



State of Palestine

Prime Minister's Office

Key Highlights of the 19th Palestinian Government's Reform Activities

(April 2024 – March 2025)

March 2025

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since its formation, the 19th Palestinian Government, led by Dr. Mohammad Mustafa, has embarked on an ambitious reform agenda to tackle pressing developmental challenges and pave the way toward a stable, prosperous, and resilient future for Palestine. Between April and January 2025, the Government implemented key reform activities across four strategic pillars:

Fiscal and Public Finance Policy: The Government has adopted significant financial reform and austerity measures as an initial phase to rationalize overhead expenses, preserve public funds, control the use of government vehicles, rationalize employment and contracting in the public sector, and improve the management of state property. These actions have enhanced financial sustainability and mitigated the risk of fiscal collapse.

Governance and Rule of Law: By restructuring institutions for better governance, promoting fair competition for senior government positions, protecting human rights and freedoms, and improving judicial services, the Government has strengthened transparency, accountability, and public trust in governmental operations.

Investment and Business Climate: Efforts to create a favorable legal environment for business, promote investment, and launch initiatives like the Unified Electronic Company Registration System and the Renewable Energy Platform have stimulated economic growth and attracted both domestic and foreign investments.

Basic Service Provision: Significant improvements in the health sector include localizing healthcare services, regulating service agreements, reducing medication costs, and integrating health insurance systems. Additionally, enhancements in other essential services—such as digitalizing government services, improving grievance redressal mechanisms, and advancing education—have directly improved citizens' quality of life.

Through these decisive actions and inclusive strategies, the Government has made substantial progress in enhancing financial sustainability, strengthening governance, stimulating economic growth, and improving public services. The achievements documented in this report reflect the Government's unwavering commitment to reform and its dedication to meeting the needs and aspirations of the Palestinian people.

OVERVIEW

In alignment with its commitment to driving measurable and sustainable impact, the 19th Palestinian Government, under the leadership of Dr. Mohammad Mustafa (hereinafter 'the Government'), swiftly directed its efforts toward the adoption of a strategic framework for development and reform across priority sectors, defined in the mandate letter from His Excellency President Mahmoud Abbas.

