

# AMERICAN CONTRACTOR

28 October 2009

## Important Iraq Dates

October 20-21, 2009 U.S. Iraq Conference, Wash. D.C.

October 26-31, 2009 Iraq Constitution Conference, Heidelberg, Germany

November 1, 2009 Release of Financials; Parliament Members

December 7-9, 2009 Iraq Petroleum Conference London U.K.

December 31, 2009 – Development Fund for Iraq (DFI) expires (will be extended)

December 2009 – Article 140 Vote

January 16, 2010 – Iraq Referendum Vote (SOFA Security Agreement) (Maybe)

January 16, 2010 - Iraq National Elections

October 2010 – National Census rescheduled

## What does the National Elections in January and the Currency Revaluation have in common? They both require a law...

---

On 25 October there were two car bombs exploding in the area of the Ministry of Justice and Baghdad Provincial Council buildings and all of this came on the end of last weeks U.S. Iraq Business and Investment Conference held in Washington D.C.,

Scores of Iraqi's have been killed and wounded as you all know and any meaningful meeting that was scheduled to take place this week you can guarantee that it has been delayed and pushed back to a later date.

The Iraq 2010 budget has been forwarded to the Finance Committee for there review and after the recent bombings don't expect to be looked at for a few weeks. The break out of the budget is as follows approximately;

83,417,61,644,000 Iraqi Dinars which is equivalent to 71,320,000,000 U.S. dollars. The 2010 Iraqi budget has been calculated at the oil rate of 62.5 U. S. dollars at a 2.5 million barrels of production per day.

The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Budget is incorporated in the national budget which sets aside 17% of the Iraqi National Budget to the KRG. The KRG would be receiving

10,233,722,563,000 Iraqi Dinars which is equivalent to approximately 18.5 billion U.S. dollars.

There is no progress to the passage of the badly needed Election Law to have what the Iraqi people are wanting and that is to have

an Open List and not a Closed list. PM Nuri al-Maliki is adamantly opposed to a closed list and is not interested in delaying the January 16, 2010 Iraqi National Elections. If the Iraq National Elections are delayed PM Maliki stated recently that this would illegitimize the Iraqi Government. If it happens then it possibly could go back to the sectarian violence.

The Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) has extended the date for the registering of Political Groups to 31 October 2009. We have less then 82 days left until the Iraq National elections and we are still registering Political Groups for that election. Let me give you another viewpoint on this election that is fast approaching. The IHEC has not printed one single election ballot and the reason is the IHEC does not know what exactly to print on the ballot. The IHEC can not print of hundreds of thousands of ballots if the IHEC does not know to either print individual names of candidates or the names of Political Parties. As of 26 October the IHEC does not have a plan and were 82 days from the most important election in Iraq.

## The new tactic of the terrorists is to target key buildings. - Shirwan al-Wa'ili, Iraq National Security Minister

The problem goes further with the IHEC placing ballot information on the ticket. Another example of problems is when the Iraqi Parliament suggests to increase the number of Parliament members from 275 to 310 based on a Census that has yet to be performed. When you increase the Parliament members you have to add those individual candidate names to the election ballot. Now do you see the problems and there is no doubt election fraud will play a part in the next election.

The Iraq Census is scheduled for November 2010 according to my most accurate Important Iraq Dates. See the first page.

### OIL LICENSES

The Iraq oil licenses 2nd round has been announced to start in early January 2010 however, with the National elections being held in the same month and along with the holidays there is a chance it might be postponed. I will keep you posted.

The Iraqi Oil Minister Husayn al-Shahristani, had recently said "Iraq is expected to produce more than 7 million barrels of oil per day in the foreseeable future."

The second licensing round possible in January 2010 will cover ten additional oil fields, which are expected to produce more than 5 million barrels of oil per day.

When will the Oil Ministry start producing more than what it has been as soon as they get the funds to upgrade the existing oil fields. The funds will not come out of the 2010 Iraq budget all the funds needed for the Oil Industry will come from foreign investments. Those foreign investments are still expected to come into Iraq

its just a matter of when they pass those laws the foreign investors are expecting to be passed.

Amendment to Investment Law  
Custom Tarrif Law  
Infrastructure Law  
Consumer Protection Law

If and when these four laws are passed by the Iraqi Parliament is when you will see a shift in foreign investment to Iraq.

### U.N. CHAPTER VII

Just recently 22 October the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) held a meeting on Kuwait and Iraq relations. It is still the position of the Kuwaiti government for Iraq to remain under U.N. Chapter VII, until several of the U.N. resolution mandate has been completed to government of Kuwait satisfaction.

This is all still from the U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, report dated July 2009. The UNSC has committed to fund this mandate to June 2010. The search for missing persons and property will continue for the next 8 months. Iraq has already returned to the government of Kuwait the currency, stamps, and other property however, there is still property unaccounted for that was removed from Kuwait during the Iraq Gulf War 1990-1991. Iraq has to fully commit themselves to this operation if it ever would like to see the U.N. Chapter VII Resolutions lifted in 2010.

## **The New Election Law Falter heads back to parliaments law committee...**

There is still no evidence on the ground that any indication of any movement in the Iraq Dinar currency. Despite of what you have been told and there is a lot of information and disinformation out there just does not match up with what my analysis is on the ground.

The Iraqi National Elections is the most important event on the horizon for the Iraqi government. You have outside forces trying to manipulate the elections to coincide with there agenda. There is daily occurrences of Iraq's neighbors interfering with the activities of the Iraqi government and trying to derail them at any costs.

Just so you know the Iraqi's Parliament Defense Committee information reports reveal moves by regional powers to spend billions of dollars to obstruct forthcoming legislative elections. These type of circumstances I do not believe the Iraqi government and the Central Bank of Iraq (CBI) is even considering anything in regards to the currency.

