



EMBASSY OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

Press Release

No 40

August 3rd 2021

Facts related to water and climate sector of Khuzestan Province

1. Water crisis unfolding in Khuzestan Province in Islamic Republic of Iran is the result of a year-long drought. The negative consequences of severe drought have been exacerbated by the United States' illegal and inhumane unilateral coercive measures, which constitute a major impediment to stimulate investment and transfer of technology for water management in Khuzestan. Therefore, the question is that how come certain people are yet to condemn in the strongest terms the United States' unlawful and cruel economic blockade against people of Iran whose basic human rights have been violated?
2. It seems, these mentioned people have relentless determination in minoritizing, dividing and sowing the seeds of discord amongst ever-united Iran as a nation. Such a move is in line with policies dictated by certain countries whose enmity towards people of Iran is no mystery to anyone.
3. Government of Islamic Republic of Iran recognizes importance of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly. The provincial authorities also recognize and respect the right to peaceful assembly and expression of public objection and complaint in relation to water shortages in Khuzestan. The Government, however, absolutely does not under any circumstances allow participation of rioters to disturb public order and endanger national security. The fact that a police officer was killed and a number of other law enforcement officers were wounded, prove that enemy forces and armed infiltrators have taken advantage of the peaceful assemblies, leaving no stones unturned to spark riots, create destruction and organize conspiracy against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Necessary Field Information

4. Water shortage in Khuzestan province results from a 52% decline in annual precipitation as a result of the ensuing unprecedented drought, coupled with extremely high temperatures in this region, which have altogether led to a 50% decline in water dams' reserves. Given the circumstances, full release of water from dams will cause recurrent and new problems in the coming months
5. During the past year, the majority of water supply projects envisaged for various cities in Khuzestan province became operational. In the agriculture sector of Khuzestan province, major measures have been taken regarding construction of agricultural canals and farmland drainage. Over the years, 295,000 hectares of land across Khuzestan and part of Ilam provinces underwent canal and drainage construction.
6. Over the past eight years, significant developments have been made in the water and wastewater sector of Khuzestan province. With the Ghadir Project, drinking water has been transferred from Dez Dam to a large part of Khuzestan and Ahvaz, and further efforts are also on the agenda.
7. In recent years, Khuzestan province has been faced with the scourge of haze. The current administration then moved to replace most power transmission lines, and 46,000 hectares of land exposed to haze underwent transplantation.
8. Since 2013 until 2020, more than two billion Euro has been paid in credit to Khuzestan province, which is 5% higher than average sum allocated to other provinces. That placed Khuzestan in the first rank among provinces in terms of credit allocation. Owing to sacrifices made by residents of Khuzestan during the Eight-year Sacred Defense, most services in terms of water and wastewater, canal construction, tree plantation, fighting haze and agriculture development have been provided to this province. The President has issued special instructions to all relevant authorities to urgently follow up on necessary measures until full resolution of the problems.

Facts related to the water and climate sector of the province:

- Khuzestan province has an arid climate with an annual evaporation of about 3 cubic meters.
- Latest annual rainfall data demonstrate an unprecedented decrease in rainfall, which has had important consequences such as the lowering of the province's dams, lack of hydropower generation and major problems in the water supply process.
- Other important factors that must be cited: the sharp decrease in the discharge of the Karkheh River; the prolongation of the lack of water supply in Hur al-Azim and its negative consequences; an unprecedented increase in average temperatures; as well as unlicensed harvests of summer rice cultivation.

Measures carried out:

- Establishment of the Provincial Crisis Management Committee and the Provincial Agricultural Council in the presence of the Governor General with the aim of revising summer crop management and plan engagement of relevant agencies.
- Establishment of the Provincial Crisis Prevention and Coordination Committee with the specific focus on issues of water shortage in the summer of Iranian year 1400(2021). Contributory officials include: Governor General, Deputy Ministers of the Ministry of Energy and Ministry of Agriculture Jihad, the Budget and Planning Organization, National Disaster Management Organization and members of the Islamic Consultative Assembly.
- Allocation of the remaining 19 million Euro of farmers' compensation from the year 2019 flood.
- Allocation of 114 million Euro for the completion of Mard Dam on Karun River and Chonideh Dam on Bahmanshir River.
- Allocation of 25 million Euro of surface water disposal credit from the year 2018.
- Allocation of the remaining 16 million Euro from the province's water shortage project.
- Allocation of 17 million Euro for water supply by tanker.
- Allocation of 12.5 million Euro and 25 million Euro compensation to the agricultural sector for water shortage and agricultural damages.
- Allocation of six million Euro of credit for combat desertification projects, pest control, dust pollution and drought management.
- Allocation of 83 million Euro for villages' water supply combat desertification projects, pest control, dust pollution and drought management.
- Allocation of 500,000 Euro and four million Euro to compensate loss of livestock and for providing forage and supplying water.
- Allocation of 8.3 million Euro for dredging of canals and drains in the province.
- Allocation of credit for renting dozens of water tankers.
- Providing 150 drinking water tanks for villages.
- Formation of specialized committees of the Provincial Security Council to adopt the necessary solutions aiming to reduce the possible damages caused by drought and water shortage.
- Visit of senior officials, including the first Vice President, Secretary of the Expediency Council, etc. to the province.

- Holding several specialized briefings with the attendance of: Governor General, Representative of the Supreme Leader in the province, Friday Imams, Member of the Assembly of Experts, Provincial officials and IRGC commanders among the tribes, religious scholars and influential people of the province, representatives of farmers and different layers of the province population.
- Implementation of programs to visit and assess the condition of the province's dams and specialized seminars with the presence of provincial officials and members of the media.
- Opening and increasing the outlet flow of Karkheh dam in order to supply water along the river.
- Special effort for prudent management of the recent protests in order to prevent potential environmental and security tensions despite the abuse of terrorist groups including Mojahedin Khalgh of Iran (MKO), the al-Ahwaziyeh terrorist group and ḥarakat an-nidhāl al-arabi (Arab Struggle Movement for the Liberation of Ahvaz, ASMLA) as well as an extensive, widespread and provocative psychological operations of opposition and foreign political, media and security circles.