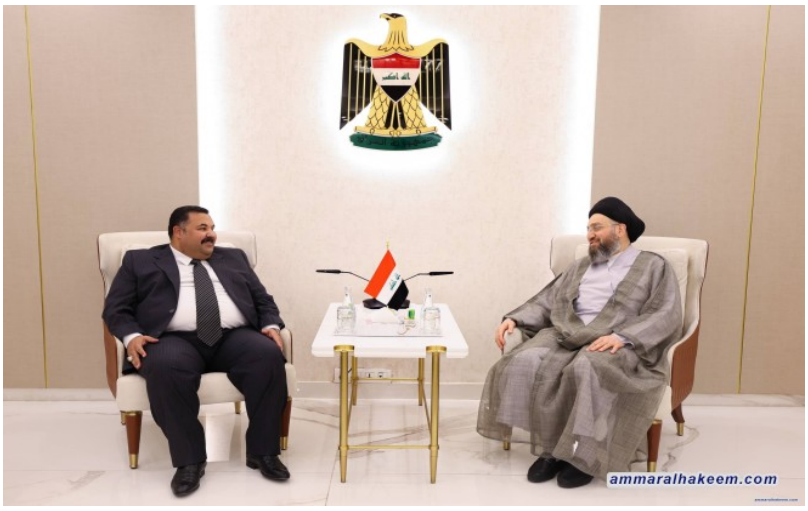
Sayyid Al-Hakeem Stresses Leveraging Wasit's Geographic Position to Strengthen Development



His Eminence Sayyid Al-Hakeem, Head of the National State Powers' Alliance, received this evening at his office in Baghdad the Governor of Wasit, Mr. Ali Hassan Sulaymon, the President of the Governorate Council, Mr. Adel Mohammed Kadhum, and members of the Governorate Council.

Those present exchanged congratulations on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha Al-Mubarak and discussed the service reality in Wasit Governorate and ways to support it. H.E. Sayyid Al-Hakeem affirmed the importance of this governorate for the many advantages it enjoys – serving as a connecting link between the southern governorates and the capital Baghdad, as well as sharing borders with the governorates of the Middle Euphrates and Diyala – making it the nexus and heartland of Iraq.

H.E. affirmed the importance of empowering local governments in their governorates, noting that this will only be achieved by granting them their full constitutional and legal powers, and pointing out that local governments are in direct contact with the citizen and that powers must be commensurate with the challenges.

H.E. noted that Wasit is a governorate of diverse potential, being agricultural, oil-producing, industrial, and touristic, and possessing border crossings with the Islamic Republic of Iran, calling for the leveraging of these advantages to diversify income sources and activate productive sectors. H.E. stressed the necessity of stability in local governments, for the pivotal role it plays in delivering services and preserving achievements.