
IRAQ PASSES \$89 BILLION FEDERAL BUDGET BILL

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Joe Snell

It took four months, six tries and many more delays before Iraqs 2021 federal budget bill passed on March 31 after intensive negotiations.

The current bill seeks to address the countrys challenges over growing unemployment, delays in handing out salaries, pensions, rife corruption and plummeting oil prices. The government is now tasked with implementing the bill ahead of the countrys October elections.

Having an imperfect budget is better than not having one, said Bilal Wahab of The Washington Institute to Al-Monitor. The COR (Council of Representatives) was initially reluctant to put a budget at Prime Minister [Mustafa al-] Kadhimis disposal, but doing so would have cost them dearly in an election year.

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