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### Al Mokhtabar installs fully automated haematology line at central laboratory



**Hend El Sherbini**

Egyptian diagnostics provider Al Mokhtabar has launched a fully automated Sysmex Blood Science Track haematology line at its central Mega Lab facility, automating 100% of its haematology laboratory processes.

The new equipment expands the laboratory's haematology capacity to over 1,000 tests per hour and guides samples through testing stages with minimal manual intervention. The system automatically verifies results, repeats tests where indicated, and triggers reflex testing according to defined protocols. The Mega Lab, which conducts over 30m tests annually, serves as the central facility for Al Mokhtabar's network of more than 460 branches and home-visit operations. Haematology testing processed at the facility, such as Complete Blood Counts (CBC), is utilised by physicians for patient monitoring, assessing health status, and tracking treatment responses.

Integrated Diagnostics Holdings (IDH), the parent company of Al Mokhtabar, stated the upgrade aims to provide faster turnaround times for patients and physicians.

"This new line is more than a technology upgrade; it is part of Al Mokhtabar's broader commitment to advancing the standard of diagnostics available to physicians and patients in Egypt," said Dr. Hend El Sherbini, Chief Executive Officer of IDH. "Every result generated at the Mega Lab informs a clinical decision, a treatment pathway, or a moment of reassurance for a patient. By investing in advanced automa-

tion and specialist expertise, we are equipping the healthcare ecosystem with the speed, precision, and reliability it needs to deliver better outcomes, strengthening the role diagnostics play in Egypt's wider healthcare sector."

The Sysmex line adds to the Mega Lab's existing automation infrastructure, which includes equipment from international diagnostic technology providers Roche and Siemens.

"Our sustained investment in the Mega Lab reflects Al Mokhtabar's long-term commitment to building the diagnostic infrastructure Egypt's healthcare sector relies on," said Sherif El Zeiny, Vice President and Group Chief Financial Officer of IDH. "Since 2015, IDH has invested in expanding the capacity of the Mega Lab, introducing advanced testing techniques, and automating the majority of its operations to serve millions of patients through one central platform. We will continue directing investment toward the precision, reliability, and speed that define the standard of care Al Mokhtabar delivers, and that Egypt's physicians and patients depend on."

The Mega Lab employs more than 300 specialists and physicians across departments including haematology, clinical chemistry, immunology, molecular biology, genetics, microbiology, transplantation testing, and food and water analysis. The laboratory offers over 3,000 tests and parameters, including more than 300 specialised parameters for metabolic disorders, heavy metals, and molecular diagnostics.

**PRESS CLIPPING SHEET**

**Egypt pushes cooperation with Afreximbank on entrepreneurship**

TALKS HIGHLIGHT INNOVATION, DIGITAL SOLUTIONS, AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION AS PRIORITIES

Ahmed Rostom, Minister of Planning and Economic Development, met with Haytham El Maayari, Executive Vice President of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), to discuss advancing bilateral cooperation and supporting Egypt's entrepreneurship ecosystem.

The meeting was attended by Amr El Abd, Adviser to the Prime Minister for Entrepreneurship, Hiba Zaki, Director of the Egypt Entrepreneurship Centre, Mohamed Metwaly, Managing Director of NI Capital and senior ministry officials. Rostom underscored the strategic importance of Egypt's partnership with Afreximbank, noting its role in driving regional integration, promoting intra-African trade, expanding digital solutions, and strengthening cross-border payment infrastructure. He stressed the government's commitment to deepening cooperation



in priority areas—particularly empowering start-ups, supporting micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and enabling Egyptian companies to expand into African markets.

He praised ongoing coordination between Afreximbank and the Central Bank of Egypt, citing the recent memorandum of understanding to establish a Golo Bank programme in Egypt as a model for strengthening continental economic capabilities.

Discussions also focused on opportunities to align Afreximbank's support with Egypt's executive framework for entrepreneurship and innovation. Rostom highlighted initiatives to improve financing conditions, facilitate expansion and exit opportunities, and strengthen supportive policies through the Ministerial Group for Entrepreneurship. He emphasized the

importance of close coordination to define priority areas and advance the planned fund of funds for financing entrepreneurship, enabling start-ups to scale regionally and internationally.

The talks explored cooperation in equity investment, start-up listing pathways, and regulatory tools to facilitate regional expansion. They also reviewed prospects for a dedicated investment fund targeting promising SMEs in partnership with NI Capital, aimed at supporting companies with international growth potential.

The meeting concluded with agreement to strengthen collaboration between Afreximbank and the Egypt Entrepreneurship Centre, enhancing its programmes and capacity to accommodate the anticipated expansion of innovation support activities in the coming period.