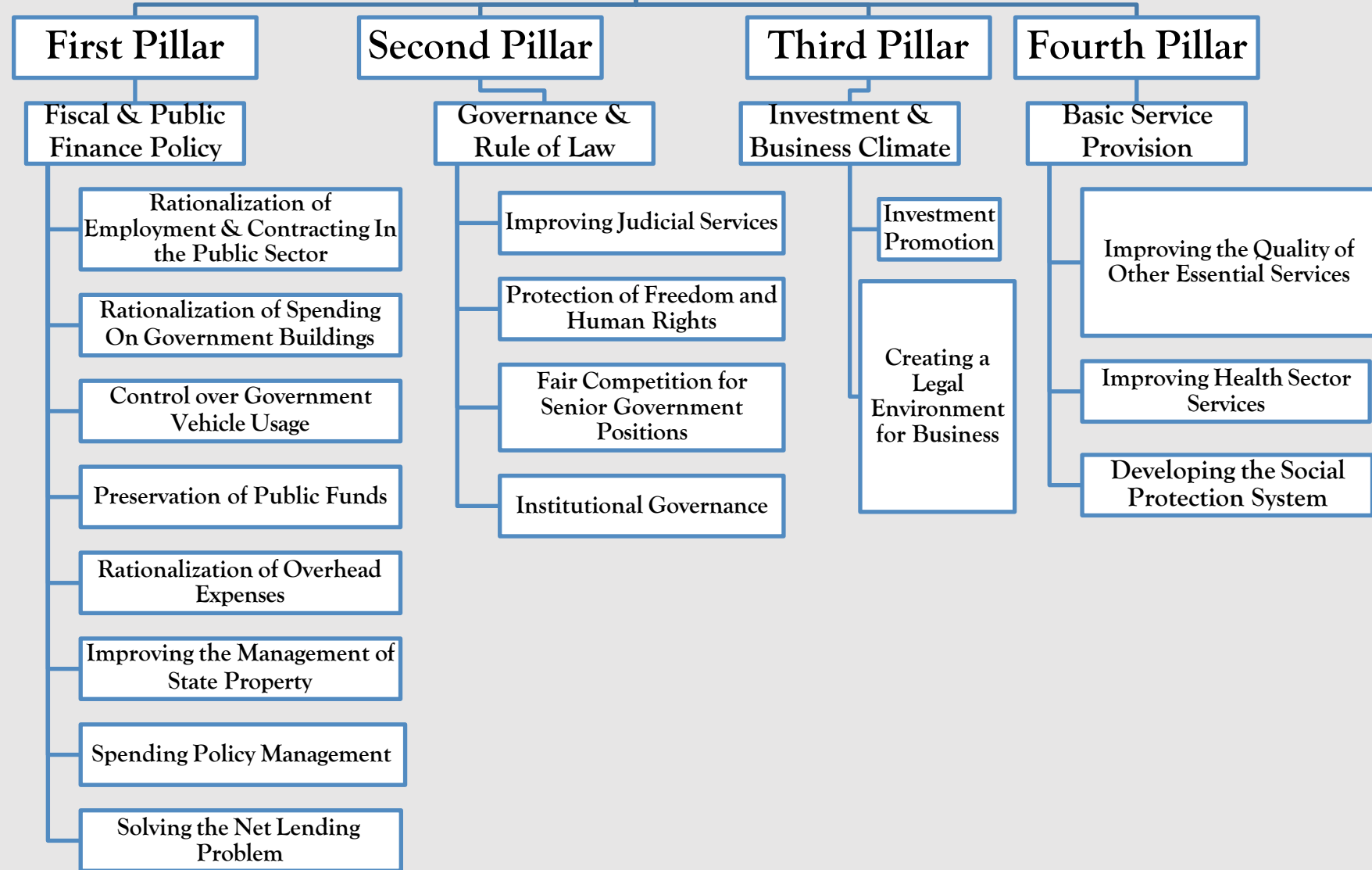
Amidst focused efforts to establish foundational key pillars for effective development and reform measures with tangible on-the-ground impact, the Government prioritized, and adopted four strategic pillars: Fiscal and Public Finance Policy, Governance and Rule of Law, Investment and Business Climate, and Basic Service Provision.

The Government's reform strategy, shaped through extensive collaboration with governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, and civil society, established four priority pillars to address pressing developmental needs. This inclusive, strategic approach emerged after years of navigating complex structural challenges and barriers that underscored an urgent need for immediate reform. By drawing on diverse insights from across sectors, the Government has ensured that these reforms are both resilient and responsive to on-the-ground realities, setting a solid foundation for impactful, lasting progress by establishing special units within relevant ministries to monitor and manage the implementation of reform and development measures effectively, ensuring the achievement of the desired goals.

To optimize and accelerate the reform agenda, the Government established the Executive Office for Institutional Development and Reform within the Prime Minister's Office and formed the Permanent Ministerial Committee for Reform. These entities work in close coordination with government ministries and agencies to ensure cohesive planning, implementation, and monitoring of development and reform initiatives, enabling a unified approach across sectors.

This report presents a comprehensive overview of the reform and development measures undertaken by the Government between April 2024 and March 2025, documenting progress in advancing its objectives toward a stable, prosperous, and resilient future for Palestine.

Highlights on Key Reform Activities



KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF REFORM ACTIVITIES

I. Pillar 1 - Fiscal and Public Finance Policy

The difficult political conditions in Palestine have casted a shadow over financial resources and severely impacted them, notably through the illegal withholding of Palestinian clearance revenues. This situation has led to a continuous accumulation of public debt and domestic arrears, including arrears to public sector employees and private sector suppliers, reaching levels that undermine the sustainability of public finances.

In view of this reality, the Government has adopted significant fiscal reform measures to avert the risk of systemic fiscal collapse. These measures focus on rationalizing and controlling expenditures to serve the public interest, promote development, and maintain the quality of government services provided to citizens.