**Below is the PM Nuri Maliki, speech the full translate text from the University Baghdad.**

## **Iraqi premier says “we will not weaken or surrender”**

**Baghdad Al-Iraqiyah Television in Arabic at 1440 gmt on 26 October carries an 18-minute speech by Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki at the seventh scientific conference for agricultural research at the University of Baghdad. The conference is attended by the minister of agriculture, Agriculture Ministry officials, researchers, and scientists.**

**Al-Maliki begins by highlighting the importance of agriculture, hoping that this conference will help develop this sector in Iraq. He adds: “We have two tasks. The first is making up for the defect that has resulted from the disruption of life, development, science, and research in Iraq because of the policies adopted by the former regime. This led to a large delay in catching up with the world’s scientific development and, therefore, this gap needs to be filled, but this requires additional efforts. The second task is the way we can keep up with developments and benefit from science. This requires the government, particularly the Agricultural Ministry and other ministries that support agriculture like the Water Resources Ministry, to provide the required courses, fellowships, and studies for our male and female students and researchers to become acquainted with this sector and keep up with global developments in the field of agriculture. Also we have to open ! large horizons for those wishing to invest in the agricultural sector in Iraq so that this issue will not continue to be confined to governmental effort. We have to support farmers and peasants and provide them with what is required to ensure a successful agriculture based on scientific methods.” He adds that modern irrigation methods should be used to replace the old methods and offset water shortages. He then calls for benefiting from developments in the field of agriculture, especially in the field of growing crops in salty soil and using salty water in irrigation to make up for the scarcity of water in the country.**

**Continuing, Al-Maliki says: “I look forward to good results and recommendations by this conference so that the government and concerned ministries will adopt what is related to them in the process of development, benefiting from the researches presented. We encourage research because agriculture should not be obstructed by conventional methods that exhaust the effort of the farmer, land, environment, and state without producing anything. We are in a race to build and develop our country. We are facing big challenges. We want to build but they [enemies] want to destroy. We want to repair things but they want to sabotage things. We want happiness for our people but they want to kill as happened yesterday when they committed that abominable crime and what happened earlier and what happens every day in the form of killings. Political motives and grudges against Iraq are behind these killings. We have to know why they harbour grudge against this country. They do so! because if the country develops, it will be gigantic and they will be dwarfs in front of it. Therefore, challenges will continue. They defy us with bombings and killings and we defy them with reconstruction and development. We also face them in the field of confrontation. None of these miserable attempts, which are supported by those who do not want this country to live or develop, will be able to stop the Iraqis. We must respond to this big challenge not only by confronting them with our security and military forces, but also with building and reconstruction. They feel alarmed when such a conference is held.” Al-Maliki adds that the financial crisis has reflected negatively on the agricultural budget, but the government is planning to increase its support for agriculture.**

**Discussing other economic issues, Al-Maliki says: “Iraq cannot continue to depend on oil revenues, which are limited. We have to look for other revenues generated from other sources, headed by agriculture, tourism, and industry. All these were disrupted due to wars and adventures. Today, we have to generate these revenues to support the state budget and be reassured about the future.” He adds that Iraq was a “basket of food for the region” back in history but today it imports almost all agricultural crops. He then says Iraqi is suffering from a high rate of unemployment and the jobless people “will have a big opportunity to work in agriculture.” He then calls for adopting water conservation methods by using sprinkler and drip irrigation systems to address the problem of “large shortage in water resources.”**

He hopes the researches presented at this conference will be sent to all agricultural departments in Iraq to benefit from them and develop agriculture. Continuing, Al-Maliki says: "We are facing a big challenge, but I trust that you and all honourable Iraqis will not surrender, weaken, or fail in building their country, especially after having tasted freedom and gotten rid of dictatorship. The enemies, however, will continue their attempts to discourage us and obstruct our march forward. They destroy and we build. The will of destruction will not triumph over the will of reconstruction. I tell the world, some of which applaud them, to ask them what they want from Iraq. Is dictatorship still there? Is sectarianism ruling there? Is there one party or one indispensable leader? Is there a call for dividing the country or attacking neighbouring countries? If all these things do not exist in Iraq, why target it? This stems from grudge and sectarianism, which move the feelings of some." He adds: "Therefore, we tell them: Do not tire yourselves. Shame and disgrace on you for killing the innocent. What is the guilt of the innocent people who were queuing in front of the Baghdad Provincial Council to get their monthly allowances? If they are talking about political struggle, we will welcome them, but we will not if they strike at a police or army post. They should not attack the innocent people who stand at the doors of aid establishments. This is not manliness or jihad. It is easy to do this. We or anyone else can do this anywhere in the world. This is an exploitation of the available freedom to kill innocent people merely for the sake of killing in order to say there is no security in Iraq and to say the national unity government and the political process have failed." He adds: "Our hearts are bleeding for the loss of our children. Our hearts are sad for every drop of innocent blood that is spilled. We, however, will not weaken or surrender. It is our destiny to confront them with patience, steadfastness, determination, and challenge."

Concluding, Al-Maliki says: "Strength is not confined to the gun or to the security services and police and armed forces. Strength also lies in such conferences and in spreading awareness among the people working in the various state departments. Strength lies in having a political system that is based on freedom and democracy. Strength lies in equality and justice and in ending discrimination among citizens." He finishes by saying "the world should understand that our strength lies in our unity, determination, and political will."

Source: Al-Iraqiyah TV, Baghdad, in Arabic 1440 gmt 26 Oct 09

If you are not on the mailing list of the American Contractor just send me an e-mail and you will be added.

The new look is a work in progress and the final draft as time comes available will be improved with each new publication.

Contact Email: [americancontractor@gmail.com](mailto:americancontractor@gmail.com)