt (peace be upon them) and the anniversary of the Shaaban Uprising, considering it a pivotal moment that contributed to the eventual overthrow of the dictatorial regime.

H.E. highlighted Basra's strategic importance due to its geographical location and significant influence domestically and internationally. H.E. noted its cultural heritage, economic contributions, and social and tribal diversity, portraying it as a miniature representation of Iraq. H.E. also praised Basra's figures who played key roles in building the new Iraqi state, drafting the constitution, and combating terrorism.

H.E. acknowledged Basra's remarkable urban and developmental progress, urging the preservation of these achievements and the pursuit of further development aspirations. H.E. also commended the province's security and social stability, emphasizing that political stability is crucial for supporting continued development and reconstruction.

Regarding provincial councils, H.E. stressed that they are primarily service-oriented institutions that should remain free from political conflicts. H.E. noted that significant developmental achievements were realized through local governments' efforts, despite the lack of full constitutional powers granted under the decentralized system.

Economically, H.E. underscored the need to diversify income sources and reduce dependence on oil and its fluctuating prices. H.E. called for revitalizing productive sectors such as agriculture, industry, tourism, investment, and technology. H.E. highlighted the importance of the Grand Faw Port project, the Development Road, and the seawater desalination plant, advocating for fairness towards Basra and addressing its pollution issues. H.E. also called for activating the “Basra as Iraq's Economic Capital” initiative and acknowledged the positive impact of the Gulf 25 Championship in showcasing the province's cultural image and its people's hospitality.

On human development, H.E. urged the adoption of modern technology and investment in local talents through training and development programs, alongside the activation of vocational training institutes. H.E. emphasized enhancing public-private partnerships due to their vital role in achieving sustainable development. H.E. also stressed the need for strict measures to combat drug abuse, raise awareness of its dangers while differentiating between users and traffickers, and address other social challenges.

Concluding the discussion, H.E. expressed optimism about Basra's future, emphasizing the importance of supporting its efforts towards greater developmental progress, worthy of its

status and economic and human potential.