



INVESTMENTS

## SCZONE attracts record \$7.1 billion in annual investments, secures \$1.8 billion in two months



**C**hairperson of the Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZONE), Walid Gamal El-Din, highlighted the zone's expanding role as a global logistics and industrial hub during his participation in a conference organised by AHK Egypt. Gamal El-Din took part in the opening panel, where discussions focused on improving efficiency amid ongoing global disruptions.

During the session, he said SCZONE is actively repositioning itself as an integrated industrial and logistics platform, capitalising on structural shifts in global supply chains.

He revealed that the authority has attracted approximately \$16bn in investments over the past three years and nine months. In the current fiscal year alone, investments have reached a record \$7.1bn, including \$1.8bn secured within the last two months.

On the operational front, SCZONE reported strong growth in both revenues and cargo volumes. Container throughput at East Port Said Port rose sharply from 2.4 million TEUs in 2024 to 5.6 million TEUs in 2026, accounting for around 70% of Egypt's transit trade. Meanwhile, Arish Port has been transformed from near inactivity into a functioning hub handling between 4.5 million and 5 million tonnes annually.

Gamal El-Din also pointed to ongoing upgrades at Ain Sokhna Port, part of a broader national logistics corridor linking Sokhna to Alexandria, aimed at enhancing connectivity and streamlining the movement of goods across Egypt.

ENERGY

## PM Mostafa Madbouly inspects offshore rig after major Mediterranean gas discovery



**P** rime Minister Mostafa Madbouly inspected the offshore drilling rig Al-Qaher 2 in the Mediterranean Sea following the successful drilling of the Dennis West exploratory well in the

Temsah concession area off the coast of Port Said.

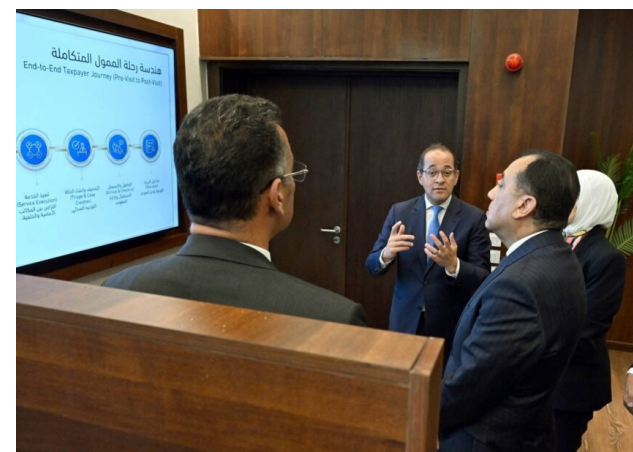
According to the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, the well has yielded a new natural gas discovery estimated at around 2 trillion cubic feet (tcf), alongside approximately 130 million barrels of condensates.

Madbouly was accompanied by Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Karim Badawi as well as senior officials from the petroleum sector and representatives of Eni, the main investor in the concession, in partnership with BP.

During the visit, Madbouly said the government is working to localise advanced technologies to enhance oil and gas production, in cooperation with international partners and service providers. He added that President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi has directed the development of a comprehensive framework to advance exploration, research, and production activities, with the aim of meeting domestic demand and reducing reliance on imports.

INVESTMENTS FACILITATIONS

## Egypt opens first premium tax services centre in New Cairo to simplify investor procedures



**E**gypt opened its first premium tax services centre in New Cairo, marking the start of a nationwide rollout aimed at simplifying procedures for investors and widening the country's tax base.

Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly inaugurated the facility at the SODIC administrative centre, accompanied by Finance Minister Ahmed Kouchouk. Madbouly stated that the government aims to create a real partnership with the business community by implementing further tax reforms and facilities, which will help foster a stable and attractive business environment that meets the needs of local and international investors.

The prime minister noted that the government targets the establishment of several premium tax centres across the country to provide efficient, fast, and easy services. He added that the overarching goal is to build a fair, simplified, and stimulating tax system to achieve economic growth and stability.

Finance Minister Ahmed Kouchouk emphasised the ministry's commitment to raising taxpayer satisfaction through these new centres, highlighting the enhancement of digital transformation and the launch of electronic services to change the tax reality for the better. He stated that the ministry seeks to widen the tax base and gain the trust of the business community through further tax facilitations.

TRADE

## Egypt's transit trade grows 35% in first quarter of 2026, finance minister says



**E**gypt's transit trade volume increased by 35% in the first quarter of 2026 compared to the same period last year, Finance Minister Ahmed Kouchouk said, as the government prepares to introduce new facilities to further boost the sector.

Speaking at a logistics conference organised by the German-Arab Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Kouchouk announced that a package of tax and customs facilities will be presented to the House of Representatives in the coming weeks. The package includes 40 measures designed to simplify procedures for investors, drive trade movement, and reduce customs release times.

To facilitate cross-border trade and benefit from infrastructure developments, exceptional customs facilities have already been implemented, Kouchouk said. These include clearing transit shipments at ports without the need for Advance Cargo Information (ACI) pre-registration.

The government is also providing diverse alternatives to cash guarantees to reduce financial burdens on investors, aiming to maximise transit trade and transform Egypt into a global logistics hub.

ECONOMY

## Delta Capital, Emirates Global ink \$500 million partnership for mixed-use projects in Egypt



**D**elta Capital for Urban Development has signed a strategic partnership with Emirates Global Investment (EGRI), a subsidiary of NCE Group, to develop a portfolio of mixed-

use projects in Egypt with total estimated investments of \$500 million.

The agreement establishes a joint Egyptian-Emirati real estate alliance aimed at developing approximately 500 feddans of land in strategic locations, including Cairo, Kafr El-Sheikh, and El Mahalla El Kubra.

The planned developments will comprise residential, commercial, and service components, with construction scheduled to commence in 2027 in line with international design and execution standards.

The signing ceremony took place in Cairo in the presence of Hamad Obaid Al Zaabi, alongside ministers, ambassadors, business leaders, and investors from both countries. The agreement was signed by Abdel Hadi Higazi, Chairperson of Delta Capital for Urban Development, and Badr Fares Al Hilali, Chairperson of EGRI, with senior executives from both sides in attendance.

INVESTMENTS

## MSMEDA extends EGP 300 million in microfinance to Tamkeen to support small enterprises



**T**he Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (MSMEDA) has signed a financing agreement worth EGP 300 million with Tamkeen Microfinance, the microfinance arm of Al Ahly Capital, to expand funding

for micro-enterprises across Egypt.

The agreement was signed by Bassel Rahmy, CEO of MSMEDA, and Karim Saada, Chairperson of Tamkeen, enabling MSMEDA to channel financing through Tamkeen to end beneficiaries.

The initiative falls within the state's broader strategy to integrate economic activity into the formal economy, encourage micro-entrepreneurs to regularise their operations, and support the growth and expansion of micro-enterprises. It also aims to promote self-employment, reduce unemployment, improve living standards, and contribute to inclusive economic development.

Rahmy said the agreement reflects continued cooperation with the National Bank of Egypt to strengthen support for the enterprise sector. It also aligns with MSMEDA's efforts to expand its network of partner microfinance institutions, grow its lending portfolio, and support the establishment and development of micro-enterprises across all governorates.