



## Press Review City, Mobility, Environment – March 2024

### 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.