

# Veep places premium on housing supply as key gov’t priority

Economy Desk

Iran’s First Vice President Mohamad Reza Aref emphasized that providing the housing needs of the people, especially rural residents and vulnerable groups, is one of the government’s important priorities, stating, “A comprehensive plan for serious support will be formulated to complete and construct subsidized housing units.” Speaking at the 21st meeting of the Supreme Housing Council and noting that previous governments had good programs and commitments in the housing sector, Aref added that despite all efforts, approximately 140,000 applicants for subsidized housing units had been unable to receive their homes, IRNA reported. Referring to the commitment to build 970,000 subsidized housing units, he further stated that the country has encountered financing and execution obstacles over the years and decades in constructing these residential. “Therefore, a comprehensive plan for serious support to complete and build these units must be prepared and formu-

lated within the next month so that, through the facilities and authorities granted by the legislature, we can create momentum in this sector.” The vice president underscored that a significant portion of the income for certain segments of society is spent on rent. He stated that without government provision of facilities, purchasing housing would be virtually impossible for these groups, expressing hope that “by pursuing necessary measures in the housing sector for the lowest four deciles of society, we will take major steps.” He emphasized that the governments’ commitments to building subsidized housing, especially for vulnerable groups, are commitments of the system, “and we have no right to any delay in this regard.” Aref said, “Revitalizing the housing sector leads to economic prosperity and the activation of industry and job creation.” Noting that housing construction is one of the country’s important production sectors in line with this year’s slogan, he stated that meetings of the Supreme Housing Council must be held regularly so that more fundamental steps can



be taken for the housing of all citizens. Also in this meeting, the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development presented a report on the housing market, important measures of the rental management package, the performance of rental deposit loan payments, and the programs and challenges of subsidized housing. Subsequently, a report from the Central Bank of Iran on the performance of banking facilities in the housing

sector and the implementation of the law on jumpstarting housing production was presented. Furthermore, it was decided in this meeting that a committee composed of the Ministries of Economic Affairs and Finance, Roads and Urban Development, the Plan and Budget Organization, and the Central Bank will prepare and formulate a specific program within the next month to finance the completion of subsidized housing units.

## Presidential envoy calls for value-added processing with neighbors

Backup dry ports planned as maritime expansion continues

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The president’s envoy for maritime development urged prioritizing value-added processing over raw material exports with neighboring countries. The special representative of the president for coordinating the implementation of General Maritime-Oriented Development and Makoran Policies stated, “We must utilize the capacity of neighboring countries to supply feedstock, process them domestically, and turn them into added value,” IRNA reported. At a meeting of the Planning and Development Council of Khorasan Razavi Province, Ali Abdolalizadeh stated that on the path of maritime-oriented development, while the primary focus has been on the Persian Gulf, the Oman Sea, and the Caspian Sea, establishing backup dry ports is also on the agenda. “The establishment of backup dry ports for Shahid Rajaei Port (in the south) began last year, and following the explosion incident (resulting in casualties in April), more focus has been placed on it. It is hoped that the transfer of cargo from Shahid Rajaei Port to the dry ports will commence soon.” The special representative of the president, emphasizing the creation of industrial infrastructure in border areas, stated that Khorasan Razavi has the capacity to become a “regional hub for peace and friendship.” “The economy is only one of the tools of peace; culture and civilization can also be complementary tools on this path,” he noted. Abdolalizadeh explained the difference between a dry port and a logistics village, stating, “In a dry port, ‘cargo’ is the main focus, while in a logistics village, ‘transportation’ is central.” He continued, “A dry port deals directly with goods and trade flow. It has the capacity to import raw materials without administrative formalities and also export final products without bureaucracy.” The official, referring to the Bandar Abbas-Sarakhs railway project, stated, “This project is nearing completion and is hoped to be finalized by the end of the current year or the first quarter of next year.” “Khorasan Razavi, especially Shahid

Motahari Station in Mashhad, has significant capacity and can become an effective transit hub for the entire region. This is because Central Asian countries and Afghanistan have the shortest route to access international waters through Iran and Chabahar Port,” Abdolalizadeh added. He further added, “Even if domestic investors are not found for the Sarakhs-Bandar Abbas railway line, the capacity of regional investors can be utilized.” The special representative of the president stated, “Sarakhs and Shahid Motahari Station can also become a security hub because economic interactions inherently create security. From this perspective, regional issues, such as the water issue and Iran’s water rights from Afghanistan, should also be resolved from an economic perspective, not a military one.”

### 10-million-ton capacity of dry port in Mashhad

The representative stated, “The capacity of Shahid Motahari Railway Station in Mashhad for exports and imports is up to 10 million tons, which is considered a highly promising capability.” Abdolalizadeh expressed hope that through cooperation with the railway and precise planning, the 10-million-ton transit volume at Shahid Motahari Station could be increased, and the North-South Corridor exports of our country could practically commence from this point. “The Shahid Motahari Dry Port and Logistics Village area in Mashhad, which holds a very special position within the country’s North-South Corridor complex, can be considered one of the most important points of this corridor. Fortunately, good equipment is ready and operational here, and significant activity is observed in the region,” he said. “Cargo is transferred from Sarakhs to Shahid Motahari Station in Mashhad and then to Shahid Rajaei Port within 72 hours. This transfer time is very acceptable and promising because special consideration can be given to this point in cargo transit planning. Action must be taken on this route as soon as possible,” Abdolalizadeh added.

