Urban Development

Housing

The Prime Minister praises the government’s efforts to fight informal housing by demolishing certain districts and building alternative housing.

New Cities

The Housing Ministry confirms that it has a strategy to build new smart cities throughout the country.

The Housing Ministry discusses further cooperation with China regarding urban development in Egypt. The Chinese company CSCEC is already managing the development of the Central Business District in the New Administrative Capital. This comes at a time when China also plans massive investments to create a huge industrial zone on the Mediterranean coast of Egypt.

Al-Manassa reports that construction delays in the New Administrative Capital are linked to the hiring of companies that are too small. A new phase should see the participation of larger, more experienced contractors.

Ras al-Hikma

Following the deal signed between the UAE and Egypt late February to develop Ras al-Hikma on the North Coast (see the January/February 2024 Press review), the government received a first installment early March ($10 bn). A second installment ($20 bn) should be paid within two months. The Finance Minister confirmed that 50% of the deal will go to the public Treasury. Al-Manassa reviews what we know about the deal so far.

The Tourism and Antiquity Ministry asserts that the development of Ras al-Hikma will help Egypt increase tourist numbers. International design firms are already working on plans for the new city.

Tahrir Square

Construction work began on the Mogamma in Tahrir. The Mogamma building will be turned into a hotel and a shopping mall by 2025. This project is partly implemented by Saudi developers.

Sinai

Saint Catherine’s “Great Transformation” Project reaches its final phase. The project is closely monitored by the Prime Minister. Saint Catherine International Airport should also be expanded.
Transportation

Price hikes

As fuel prices increase, public transportation fares rise as well. Public bus tickets will range between 10 and 13 EGP. White taxi fares also increase. *Al-Ahram Online* details the new prices.

Uber also raised its tariffs by 10% in Cairo and Alexandria.

Metro

The train linking Alexandria to Abu Qir made its last trip on March 1st. It will be replaced by a metro line.

Other

Parliament is examining the issue of abandoned vehicles in the streets. These vehicles will be registered by a committee responsible for disposing of them and penalizing their owners. This comes in line with discussions about Law n°66 of 1973 about traffic regulations. During these sessions, the case of tuk-tuks has also been addressed. The aim is to be more systematic in issuing licenses and to penalize illegal drivers.

The Transport Ministry is following the progress of the first high-speed train between Helwan and the New Administrative Capital. Eventually, the train will join Ain Sukhna to Marsa Matrouh. *El-Watan* publishes pictures of the railway bridges under construction.

Tourism

The government aims at promoting sustainable tourism in Hurghada with the “Green Hurghada Project” in cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. The $3 million deal is meant to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and preserve biodiversity. *Shorouk* gives more details about the deal.

The Talaat Mostafa Group and the Emirati ADQ made a payment of $220 m to acquire historical hotels throughout the country (see the January/February 2024 Presse Review).

Environment

The government is continuing its efforts to implement a solid waste management system in five governorates, at a cost of EGP 565 m.

Florian Bonnefoi