

# **Iraq's New Investment Law: Global Outreach**



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# Overview of Investment Law

- Opens all sectors and areas of investment to foreign and Iraqi investors, except:
  - Oil & gas extraction & production
  - Banking and insurance
- All investors have the right to repatriate capital brought into Iraq and any profits derived from that investment in convertible foreign currency

# Overview of Investment Law (cont'd)

- **Stock Exchange.** Investors can trade in shares and bonds listed on the ISX (Iraq Stock Exchange) and create investment portfolios
- **Land.** Investors may rent or lease land for the term of the project, not to exceed 50 years
- **Guarantee.** There shall be no seizure or nationalization of a covered project, except by order of the courts
- **Insurance.** Investors may insure projects with any licensed foreign or national insurance company

# Overview of Investment Law (cont'd)

## Tax Exemptions:

- With the approval of the National Investment Commission, a project is exempt from **all taxes and fees for a period of 10 years** from the date of operation, depending on conditions
- The Commission **can extend the period to 15 years** if Iraqi investment in the project is more than 50% of the initial investment

# Investment Commissions

- **National Investment Commission:**

- Established in February 2007
- Formulates national investment policy, guidelines, and regulations
- Has exclusive responsibility for strategic investments
- Evaluates proposed investment projects

- **Regional & Governorate Commissions:**

In coordination with NIC, draw up investment plans and projects for their areas

# Investment Commission Goals

- **Build confidence** in investment climate, identify opportunities and promote investment throughout Iraq
- Establish a **One-Stop Shop/Window** to **streamline the regulatory process**

# Investment Commission Goals (cont'd)

1. Set up strategic vision, plan, and structures of:
  - National Investment Commission (NIC)
  - Representative offices for NIC in region (Kurdistan) & governorates
  - Selected overseas offices

# Targets

## Ideal Investors:

- Iraqi
  - Resident in Iraq
  - Iraqi Business Communities / outside Iraq
  
- Arab and Neighboring Countries
  
- Foreign
  - With a long-term perspective
  - With appropriate Iraqi Partners
  
- Investors who will bring state of the art Technology

# Investment Vision for Iraq

- Diversification of the Iraq Economy
- Creation of the Job Opportunities
- Reversal of a significant Brain Drain
- Proper regulation of the investment process so as to ensure Accountability & Transparency
- Re-establishment of Iraq's ties with the global investment community