

Strategic Plan for the Regulation of the Negev: In the coming year, a quarter of the Negev's scattered Bedouin population will be evacuated for the benefit of national projects

Israeli Authority for the Development and Settlement of the Bedouins in the Negev

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Approximately 36,000 members of the scattered Bedouin population who reside in illegal villages will be evacuated to legal settlements in the coming years. This is due to the significant progress that was made regarding a series of national projects that requires the evacuation of the residents of the scattered population. The evacuation of this population is expected to restore some 260,000 dunams to the state.

Minister Uri Ariel, who is in charge of the Bedouin Settlement Authority in the Negev, stated: "We have returned proper governance to the Negev and in the coming year we will begin a strategic campaign to regulate settlement in the Negev. A number of national projects in the Negev have created a golden opportunity to move the Negev forward, to settle a significant part of the scattered Bedouin population once and for all, and to restore to the state vast areas that were taken illegally."

According to Bedouin Settlement Authority Director, Yair Ma'ayan: "The Authority is vigorously advancing large plans to absorb tens of thousands of members of the scattered Bedouin population. The program will benefit the Bedouin citizens and will enable us to provide them with the full range of services and conditions they are entitled to like all citizens in Israel."

Minister Uri Ariel, who is in charge of the Bedouin Settlement Authority in the Negev, has instructed the Authority to speed up plans to absorb evacuees from the scattered Bedouin populations. The extension of Highway 6 to the south will require the evacuation of some 1,000 families from the scattered communities of Umm Batin, Tel Sheva, Bir Hamam, Abu Tlul, and Khashem Zane, which number some 5,000 people, to the Bedouin towns of Tel Sheva, Abu Tlul, and Umm Batin.¹ The size of the area that will be vacated as a result of this process is approximately 12,466 dunams.

In addition, Abu Tlul, together with the recognized towns of Abu Qrinat and Wadi al-Na'am, will absorb about 1,000 families, numbering approximately 5,000 persons, from the scattered Bedouin population of Ramat Beka.² This is pursuant to the District Committee's approval of the transfer of the IMI plant from Ramat Hasharon to Ramat Beka, to an area covering 52,000 dunams.

The towns of Wadi al-Na'am and Segev Shalom will absorb the scattered Bedouin populations adjacent to them due to the construction of the new high voltage line of the Israel Electric Corporation, which will

¹ There are sections of Tel Sheva, Abu Tlul, and Umm Batin that are recognized by Israeli state authorities and other sections that are not recognized *[Note from Adalah]*.

² There is a state decision at the principle level to recognize the village of Wadi al-Na'am. The Bedouin Settlement Authority wants to move the residents to a new location next to Segev Shalom. *[Note from Adalah]*

not allow them to continue to reside in the vicinity of the voltage lines for safety reasons and to avoid health risks. The number of persons to be settled in the Wadi al-Na'am and Segev Shalom area is estimated at approximately 15,000 and their evacuation will restore some 50,000 dunams to the state.

A phosphate mine is to be built in Sdeh Barir near Arad, after all objections to the mining of phosphates in this area were rejected. This will force the evacuation of the scattered Bedouin population of al-Fura'a, al-Ghaza and al-Za'arura, which together number about 11,000 people. All of them will be moved to the government-planned town of al-Fura'a.³ The total area that will be vacated is approximately 85,000 dunams.

Regarding the Kana'im Valley near Arad, the Ministry of Defense demands the evacuation of all of the scattered Bedouin populations located in the military training area north of Highway 31, from the Shoket junction to Arad. This is a large area which the army needs as a training area and this will require the evacuation of 150 families to the village of Makhol and 200 families to Mar'it - a total of about 2,000 people will be transferred north of the Hura-Arad Highway 31. The town of Makhol will also absorb the Bedouin populations scattered east of Arad. The evacuation of all of the scattered populations in this area will restore approximately 60,000 dunams to the state.

[This document is a translation of a Hebrew announcement distributed via WhatsApp to journalists by Israel's Bedouin Settlement Authority. For more details, please see [Adalah's press release](#) on this issue]

³ There are sections of al-Fura'a that are recognized by Israeli state authorities and other sections that are not recognized *[Note from Adalah]*.