Urban Development

Housing

Egypt social housing projects should expand to the new cities during 2024.

New Cities

President Abdel Fattah al-Sissi inaugurated his third term at the New Administrative Capital on April 2.

While attending the Arab Military Equestrian Championship in the Olympic Games City, the President pointed out that the Olympic city had been built in just 5 years.

Ras al-Hikma

The second installment of the Ras al-Hikma deal should arrive in Egypt within April.

A similar project is discussed to develop Ras Gamila on the Red Sea, but nothing will begin before impact studies are carried out.

Power Cuts

While power cuts were on hold during Ramadan, they resume in April and should last one hour a day. The government fears a hike in electricity consumption as temperatures rise (see the July 2023 Press review). Moreover, national projects increased the pressure on electricity infrastructure, according to the government spokesperson, who added that no limitation date could be fixed at present. In some villages, power cuts last up to 3 hours.

According to the government, power cuts and electricity-saving measures could save $1 billion yearly.

While the New Administrative Capital is also concerned, hospitals and vital facilities are exempted and churches will be spared during the week of Easter.

In an attempt to reduce electricity consumption, the country switches to summer time on Friday 26. New opening hours are planned for stores, restaurants and cafés.

Others
Major development projects are planned in Siwa for a cost of EGP 3 billion, notably to improve the irrigation and drainage system.

According to Mada Masr, burials stopped in Bab el-Nasr cemetery; destruction is planned in this part of the City of the Dead. Burials also stopped in the Sayyeda Nafissa and Imam al-Shafai areas. A new law on cemeteries is currently debated in Parliament.

The Cairo governorate launched a campaign to fight the encroachment of cafés and street vendors on public spaces in Abdeen, Al-Musky, Bab Shareyya, and Nasr City.

**Transportation**

The Transport Ministry hopes to operate the first phase of the monorail by the end of 2024. The General Authority for Roads and Bridges doubled spending on development and maintenance work on the old road network to EGP 4 billion.

The Cairo Governor ordered the removal of some signs installed on building facades along the Ring Road after accusations of plagiarism. Similar charges for the decoration of a metro station led to the conviction of the artist Ghada Wali (see the January/February 2024 Press review), whose appeal will be heard on June 9.

**Tourism**

The country tries to rebrand greater Cairo as a tourist destination. The goal is to push visitors to extend their stay to around 12 days. Six touristic itineraries are under development.

A walkway will be built between the new Grand Egyptian Museum and the Pyramids of Giza. The latter welcomed 35,000 visitors during Eid el-Fitr.

**Environment**

The government fixed new prices for garbage collection in residential areas.

Florian Bonnefoi