



### Qasempisheh: Mazandaran a province with 228 foreign investment opportunities

With its pristine nature, Mazandaran Province is a green belt in northern Iran with an area of 23,756 square kilometers and a population of over 3.28 million, said the director general of Mazandaran's Department of Economic Affairs and Finance.

Mousa Qasempisheh added the province accounts for 3.2 percent of the country's total GDP.

He listed some of the special advantages of the province as having relative access to all kinds of goods transportation infrastructure, being home to three active airports in Sari, Nowshahr and Ramsar cities as well as three important and active ports in Nowshahr, Fereydunkenar and Amir Abad and having easy access to central Iran.

Qasempisheh added among the potential attractions of the province are be-

ing home to natural tourism attractions with worldwide reputation, fertile farmlands and unique forests, ranking first in the country in terms of producing citrus, rice, kiwi-fruit and ornamental flowers and plants and having numerous capabilities in production of sturgeon as well as cold and warm water fishes.

Mazandaran also has a high potential in the field of industrial development as mass production of raw agricultural, livestock, fishery and aquatic products in the province has led to the establishment of different processing industries in it, he noted.

"Having common sea border with the Caspian Sea littoral states and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) members and easy access to the markets of these countries have prepared the ground for investment in the province's production sector."

He listed the incentives offered by the Iranian government to foreign investors as having a zero tax rate for production, mining and service activities (constructing hospitals, hotels and tourist and residential centers) performed by legal private persons from the date the production, extraction or activity begins up to five years, in developed areas, and 10 years, in less developed regions, as well as granting a 100-percent tax exemption on incomes generated through exporting agricultural, horticultural, livestock and fishery products and processing and complementary industries.

"The law on encouraging and supporting foreign investors is aimed at preparing the ground for attracting foreign funds and transferring modern technologies. The law has notable features and offers remarkable advantages aiming to support foreign funders, including imposing no limitation on the extent and percentage of foreign investors' participation in implementation of projects, creating the possibility for registering an Iranian com-

pany with 100 percent foreign investment and transferring the initial capital and the interests earned through the investment in the form of foreign currency and goods."

Qasempisheh added at present, 29 projects with \$583 million in foreign investments are under implementation in the province by French, German, Kazakh, Turkish, Afghan and Chinese funders.

"The project are in the fields of producing mineral water, auto spare parts as well as flowers and plants and construction of small-scale power plants as well as cereal and grain storage silos."

He noted that a package of 228 investment opportunities has been put together to be presented to foreign funders, adding 54 of the ventures pertain to agricultural and fishery sectors, 102 to mining and industrial sectors, 43 to infrastructure sector and 29 to tourism sector.

Qasempisheh said the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to provide foreign investors with all-out support.

## Amiri: Concurrent holding of three economic events suitable opportunity for presenting Mazandaran

The number of foreign guests to attend the three important economic-trade events that will be held in the northern Iranian province of Mazandaran on June 10 and 11 are unprecedented, said the head of the Iranian Foreign Ministry's representative office in the province.

The three events are: 1. The first international exhibition of Mazandaran's exporting capabilities, 2. The Conference on Mazandaran's Trade and Investment Opportunities and 3. The 18th meeting of the International Council for Business Cooperation (ICBC) of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Caspian Sea region.

Esrail Amiri added the number and quality of the economic programs that will be held during these three events are also unprecedented.

He noted that Mazandaran has a favorable geographical and strategic position on the coastline of the Caspian Sea, which can help lead to the province's economic boom.

Amiri said among the efforts undertaken by the Foreign Ministry's representative office in the province is to help better present Mazandaran to the world and, particularly, in the Eurasia region and the Caspian Sea littoral states.

"If Mazandaran gains greater international fame, the ground can be prepared for foreign investors and tourists to come and visit the province, which, per se, will lead to export development, promotion of international interactions and an increase in economic and cultural exchanges."

He, who is also in charge of the international affairs pertaining to the



three economic events, added as part of efforts to achieve these goals, Governor General of Mazandaran Province Ahmad Hosseinzadegan proposed to hold the international exhibition on Mazandaran's exporting capabilities and the Conference on Mazandaran's Trade and Investment Opportunities, in addition to declaring readiness for hosting the 18th ICBC meeting, which was welcomed.

"Holding such an event in the province is unprecedented. Hosting these three economic events concurrently in the province will prepare the ground for presenting Mazandaran favorably to foreign and domestic guests. The Iranian Foreign Ministry has sent 12 invitation letters to a number of target countries, of which seven has so far announced willingness to attend the events. Close to 20 foreign ambassadors, attaché and economic and trade experts in Iran

have also been invited. The provincial chamber of commerce has also sent 22 invitation letters to the neighboring states and countries located north of the Caspian Sea. We predict that up to 60 percent of the foreign guest would attend the events."

He said so far, foreign guests at different levels from Iraq, Afghanistan, Russia, Azerbaijan, Syria, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Spain, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Tajikistan, Vietnam and Japan have announced willingness to attend the economic events of Mazandaran Province."

"Iran is currently under US unilateral sanctions and cruel pressures. Nevertheless, under such circumstances, this number of foreign guests [willing to attend Mazandaran's economic events] is a favorable opportunity for the province, which we should make maximum use of."

### About center

International Trade Center and Terminal Exports of Iran Rice with full investment of the private sector has been established on a land of 17 hectares in Amol County, northern Iran. The first phase of the project, with an area of 50,000 square meters and an estimated cost of over 1,000 billion rials, is ready to become operational and provides direct employment for 2,000 people at this stage.

The mission of this center is to organize rice trade and distribution by taking into account the interests of producers and consumers. The center with its logistical and laboratory facilities and through cooperation with research and academic institutions is considered one of the main centers for rice trade in Iran and neighboring countries.





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**International Trade Center and Terminal Exports of Iran Rice**



### Services offered at this center include:

- Application of modern machines and automatic equipment for sorting and packaging in various sizes
- Providing quality control, laboratory and weight measurement services
- Having a capacity to supply about 400,000 tons of white rice during the year and exporting it to all parts of the country and the world
- Providing facilities for temporary storage and transportation of export goods Sales through electronic systems
- Providing all necessary services such as transportation, insurance, warehousing, maintenance and marketing with the cooperation of export-related organizations
- The option of direct transport of goods to the points of exit
- Establishment of Middle East and Central Asia rice trading center and bourse, which, given its capacities and potentials can target markets in Central Asia, Russia, Turkey and the Persian Gulf states, particularly Tarom premium brand and other high quality products.



### Some of the main goals and services offered at this center are as follows

- Organizing production and distribution system, marketing and sale of rice products and related industries
- Organizing and regulating the rice and related products market
- Support and consultancy in production of export-quality products
- Moving towards creating a new production & marketing system Issuing ID cards for Iranian rice
- Branding Iranian rice for the purpose of export in good and healthy quality
- Producing healthy crops by educating farmers and producers

### Attending international exhibition in Russia, Qatar and Uzbekistan

