

Obstacles to Local Investment in the Shadow Areas of Algeria with a Focus on Jijel Province: Sources of Deficiency and Requirements for Reform

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Abstract

Local investment, particularly in the shadow areas, is one of the key concerns of the Algerian state at present. Consequently, various agencies have undertaken a comprehensive census of isolated areas and allocated substantial financial resources to revitalize these regions and make them focal points for economic takeoff. These areas are rich in natural resources, making them prime candidates for comprehensive local development and for addressing the developmental disparities observed across most of Algeria. However, creating an environment conducive to local investment in these areas requires mechanisms to eliminate bureaucracy and establish stable laws that facilitate field activities.

Keywords: *Local Investment, Local Development, Shadow Areas, Investment Barriers, Developmental Disparities.*

INTRODUCTION

The government has taken the issue of developing shadow areas seriously, placing it among its top priorities. The directive from the President, which emphasizes addressing local developmental disparities, particularly in shadow areas, marks a shift from traditional approaches to one focused on initiative and result-based management.

This directive aims to remove all investment obstacles and break away from bureaucratic practices through intensified fieldwork, monitoring citizens' conditions, and developing integrated projects with social, cultural, and economic dimensions in partnership with local communities.

This initiative represents the starting point for balancing development across all regions, beginning with the President's program to restore the shadow areas. In response to the President's instructions, the government launched an urgent development program after identifying over 15,000 shadow areas with a population exceeding 8 million.

This program targets four main goals: alleviating isolation for residents in remote mountainous areas, ensuring access to roads, electricity, gas, and potable water, improving health and education services, and diversifying the economic capacities of the shadow areas while promoting dialogue and consultation with citizens through participatory management.

Shadow areas in Algeria are among the most marginalized, suffering from a lack of infrastructure such as road networks and connections to electricity, gas, and potable water.