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**EGP 500m financing approved for 372 beneficiaries under National Veal Project: Agriculture minister**

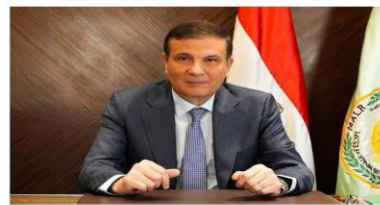
Total financing reaches EGP 11.172bn, benefiting more than 46,000 small-scale breeders, young graduates to raise, fatten over 538,500 head of livestock: Farouk

Alaa Farouk, Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, announced that the board of the National Veal Project has approved new financing worth EGP 499.415m for 372 beneficiaries, including small-scale breeders and young graduates, to raise and fatten 7,137 head of livestock.

The financing comes within the framework of the presidential Decent Life initiative to develop the Egyptian countryside and improve citizens' living standards. Farouk said the move reflects the state's commitment to strengthening food security and protecting citizens from market volatility.

The minister said the National Veal Project has become one of the state's most important tools for increasing the supply of red meat and dairy products. He noted that total financing disbursed since the project's launch has now reached EGP 11.172bn, benefiting more than 46,000 small-scale breeders and young graduates to raise and fatten over 538,500 head of livestock.

Farouk said these figures reflect the state's success in building a strong livestock production system that contributes to reducing the food gap, supporting market stability, and



Alaa Farouk

ensuring the availability of meat and dairy products at fair prices, thereby achieving a balance between the interests of producers and consumers alike.

He stressed the importance of intensifying field monitoring of beneficiaries across all governorates while providing full veterinary care and technical support to ensure the highest production rates. He added that the government continuously monitors any challenges facing breeders

and works to address them immediately.

Farouk also said the state will continue injecting substantial investments to support domestic meat and dairy production, strengthen food security, and create new job opportunities, contributing to greater market stability and ensuring citizens' needs are met at more balanced prices the period ahead.

For his part, Mostafa El Sayad, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and

Land Reclamation, stressed that the state's support goes beyond providing financing. It also ensures the success of projects through thorough field inspections of livestock farms, subsidised livestock insurance provided through the Livestock Insurance Fund, and continuous follow-up by the ministry's technical and veterinary authorities.

El Sayad said the continued expansion of the National Veal Project is directly contributing to increased domestic production of red meat and dairy products, easing pressure on markets and supporting price stability, thereby strengthening the state's ability to provide essential food commodities despite global economic challenges.

Meanwhile, Tarek Soliman, Head of the Livestock and Poultry Development Sector, said applications under the project remain open to small-scale breeders and young graduates in all governorates. He noted that the initiative is helping to create thousands of new jobs, increase rural household incomes, and support the state's plans to achieve comprehensive development and improve living standards in the Egyptian countryside.

**Environmental impact of barge sinking in Lake Nasser remains limited: Irrigation ministry**

Egypt's Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation said preliminary water quality tests showed the environmental impact of a barge sinking at the East High Dam Port on Lake Nasser was limited and confined to the immediate area of the incident, while monitoring efforts continue.

The ministry said in a statement that Water Resources and Irrigation Minister Hani Sewilam had received a report from the head of the High Dam and Aswan Reservoir Authority on the incident and the technical measures taken to assess water quality.

According to the report, specialists collected nine water samples from different depths and locations around the site to monitor water quality indicators and assess any potential environmental impact.

Preliminary results showed that water quality remained within approved standards, with only a limited decline in dissolved oxygen levels detected near the accident site due to a



Hani Sewilam

diesel slick caused by fuel leaking from the sunken barge's fuel tank.

The ministry said the diesel spill remained contained within the port area and had not spread to other parts of Lake Nasser. Relevant authorities are managing the cleanup, while the

Ministry of Environment is taking the necessary legal measures within its mandate.

Follow-up sampling and analysis will continue over the coming days to monitor water quality and detect any changes, with the results to be sub-

mitted regularly to the ministry, the statement said.

Sewilam instructed the High Dam and Aswan Reservoir Authority to continue technical monitoring and coordinate closely with the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Local Development and Environment, Aswan Governorate, and other relevant authorities to safeguard Lake Nasser's water quality.

The minister also called for an emergency meeting of the technical secretariat of the National Council for Environmental Protection to coordinate government agencies and ensure that appropriate measures are taken within each authority's jurisdiction.

The ministry said it is monitoring the situation around the clock, adding that current indicators show the environmental impact remains limited and confined to the port area, while field monitoring and water analysis continue to ensure that no contamination spreads beyond the accident site.