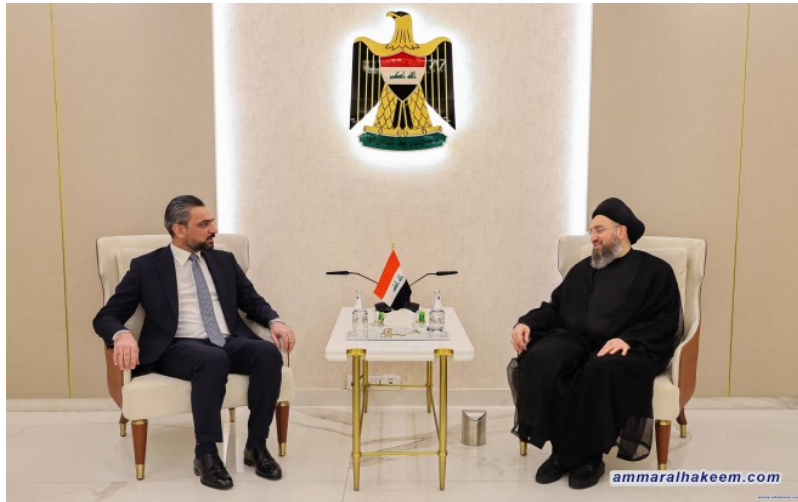


Sayyid Al-Hakeem Calls to Pass Provincial Councils Law, to Strengthen Kirkuk's Development Opportunities



His Eminence Sayyid Al-Hakeem, Head of the National State Powers' Alliance, received the President of Kirkuk Provincial Council Mr. Mohammed Ibraheem Al-Hafidh and the accompanying delegation, commending the coexistence among the people of Kirkuk, and calling for its preservation and for working to serve the residents of Kirkuk without discrimination. H.E. noted that Kirkuk represents a miniature Iraq, and that success there would mean success across Iraq as a whole, presenting a model for coexistence, calling for managing diversity in Iraq by transforming social components into Iraqi bridges for communication with the peoples of the region and the world.

Sayyid Al-Hakeem called for investing in the governorate's agricultural, tourism, and industrial capabilities, and its role in the energy sector, stressing the necessity of passing the Provincial Councils Law, which will provide great opportunities for the governorates and revenues enabling them to manage their projects according to priorities.

H.E. pointed to the challenges Iraq is experiencing, noting that the most prominent challenge today is that of the financial and economic crisis, affirming that this crisis is a result of Iraq being affected by events in the region, and expressing his optimism about overcoming this crisis, just as Iraq has overcome its social and political challenges in the previous times.