Action and Measures Taken by the Government:

1. Rationalization of Overhead Expenses

- Discontinued the disbursement of any privileges or financial allowances not specified by laws and regulations.
- Reduced the state budget for the year 2024 by 5% compared to the budget of year 2023.
- Ceased the purchase of furniture in government institutions.
- Implemented measures to reduce total expenses related to mobile phone use by public employees.
- Rationalized spending on printed materials, advertisements, and stationery within government institutions.
- Limited government representation at international conferences to a maximum of two individuals per assignment.
- Finalizing the National Risk Assessment update for the Palestinian Financial System in line with Financial Action Task Force guidelines, and publishing a detailed summary of the NRA's main findings on the Financial Follow-up Unit's website at the Palestine Monetary Authority.

2. Preservation of Public Funds

- Mandated all government entities to use the unified electronic portal for public procurement, enabling centralized and structured monitoring.

- Published the general budget on the Ministry of Finance's website to enhance transparency, accountability, and public scrutiny.
- Published the citizen's budget on the Ministry of Finance's website, along with the annual general budget law, to enhance transparency.
- Published the first and second budget statements on the Ministry of Finance's website, and sent copies to the centers' responsible, in addition to releasing the monthly report on the implementation of the annual budget.
- Initiated the development of a new electronic revenue stamps system to safeguard public funds, reduce logistical efforts, and facilitate service delivery to citizens.
- The PMA has updated the National Risk Assessment of the Palestinian financial system in line with the Financial Action Task Force's directives and has published a comprehensive summary of the main findings on the Financial Follow-up Unit's website at the PMA.

3. Control Over Government Vehicle Usage

- Restricted government vehicles to ministers, department heads, governors, deputy ministers, and officials of similar rank. Usage after official working hours is prohibited except for specific official tasks as defined by law.
- Installed electronic tracking systems (fuel rings) in each government vehicle, to monitor fuel consumption and travel distances.
- Set fuel allocations not exceeding 250 liters per vehicle per month, as determined by department heads, and ensured vehicles are parked in designated areas within government departments.
- Prohibited the purchase of new vehicles, focusing instead on optimizing existing vehicles through reassignment and selling unused or outdated ones.
- Initiated the establishment of maintenance workshops for government vehicles in order to reduce maintenance costs.

4. Rationalization of Spending on Government Buildings

- Completely ceased the purchase of buildings for governmental use for 2024-2025.
- Stopped renting new government office buildings and created a comprehensive database of rented and state-owned buildings.
- Establishing an electronic portal for managing government-owned and leased buildings and approving reference frameworks for the design of public buildings.

5. Rationalization of Employment and Contracting in the Public Sector

- Ceased new appointments until the end of 2024, and implemented job rotation based on the staffing plan (job tables for governmental institutions) and job requirements (exceptions are made for the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and newly established ministries).
- Began assessing all contracted state employees to determine necessity, terminate unnecessary contracts, adjust contracting processes, and control related expenses.
- Discontinued contracting with retired government employees unless it is absolutely essential and meeting specific criteria; re-employment is considered only after two years.
- Reviewed hygiene and cleaning service contracts regarding cost, quality, and compliance, resulting in decreased expenses and improved service quality.
- The Ministry of Finance has adopted an action plan to reform the retirement system, which unifies laws and regulations, positively impacts the sustainability of the retirement system, and protects employees' rights.

6. Improving the Management of State Property

- Referring the draft amended decree-law No. (43) of 2021 regarding the management of state property to His Excellency the President for issuance, and developing standards for the allocation of state-owned lands and procedures for leasing endowment lands, aiming for the optimal utilization of state resources.
- Regulated and reviewed financial and administrative procedures in the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs to enhance transparency and integrity while achieving cost savings.
- Reviewing, correcting, and updating the legislation and instructions related to forestry, in order to regulate the use of government forest lands and halt encroachments upon them.
- Forming a committee to study reports concerning encroachments and assaults on state lands

7. Spending Policy Management

- Enhancing the electronic Bisan system, which specializes in public financial management for the government sector, by incorporating a feature that facilitates the management of budget-approved purchase records. This update aims to improve the accounting system, ensuring more effective management of cash flows and better monitoring of government expenditures.

