

:Ayatollah Raisi in a meeting with East and West Azerbaijan MPs

Completion of half-finished projects 1st priority in provinces

The President met with the representatives of the East and West Azerbaijan provinces in the parliament today morning.



In this meeting, which was also attended by the new governor-generals of these two provinces, the representatives of East and West Azerbaijan provinces in the Islamic Consultative Assembly first spoke about the problems of their constituencies and asked for the government's help and support to solve these problems.

After the speeches of the representatives on the problems in the provinces, Dr Raisi described the completion of half-finished infrastructure plans and projects in different parts of the country as the first priority of the government in the provinces, and said, "In our provincial trips, we are not looking to begin new projects, and all we are trying to do is completion of half-finished projects in various fields to help youth employment and development of the country".

Referring to the issue of transportation roads and rail corridors as one of the important issues and problems mentioned by the representatives of the two provinces, Ayatollah Dr Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi said, "Completion of transportation and railway projects in the provinces can play a very important role in the development of trade and economy of this region".

In response to the concerns of the representatives of West Azerbaijan about the situation of Lake Urmia and the environmental effects and consequences of drought and water shortage in the region, the President said, "The Lake Urmia Restoration Task Force will be activated in a new form, so that it can address the concerns of the people".

In response to the issue of buying agricultural products, Ayatollah Raisi said, "Guaranteed purchase of agricultural products in different provinces, including apples and grapes in Urmia and dates in the southern provinces is part of the government's plans and we believe gardeners and farmers should not have concerns about selling their product".

Regarding the statements made by the representatives of the border cities of West and East Azerbaijan provinces, the President emphasised on communication with neighbours and strengthening economic and trade cooperation at the borders through border bazaars, and said, "In the government, we have no problem communicating with our 15 neighbouring countries, and relations with our neighbours are our priority".

Saying that outsiders are not sympathetic to the region and neighbouring countries, Ayatollah Raisi said, "Foreigners in the region are pursuing their own expansionist interests and we will not allow the Zionists to disrupt our relations with our neighbours".

The President added, "Good neighbourliness, economic and trade relations and the activation of border markets are among the programmes and policies of the Islamic Republic, and bartering with neighbours can help develop the economy and further relations with countries in the region".

Ayatollah Raisi also stressed that the path should be clear for those who trade legally, and obliged the governor-generals of the border provinces to find a suitable solution for the transfer and exchange of goods at the borders through the legal route.

Referring to the election of new governor-generals of East and West Azerbaijan provinces, Ayatollah Raisi said, "The new governor-generals have started their work in the two provinces with a revolutionary spirit and I am sure that with the cooperation and empathy of the managers and people of the province along with the representatives, problems will be solved, and people will feel that new conditions have been created in the country".