

# Parliament ready to support development of private, public sectors: *Speaker*

## Economy Desk

Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf emphasized the importance of synergy between the government and the private sector to address the country's economic challenges during a meeting with heads of Iran Chambers of Commerce, Iran Chamber of Cooperatives, and Iran Chamber of Guilds.

The meeting was aimed at discussing the country's economic and livelihood issues, with a focus on leveraging the private sector's potential. Qalibaf stated that the Parliament is prepared to support the development of the private and public sectors in the national economy, according to otaghonline.ir.

Qalibaf highlighted the necessity of implementing the provisions of the Seventh Development Plan (2024-28), which he said could guarantee solutions to the country's short- and long-term problems.

He stressed that the government must expedite its withdrawal from direct involvement in business activities and transfer economic affairs to the private sector. The government, he added, should focus solely on macro-level policymaking in this area.

The Parliament speaker also underscored the need for fundamental mechanisms to prevent increased living costs for workers and pensioners, ensuring that rising prices of essential goods and inflation do not further burden such groups.

Qalibaf called for regular meetings to coordinate efforts among these public institutions, particularly during critical periods such as the holy fasting month



From left to right, Qassem Nodeh-Farahani, head of the Iran Chamber of Guilds, Bahman Abdollahi, head of the Iran Chamber of Cooperatives, Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf and Samad Hassanzadeh, head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce pose for a photo after discussing private sector issues in Tehran on March 3, 2025.

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of Ramadan and the Nowruz holidays, to address the root causes of the country's economic challenges.

The meeting was attended by Samad Hassanzadeh, head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture; Qassem Nodeh-Farahani, head of the Iran Chamber of Guilds; and Bahman Abdollahi, head of the Iran Chamber of Cooperatives. They discussed key issues related to private sector activities, concerns, and government support.

## Ready to manage struggling production units

Speaking at the meeting, Hassanzadeh expressed the private sector's readiness to manage inactive production units, urging Parliament members and the government to actively identify economically viable units that have faltered due to poor management. He called for these units to be handed over to the private sector.

Referring to the approval of a government support package to compensate industries for losses caused by gas and electricity shortages, Hassanzadeh urged the government and Parliament to consider chambers of commerce as partners.

He suggested using their expertise to



assess damages suffered by production and industrial units and businesses due to energy imbalances.

Hassanzadeh also called for chambers of commerce, guilds, and cooperatives to have the opportunity to propose bills and plans, enhancing the role of economic actors in national decision-making.

He addressed the contentious issue of multilateralism in determining the minimum wage, describing the Supreme Labor Council's current mechanism as

outdated and in need of revision.

The chamber head proposed that representatives from chambers of commerce, guilds, and cooperatives be included in the council to strengthen multilateralism.

Hassanzadeh emphasized the need to revise the minimum wage model, suggesting that specific minimum wages be set for different occupational groups and adjusted as per regional economic conditions and living standards.

## Prepared to finance incomplete projects

Hassanzadeh also announced the private sector's readiness to participate in financing unfinished projects, offering to provide consultative support to parliament and government officials on practical solutions for funding such projects. He also expressed hope for amendments to the Iran Chamber of Commerce law, aiming to streamline and enhance the effectiveness of chambers of commerce across the country.

## Iranian MP urges economy reforms as ministers cannot 'perform miracles'

### Economy Desk

A member of Iran's Parliament stated that the focus should not be on the economy ministers but on changing the tools and conditions of the economy.

"It doesn't matter who the minister is; they can't perform miracles. The necessary economic conditions and tools must be fixed, and we cannot expect the government to remedy the economy in two or three days," Ahmad Bigdeli told ILNA. Bigdeli commented on the recent impeachment of the economy minister and the current state of the country, noting that the Parliament voted to oust the minister, effectively ending Abdolnaser Hemmati's tenure.

"I hope the president quickly proposes a candidate to avoid further uncertainty," the MP added. Regarding the country's economic outlook ahead of the Nowrouz (New Year) without an economy minister, he said, "I hope the economic team performs more effectively, and the absence of a minister does not impact the market. A caretaker has been appointed to handle the minister's duties and address people's concerns for the New Year."