- The Ministry of Finance has released the final version of the Financial Statements Preparation Guide (Final Account) for ministries, departments, and agencies. This includes the application of the Government Finance Statistics methodology and job classification, aimed at governing public finance and supporting decentralization in preparing government institutions' budgets.
- The Ministry of Finance has developed and activated a feature in the computerized Bisan system to document, follow up, and schedule approved financial obligations. This enhancement aims to improve the quality of reports issued on arrears, and also establishes a link between the Bisan system and the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS).

8. Solving the Net Lending Problem

- The Ministry of Finance established the "Net Lending Unit" in 2024, providing an electronic portal system to 99 local authorities, enabling them to monitor their debts. Additionally, the unit reviewed debts amounting to 83% of the total electricity debts, including adjusting the opening balances of these authorities and companies.
- To enhance the financial stability of municipalities, the Ministry of Finance improved the management of their financial resources and promoted financial independence through the self-collection of property taxes. By the end of October 2024, the accounts of 39 out of 88 municipalities were audited. Based on these audits, 35 municipalities and local authorities were authorized to self-collect property taxes. The audit of the remaining municipalities is ongoing and expected to be completed in 2025.
- Addressing electricity debts in 7 out of 143 local authorities, with a total debt of approximately 553 million US dollars, of which about 2% has been settled so far.
- The Ministry of Finance launched the Net Lending Portal and adopted a plan to settle net lending issues among stakeholders.

II. Pillar 2 - Governance and Rule of Law

Effective governance, the development of the justice sector in all its components, along with the support for judicial independence are crucial for state-building. Consequently, the government is dedicated to enhancing governance and judicial independence in Palestine by reinforcing the foundations of cooperation between the executive and judicial authorities thereby ensuring justice and protecting the

rights and dignity of Palestinian citizens. The government remains steadfast in its dedication to safeguarding human rights and freedoms, driven by its conviction that democracy strengthens citizens' trust in their government and is considered an essential prerequisite for political success. Notably, the government has ratified the National Cross-Sectoral Strategic Plan to Enhance Governance and Combat Corruption for the years 2025-2030.

Action and Measures Taken by the Government:

1. Institutional Governance

- Endorsing the general framework for the governance plan for non-ministerial government institutions for the years 2025-2026.
- The government has enhanced governance in various non-ministerial government institutions, by abolishing their legal personality and financial autonomy or merging them into ministerial institutions aligned with their roles and specialties. These institutions are:
 - 1) The Palestinian Agricultural Disaster Risk Reduction and Insurance Fund (PADRRIF)
 - 2) Istiqlal Bank for Investment and Development.
 - 3) The National Disaster Risk Management Center (PALDRM)
 - 4) The Cooperative Work Agency
- Additionally, the Council of Ministers has issued decisions to govern other non-ministerial government institutions with the aim of rectifying their legal statuses and forming new boards of directors for them. These institutions are:
 - 1) The Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA).
 - 2) The Palestinian Consumer Protection Council.
 - 3) The Palestinian Land and Water Settlement Commission.
 - 4) Palestine Land Authority.
 - 5) The Palestinian Employment Fund.
 - 6) The National Commission for Education and Vocational Training.
 - 7) Palestinian Industrial & Free Zone Authority (PIFZA)
 - 8) Palestine Standards Institution.
- Additionally, the status of the **Palestinian Agricultural Credit Institution** has been rectified by reducing its number of employees by half and changing the Board of Directors of the fund. A mechanism is being studied for handing over the rented headquarters and integrating the institution into one of the Ministry of Agriculture's buildings.

