

**Calling for building a special center for developing the rice planting headquartered in Diwaniyya, Sayyid Ammar al-Hakim says, "Diwaniyya is not poor of opportunities; rather, it needs strategic planning to invest its available opportunities."**



Sayyid Ammar al-Hakim, Head of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq (ISCI), has stressed that Diwaniyya is not poor when it comes to the opportunities it has, but it needs strategic planning to invest the available opportunities, expressing his confidence in the residents of Diwaniyya that they will surprise everyone when the suitable strategic planning is provided for them, pointing out that Diwaniyya is an Iraq food basket through the diversity of its plants such as grains, vegetables, rice and cotton. He called for building a special center for developing the rice planting headquartered in Diwaniyya to provide advice to the rest of areas. This came up when His Eminence met elite groups and competencies of Diwaniyya on Thursday, November 1, 2012. He stressed the necessity of introducing modern techniques in agriculture and irrigation so we may ensure high level agricultural crops using less water. He explained that Diwaniyya does not suffer from a water crisis but from a crisis in administering the waters in a scientific way, explaining that Diwaniyya lost more than two million agricultural acres which must be taken back to production anew.

Sayyid Ammar al-Hakim pointed out to the strategic location which Diwaniyya enjoys, being the heart among five Iraqi governorates, requiring the building of a highway transport network that creates a quantum leap for Diwaniyya, opens investment opportunities and economic boom and restores the glare and elegance to this governorate, stressing that building highways for Diwaniyya needs a federal budget, which is the responsibility of the ministry of reconstruction and housing and that of the local government in Diwaniyya.

The Head of the Supreme Council stressed that it is not opportune to turn the promises into a reality lived by the citizen in Diwaniyya. His Eminence added that Diwaniyya still suffers from shortages and shortcomings with a deteriorated and very sluggish service reality, citing the evidence of ministry of planning reports that talk about a deprivation percentage estimated at 44% which is a high figure when talking about development plus a 15% unemployment in the total population. He called for looking after the Hoar al-Damlaj, the important yet neglected shallow water swamp in its capacity as a fish and tourism wealth if well invested. His Eminence also called for looking after the animal wealth status in Diwaniyya and for providing food security. Diwaniyya's factories were not far from the talk of Sayyid Ammar al-Hakim with Diwaniyya's competencies and elite groups: Sayyid Ammar al-Hakim called for the activation of the tires plant and of the textiles plant in this governorate by involving these plants with specialized international companies that provide big work opportunities for the residents of Diwaniyya, stressing that Diwaniyya has a large oil reserve but no sufficient measures have been undertaken to extract it and to deduct a percentage of its revenues to administer the projects in Diwaniyya. He explained that the security reality in Diwaniyya needs viable plans, and that the administrative reality needs a vision and a plan, in addition to the necessity of fighting

administrative and financial corruption. His Eminence demanded the removal of legal, legislative and administrative obstacles so the Diwaniyya governorate may progress. His Eminence brought to memory the role of Diwaniyya governorate and its tribes in the 1920 revolution and in the Sha`ban Uprising and how they welcomed the Martyr of the Niche (may his soul be sanctified), appreciating the relationship between the residents of Diwaniyya and the religious authorities, especially the Marji`iyya (highest religious authority) of imam Muhsin al-Hakim (may his soul be sanctified), stressing that Diwaniyya has a tribal, intellectual and literary depth.