### Warns of political pressure

A member of the Parliament's Economic Committee highlighted the financial outflow from the stock market following the impeachment of the economy minister, stating that turning impeachment into a tool for political pressure deprives the government of the opportunity to appoint competent individuals.

"No wise person would accept short-term responsibilities for the challenging role of economy minister," said Farid Mousavi in an interview with ILNA. He noted that despite the Leader's emphasis on avoiding excessive use of supervisory tools, the fastest impeachment in a government's history occurred recently.

Mousavi warned that the impeachment would lead to market instability, pointing out that approximately 1 trillion tomans exited the stock market in the first hour of trading on Monday.

"This heavy financial outflow means capital is leaving Iranian industries, 70% of which are production-based," he explained.

### Stabilizing currency rates

Another Parliament member suggested that the introduction of a new econ-



omy minister could lead to a reduction in currency rates.

"The dollar has a unique characteristic—it recognizes people. When it sees Abdolnaser Hemmati, it rises; when it sees someone else, it falls," said Abdolvahid Fayazi in an interview with ILNA.

Fayazi commented on the post-impeachment economic situation, stating that the Parliament exercised its legal right, and it is now the president's authority to appoint a caretaker. He acknowledged warnings that the impeachment could challenge market stability but noted that the Parliament proceeded with the vote. "Those who pushed for the impeachment predicted that if Hemmati was impeached, the government would introduce a better candidate," Fayazi said.

Regarding currency fluctuations after the impeachment, he added, "This situation may persist until a new minister is appointed, but once a candidate is proposed, the exchange rate should decrease."

## New vessels to join Caspian Sea fleet to boost synergy: *PMO*

### Economy Desk

The deputy minister of roads and urban development highlighted the collaborative support of all Caspian Sea littoral states for the introduction of new vessels into the sea, stating that increasing the number and reducing the age of vessels in the Caspian Sea is now a priority.

On Monday, Saeid Rasouli who is also caretaker of the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) noted that the Caspian Sea's entry limitations, which are only possible through the Volga River route, often restrict the arrival of new vessels.

"Therefore, it has been decided to focus on cooperation and synergy to boost the number of vessels and lower their average age in the Caspian Sea," he added.

Rasouli emphasized that a significant issue facing the Caspian Sea is the declining water level and retreat of the sea. He mentioned that all countries in the region are concerned about this, with Iran facing fewer challenges compared to other nations dealing with more severe issues.

He added that it has been agreed to enhance cooperation in both maritime and environmental sectors, given that the retreating water poses risks to various aquatic species in the region. "A comprehensive plan will be developed to address this concerning trend collectively."

Rasouli further explained that each Caspian littoral state, including Iran through the PMO,



has conducted studies, noting that these studies will be shared to foster synergy and enable collective efforts, leveraging the expertise of specialists and professionals from the Caspian region to tackle this pressing issue.

He also pointed out that dredging ports in the Caspian Sea is a key focus in the maritime sector, and collaborative efforts will drive progress in this area.

"Another important topic discussed at the Caspian Sea littoral states' economic cooperation summit was the inclusion of private sector representatives from the Chamber of Commerce. They shared practical concerns about operating in the Caspian Sea, which significantly contributed to the idea of forming a Caspian Sea logistics consortium."

Rasouli noted that one of the issues raised was the lack of air cargo lines in the Caspian region. Economic stakeholders called for an increase in air cargo services to expedite the transportation of perishable goods like flowers and food products to markets.

Regarding digital corridors, Ra-

souli stated that while the concept is new, the world has long embraced such tools to enhance efficiency and productivity.

Traditional corridors in the region still rely on conventional processes, but there is a strong push to adopt technological solutions to accelerate development and ensure integrated efforts among Caspian littoral states.

He stressed the importance of digitizing processes to speed up operations, reduce paperwork, and increase transparency and accuracy in administrative procedures.

Rasouli highlighted that many transport documents in Iran are already issued digitally, and logistics agents operate through digital systems.

The official concluded by emphasizing the need for balanced and integrated efforts among all Caspian littoral states. If any country operates locally without coordination, it could lead to inefficiencies and disrupt the entire process. Therefore, all nations must work in harmony to ensure smooth and unified progress.