- Furthermore, the Council of Ministers issued a decision to govern the **The Jordanian-Palestinian Company for Marketing Agricultural products**, which is a joint Jordanian-Palestinian company for exporting agricultural products with a capital of \$18 million, shared equally between the two governments.
- The Cabinet has approved a comprehensive governance plan for the Hajj season. This plan includes overseeing and refining the lottery process, regulating and reducing fees, and enhancing the quality of accommodation and transportation services for pilgrims. Additionally, the review process will be ongoing for a full year to ensure the institutionalization and governance of the procedures in place during the Hajj season.

2. Fair Competition for Senior Government Positions

- The government is committed to merit-based appointments through competitive and equal opportunity processes, including for senior positions, to combat corruption and ensure transparency in hiring. For instance, for the first time, a modern competitive process was conducted to fill 12 vacant undersecretary positions. After announcing the vacancies, 132 internal government applicants were interviewed, and the top candidates were selected. Local external experts participated in the ministerial committee to interview, assess, and select the final candidates.
- The Council of Ministers adopted the "Government Program for Preparing and Qualifying Young Leaders," aimed at identifying and training high-potential youth for future leadership roles in the Palestinian government.

3. Protection of Freedom and Human Rights

- The government is enhancing civil society engagement by keeping organizations updated on all reform measures, involving them in decision-making, and fostering dialogue. This partnership aims to jointly enhance governance and the rule of law, safeguard human rights, develop justice services, and identify reform priorities.
- Reviewed Law Decree No. 10 of 2018 on Cybercrime to ensure compliance with constitutional rights and freedoms stipulated in the Basic Law, relevant legislation, and international agreements.
- Drafted a decree law on legal assistance, in collaboration with relevant entities, aiming to provide legal assistance to those in need, particularly women, children, and vulnerable groups.
- Reviewed the Local Council Elections Law to address issues in the current legislation, including candidacy rules, representation percentages, and population considerations.

- Ensuring equitable treatment for women employed in the security sector regarding their access to health insurance services by aligning their rights with those of their colleagues in this sector, consistent with the practices applied in the civil sector.
- The Ministry of Justice introduced the electronic legislation platform, enabling citizens to provide their opinions and feedback on draft legislation published on the platform. This platform has been shared with all government institutions to ensure a systematic approach to public consultations, and enhancing legislative stability in the Palestinian environment.
- The Ministry of Justice also launched the legal clinic project and drafted several laws, including a decree-law on regulating the forensic medicine profession, a decree-law amending the Penal Code in alignment with international obligations, a decree-law on arbitration and consultations, and a draft system for the register of funds and persons prohibited from disposal.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates has finalized the national plan to implement the final recommendations issued by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. This plan outlines the obligations of the State of Palestine under the relevant agreements following ratification, the mechanisms for their implementation, and the competent authorities. It also identifies ways to activate and embody these rights within Palestinian legislation.
- The Ministry has monitored the collection of data and information for the initial reports on the First Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child regarding the involvement of children in armed conflict, and the Second Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Additionally, the Ministry has completed updating data and information related to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development and the governmental team responsible for the Convention.

4. Improving Judicial Services

- Finalizing the amendments to the Civil and Commercial Procedures Law and the Enforcement Law, and issuing them according to the rules to expedite litigation procedures and submitting proposals for amending laws related to litigation procedures to reduce the judiciary's burden. The Criminal Procedures Law is currently being amended with the same goal for criminal cases.

- Appointed 21 judges from the Palestinian Judicial Institute and considered implementing a judge shift system to maximize efficiency in case resolution, ensuring timely and complete justice.
- The Cabinet has approved the appointment of 15 employees, including judicial clerks and notification clerks, to improve the functioning of settlement courts.
- Proposed amendments to procedural laws, aiming to shorten litigation periods and reduce the burden on the judiciary system, initiated by the Ministry of Justice in coordination with the Justice Sector Coordinating Council and in partnership with the Supreme Judicial Council. Ongoing work includes amendments to the Civil and Commercial Procedures Law, the Criminal Procedures Law, and the Enforcement Law.
- Strengthening the performance of the Palestinian Judicial Institute by enhancing court management skills, designing training programs, and preparing e-learning courses.
- Ministry of Justice, and Council of Ministers conducted a thorough review of incomplete legislation regarding legal procedures (adoption, issuance), starting with what is necessary and aligned with the governmental reform program, such as the draft public health law, the right to access information, and social development.

