

Mr. Touafik BACCAR, Governor of The Central Bank of Tunisia (BCT), presided over on Saturday 18 July 2009 in Gabes, works of the day for financing businesses.

Some 42 projects for about 51.8 MTD were approved over this day, likely to create 642 jobs. Besides, some 150 proposals for around 2.3 million dinars (288 jobs) retained attention of the Tunisian Solidarity Bank (BTS).

In this respect, Mr. BACCAR stated that the regional seminars on investment are an efficient instrument to boost investment. Worth of note that 2008 was marked by holding of about ten regional seminars, with some 57 in project implementation in which 10,000 jobs were created.

The Governor of the BCT stressed the need to carry regional development targets while focusing on priority regions to achieve complementarily and Solidarity between the regions and eventually implement the principle of development fairness.

Mr. BACCAR affirmed that investment is the best anti-crisis solution, recalling the presidential measures to support businesses in difficulties and ensure everlastingness of the industrial fabric in Tunisia.

He stressed that the State mobilised some 730 MTD to boost public investment and create more jobs.

The Governor of the BCT underlined also the role of the banking sector over this period of crisis in mobilizing the financial resources needed on the money market to finance businesses.

He referred also to efforts to improve the quality of banking services and bring them closer to the citizen.

He indicated that the banking network in the Governorate of Gabes will be boosted by the creation of three new agencies further to establishment of a venture capital investment company (SICAR) : "Gabès pour l'investissement" and one regional leasing company.

Mr. BACCAR underlined that the Governorate of Gabes has the bases that help it move forward on the development path, recalling in this respect the project to build a highway in the area which links Sfax to Gabes ; further to its major human skills and resources in the areas of industry, agriculture and services.

Works of this day that was marked by presence of a huge member of promoters, banks and financing structures involved presentation of three communications on the bank to finance small and medium-sized businesses (BFPME), the Tunisian Solidarity bank (BTS), the Tunisian Guarantee Company (SOTUGAR) as well as workshops regrouping promoters, bank managers and investment companies, further to distribution of agreement in principle for financing projects by BTS.

On the other hand, the Governor of the BCT presided over the closing session of the 25th edition of the international exhibition of Gabes on "e-commerce to the service of investment and employment".

Worth of note that choice of this topic is in keeping with national tendency toward boosting innovative sectors. Indeed, services developed, the number of cards amounted to more than 2 million and 30 million operations were carried in 2008.

Mr. BACCAR highlighted efforts to make general the use of electronic card, to promote the payment system and reduce out-of-order rate to 3 .

In this day, 66 projects concerning the sectors of industry, agriculture / fishing and services were presented. These projects with the total cost estimated at 97.5 MTD would generate 1,068 jobs.