## Sea water transfer project operationalized for Isfahan refinery

700,000 cubic meters supplied per month

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The pilot operation phase for the first stage of the sea water transfer project to Isfahan Province commenced on Wednesday, as announced by the head of Isfahan Oil Refining Company. “With the operation of this project, approximately 700,000 cubic meters of the refinery’s monthly water requirement will be supplied through this source,” said CEO of Isfahan Oil Refining Company Gholamreza Baqeri-Dizaj. In an interview with SHANA detailing the sea water transfer project to the central province, Baqeri-Dizaj stated that this project is one of the most significant projects for Isfahan Refinery. It has been implemented and become operational with the goal of providing a stable water supply for the province’s major industries, especially during drought crises. He noted that due to Isfahan Province’s specific geographical location and recurring droughts, the issue of industrial water supply has been on the agenda for years. “The first phase of this project involves transferring water via a branch from the 339-kilometer Vasco pipeline to Isfahan, extending along northern and southern routes measuring 240 kilometers and 219 kilometers respectively. The northern route of this project delivers water to Isfahan Refinery. The pilot operation of this phase has now commenced at Isfahan Refinery, and it is planned that approximately 700,000 cubic meters of the refinery’s monthly water requirement will be supplied via this route.”

### Major step towards stable water supply for industries

The CEO of Isfahan Oil Refining Company, emphasizing the continuity and sustainability



of production at the company, announced that Isfahan Refinery is the first industry in the province to utilize sea water. He stated, “With the operationalization of the sea water transfer plan, one of the biggest challenges for Isfahan’s industries, namely water shortage, will be resolved. The capacity exists to supply the water needs of the province’s industries through this means.” Baqeri-Dizaj, pointing out that the project’s execution was carried out in full compliance with environmental considerations, added, “For this project, which was established with the goal of ensuring water security for the province’s important and vital industries, pumping stations have also been successfully launched and are currently under pilot operation.” Regarding the second phase of the sea water transfer project to Isfahan Province, he said, “The second phase of this project involves the installation of approximately 400 kilometers of pipelines and the necessary equipment to supply water directly from the Oman Sea. The design stages for the second phase are complete, and its execution will commence subject to securing financial resources.” On July 9, the governor-general of Isfahan Province Mehdi Jamali-Nejad announced the first phase of the major project to transfer water from the Oman Sea to the province had been completed. The most significant advantage of the project is the cessation of water consumption by regional industries from the Zayandeh Rud River.

## Exposing nuclear double ...

Israel, having refused to sign the NPT, has exempted itself from any legal obligations or international inspections, declaring a policy of “nuclear ambiguity”—neither confirming nor denying its weapon arsenal, on the assumption that the world will turn a blind eye until actual deployment occurs. Israel stands alone as the sole nuclear power without any officially recorded atomic tests—though this claim is heavily undermined by its documented collaboration in France’s 1960 nuclear test program. The regime’s secrecy was further shattered in 1986 when Mordechai Vanunu, a former technician at the Dimona facility, exposed the military dimensions of its nuclear program. His revelations confirmed the reactor’s 150-megawatt capacity and lent credibility to estimates of an arsenal holding between 90 to 200 warheads.

### Iran’s nuclear transparency

In stark contrast to Israel’s opaque nuclear program, the Islamic Republic of Iran—as a committed NPT member state—has voluntarily accepted the most extensive and intrusive inspection regime in the history of the IAEA. Every aspect of Iran’s nuclear activities, from uranium extraction to enrichment at Natanz and Fordow facilities, remains under continuous IAEA monitoring through both on-site inspections and real-time surveillance systems. Iran has gone beyond its safeguards obligations, voluntarily implementing the Additional Protocol for years—a clear demonstration of its commitment to transparency. Yet, despite Iran’s unprecedented transparency, Tehran has faced a relentless, decades-long campaign of baseless accusations and psychological warfare. Recent reports by the IAEA director general—often shaped by political pressure from Zionist and Western lobbies—have conspicuously ignored Iran’s extensive cooperation while exaggerating minor technical issues. These manufactured concerns are then weaponized to justify politically motivated resolutions. As the head of Iran’s Atomic Energy Organization has emphasized, claims of Iranian noncompliance or the IAEA’s inability to verify activities are demonstrably false and directly contradict the agency’s own technical reports. This charade exposes the true objective: not genuine nonproliferation concerns, but laying the groundwork to refer Iran’s file back to the UN Security Council. The ultimate aim is to intensify pressure on a nation that insists on its inalienable right to peaceful nuclear technology—a right systematically denied while the world turns a blind eye to Israel’s clandestine nuclear arsenal.

### Fear of an independent Muslim power

The West and Israel’s anxiety over Iran’s nuclear program goes beyond fear of weaponization. Their fundamental anxiety stems not from Iran potentially acquiring nukes—which Tehran has consistently rejected in its defence doctrine—but rather from an indigenous nuclear fuel cycle granting Iran a “nuclear breakout capability” and solidifying its position as an independent, self-reliant regional power that can no longer be coerced into retreat through economic pressure or military threats. This “strategic deterrent power” means the long-term consolidation of the Islamic Republic system and the end of Western-Zionist dreams of regime change. This is precisely the red line that the West is not willing to accept. In essence, the international community’s opposition does not stem from non-proliferation principles, but from geopolitical apprehension about a robust, independent power emerging in the Middle East. This approach represents a glaring case of discrimination and double standards, cloaked in the guise of security concerns. This hypocritical policy – which allows a non-NPT regime with a history of aggression to freely expand its nuclear arsenal while subjecting a compliant member to extreme pressure—severely undermines the credibility of the non-proliferation regime and the impartiality of international institutions, fueling global distrust.