III. Pillar 3 - Investment and Business Climate

Creating an optimal investment environment is a common goal for all countries, requiring numerous reforms, incentives, and guarantees for investors. The Palestinian government is focusing on developing and stimulating investment infrastructure, improving the business climate, and implementing economic reforms. By strengthening sectors such as transport, roads, energy, and water, and enhancing the business environment, the government aims to support sustainable economic growth and attract more investments.

Action and Measures Taken by the Government:

1. Creating a Legal Environment for Business

- Conducted a comprehensive review of regulations governing the telecommunications and digital economy sectors, to keep pace with technological developments and create a conducive technical environment for doing business.
- Completed the draft decree-law on electronic transactions and trust services, finalized the draft decree-law concerning the Cybersecurity Authority, and

drafted a decree-law on e-commerce. These Legislations are important for the reliability of electronic transactions and protecting digital rights.

- Strengthening the role of specialized courts in resolving commercial disputes in a timely manner.
- Conducting a comprehensive review of the legislative and regulatory framework for the electricity sector to enhance performance and encourage investment in this vital field.
- Establishing the Public-Private Partnership Unit at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation to strengthen the relationship between the public and private sectors and encourage mutual investment.
- Finalizing and issuing the decision-law on value-added tax according to the rules. This decision-law is the first to regulate value-added tax in Palestine, aiming to achieve tax justice among all taxpayers, support small businesses, and enhance citizen satisfaction. Additionally, it will address various economic activities on a sectoral basis, representing a comprehensive economic transformation.
- The Cabinet approved the digital asset management standards in accordance with Instructions No. (2) of 2024, issued by the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy.

2. Investment Promotion

- The Ministry of National Economy has prepared a draft economic revitalization plan to serve as the primary reference for a comprehensive development strategy, to be further developed within the framework of the Permanent Ministerial Committee for Economic Development, aiming to create a comprehensive development plan involving all partners in the economic sector.
- Launched the Unified Electronic Company Registration System, known as the "Business Portal", which will play a vital role in enhancing and digitizing the investment and business climate.
- Commencing the implementation of Establishing the National Infrastructure for Spatial Information Project by reforming the national committee responsible for overseeing the project's progress.
- Launched the "Merchandise Quota" system by reshaping the licensing committee and developing a new electronic platform for receiving applications. Established new mechanisms for funding infrastructure and private sector projects in the field of energy, water, communications, and transport.

- The Palestinian Energy and Natural Resources Authority has launched the first electronic platform in Palestine, featuring interactive maps of solar energy system projects. This initiative is part of the project to enhance the business environment for Palestinian small and medium enterprises, providing citizens with access to all locations and data related to solar energy system projects across various cities.
- To enhance the governance and regulation of the date sector, a specialized high-level national committee has been established. This committee adopts a modern scientific methodology based on surveys specifically designed for farmers. A series of measures are being implemented that adhere to the principles of transparency, integrity, and good governance within the sector.
- The Ministry of Agriculture has governed and unified the management of the "quota" system to enhance transparency and coordination in the distribution of agricultural quotas. This initiative ensures that local market needs are met while protecting the interests of farmers, all within an integrated vision that balances economic and social considerations.
- A comprehensive review, correction, and updating of legislation and regulations related to olive presses are underway. These presses are being reclassified from industrial to agricultural establishments and are obtaining licensing from the Ministry of Agriculture for the first time. The objectives are to standardize their operations, improve the quality and quantity of olive oil production, and reduce the percentage of oil loss.
- The Ministry of National Economy has launched the E-souq platform to facilitate the marketing of women's home-made industrial products.
- The Supreme Council for Public Procurement Policies has launched the e-Government Procurement Platform (e-GP). This platform includes features for registering bidders and suppliers, managing needs identification, preparing procurement plans, linking them to the general budget, and managing the electronic catalog. The platform serves as an alternative to the current paper-based procedures and transactions.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, through the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA), has launched the "My Initiatives" project for sustainable growth. This initiative, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, aims to empower local communities by supporting small and medium-sized agricultural ventures, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

IV. Pillar 4 - Basic Service Provision

The primary role of the Government, as expected by citizens, is to enhance the quality of public services across all sectors. Given the current situation, the government has prioritized the health sector to ensure the population's well-being by protecting them from infectious and chronic diseases, and providing effective, safe, fair, and high-quality primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare at the lowest possible cost. This focus is also driven by the inadequacies in the current public health system, which necessitates costly medical transfers as an alternative.

Action and Measures Taken by the Government:

1. Improving Health Sector Services

- Started working on developing a new medical referral system to localize healthcare services in Palestine, including a plan to improve healthcare infrastructure.
- Regulated agreements for purchasing healthcare services to ensure high-quality medical services for citizens.
- Reviewed the cost of medication supplied by the private sector, and renegotiated offers according to governance and transparency standards significantly reducing costs and improving the timely delivery of necessary medicines.
- An amount of approximately 330 million shekels of the Ministry of Health's prior debts has been repaid, constituting up to 12.5% of the total outstanding liabilities.
- Completed the electronic integration between the health insurance system and the Ministry of Social Development, Integrated the Government's Service Purchase Unit with the public hospitals, and added new health insurance services to the e-government services system.
- Reviewed and approved the purchase prices of more than 200 medical procedures and laboratory tests, achieving an annual saving of 3 million shekels.
- Rehabilitated complaint boxes in hospitals and primary health care centers, and developed a specialized electronic archiving program for the Complaints Unit to document committee minutes and complaints.
- The Cabinet has approved the document aimed at enhancing the efficiency of medicine procurement, which will help ensure better stock management and foster a competitive environment among suppliers.

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates has secured a mobile hospital equipped with cutting-edge medical technologies funded by the Chinese government. This hospital aims to enhance Palestinian health capabilities by providing medical services in remote areas and improving the quality of health care.
- The Ministry of Health has developed hospital and medical center systems to improve patient registration and expedite service delivery. Additionally, they have launched mobile clinics and a mobile blood bank to provide services to marginalized areas.
- The Cabinet has approved the appointment of 98 employees to work in the Ministry of Health, specifically in the neonatal nurseries, cardiac catheterization departments, and the service purchasing unit. This initiative aims to enhance the quality of services in Ministry of Health facilities, expand catheterization services in government hospitals, bolster nursery services for newborns, and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the service purchasing unit, which handles medical transfers.

2. Improving the Quality of Other Essential Services

- Activated the use of the National Data Carrier (UXP) to facilitate data and service exchange between government departments and institutions. This enhances digital communication between government entities and the General Personnel Council to improve public administration.
- Progressing in automating services within government institutions to activate the e-government services system, delivering high-quality digital services that save time and effort for citizens.
- Activated complaints and grievance units within government departments, with a centralized complaint management system.
- Amended the ownership system for public operating licenses to govern the transportation sector more effectively. A technical committee now has the authority to grant these licenses, ensuring justice and equal opportunities for all citizens. Consequently, all public operating licenses issued between January 1 and March 2024 have been canceled to align with the new standards set by the technical committee.
- Provided public schools with high-quality internet services to facilitate students' education and integrate digital transformation into the learning process.
- The Water Authority has adopted the Water Emergency Response Plan as a national priority, creating a roadmap for development partners to support the water sector in Gaza.

- Introducing a new electronic service called "Property Inventory" through the My Government platform and application, in collaboration with the Land Authority, to allow citizens to document their immovable property based on official records and documents from the Land Authority.
- The Ministry of Justice has launched the arbitration system and the electronic translation system and has developed the electronic payment system for criminal records.
- In collaboration with relevant partner institutions, the General Administration of Registration at the Land Authority has streamlined procedures to allow citizens to obtain a financial clearance (A+B) directly from the property tax department, instead of from the General Administration of Registration at the Land Authority.
- The General Administration of Registration at the Land Authority is working to integrate its systems with the "Sharia" judiciary to audit and verify the inheritance quotas issued by the Sharia judiciary and ensure alignment with the general administration for registration.
- Unifying the electronic infrastructure of the majority of the embassies of the State of Palestine has been achieved by establishing an electronic system that links consular services with the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates. Additionally, consular revenues have been electronically linked with the National Fund. So far, 75 out of 112 embassies have been connected to the main headquarters, and efforts are underway to complete the linkage for the remaining 37 embassies, alongside providing the necessary devices for implementation.
- The Ministry of Local Government has adopted the "Palestinian Code for Fire Prevention and Protection" across all its directorates in the governorates and regional committees. This initiative aims to enhance safe investment, protect citizens' lives and property, and strengthen the legislative framework related to buildings and facilities.
- A trial launch of the unified national portal for vocational and technical education and training aims to improve communication and provide accurate data on the vocational and technical education sector. Additionally, steps are being taken to establish the National Fund for Vocational and Technical Education and Training in partnership with relevant government ministerial institutions. This fund will ensure sustainable funding for the implementation of vocational and technical education and training programs.

3. Developing the Social Protection System

- The Ministry of Social Development adopted unified social protection standards to strengthen the comprehensive protection system, focusing on basic needs, families, and vulnerable groups.
- The Ministry of Social Development verifies the accuracy of social data within the national social list for social protection programs based on individual needs. This includes establishing a single program for needs-based social protection to achieve comprehensiveness by implementing selection criteria for financial allocations and related support.

Conclusion

Building upon the significant achievements outlined above, the 19th Palestinian Government has taken a decisive step forward by developing the first phase of the National Program for Development and Reform. Under the mandate of H.E. President Mahmoud Abbas and outlined by Prime Minister Dr. Mohammad Mustafa on October 22, 2024, this ambitious two-year implementation plan aims to confront current challenges and ignite economic revival and institutional enhancement.

The program's objectives are clear and bold: to revitalize the Palestinian national economy recovering from the shocks of Israeli aggression on Gaza and the West Bank; to address deep-rooted structural imbalances that have persisted for decades; to promote self-reliance by fostering economic independence, reducing poverty, and lowering unemployment rates; and to achieve comprehensive socio-economic and environmental development by targeting key areas for tangible positive change. Enhancing government performance and improving public institutions are central to empowering citizens and strengthening the nation's resilience.

Structured into two main parts, the program encompasses seven strategic cross-sectoral development initiatives and four key pillars for legislative and institutional performance improvement. The initiatives focus on advancing renewable energy to transition toward a green economy, localizing health services through investment and infrastructure improvement, propelling comprehensive digital transformation with digital payments, promoting social protection inclusivity to address the impacts of war, achieving sustainable local governance, enhancing food security by boosting agricultural productivity, and transforming education to improve learning outcomes.

The legislative and institutional reforms aim to refine fiscal policies, strengthen governance and the rule of law, optimize the investment and business environment, and enhance basic service delivery in critical sectors such as water, energy, health, telecommunications, education, and social protection. These reforms are designed to create a more conducive environment for sustainable development and to ensure that public institutions operate with greater efficiency, transparency, and accountability.

Despite facing arduous conditions and unprecedented humanitarian and economic crises, the Government is intensifying efforts to improve public institutions and enhance service delivery. The National Program for Development and Reform is more than a strategic plan; it is a robust blueprint for achieving the aspirations of the Palestinian people for dignity, freedom, and prosperity. It represents a significant stride toward establishing an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital and fostering sustainable development through targeted initiatives and institutional reforms.

This program embodies the Government's unwavering dedication to building a resilient economy and society capable of overcoming current challenges and achieving long-term national goals. Through decisive actions and comprehensive strategies, the Government is not only addressing immediate needs but also laying the groundwork for a stable, prosperous, and resilient future for Palestine.