Developing a Nation: Worksheet

Planning the future of a developing nation

Congratulations! You are the new, first democratically-elected government of Elysia, a small, beautiful tropical island in the Indian Ocean.

Until now, Elysia has not been economically successful. Most people on the island survive by fishing and growing fruit. Education and health care facilities are very basic. Other facilities such as roads, shops and public transport barely exist. Most goods are bought and sold in local markets and people get around the island by bike, or on foot. Although Elysia is a peaceful country, a small group in the north of the country have been demonstrating to make the north of the island independent from the south. One of the reasons is that a geological survey, sponsored by an American oil company, indicated that there might be large reserves of oil in the region.

As a gesture of friendship, you have been offered a large amount of money: $500 million, in aid by the European Union. You are determined to invest this money in the best way possible to improve living conditions for the people of the island. There are various possibilities. You must decide how you want to invest the money. The only condition is that if you decide to invest in airports, for example, you must build 2, as indicated. You cannot decide to build only one for half the cost.

Discuss with your group and decide how best to spend the money.

The possibilities are as follows:

2 airports: $120 million.
3 hospitals: $ 100 million.
7 tourist hotels: $80 million.
25 health clinics (offering basic health care): £90 million.
30 primary schools: $100 million.
30 secondary schools: $150 million.
2 universities: $50 million.
5 fruit-processing factories for producing fruit juice: $20 million.
5 cargo ships (for transport): $32 million.
100 fishing boats: $85 million.
A major oil-exploration venture in the north of the island, in partnership with the American oil company: $40 million.
New parliament building: $30 million.
500 km of new roads: $10 million.

Large nature reserve, (for plants, birds and animals), with tourist accommodation: $15 million.
Training for 100 doctors: $ 10 million.
Training for 100 nurses: $ 6 million.
Training for 100 teachers: $ 5 million.
Training for 100 police officers: $4 million.
50 army helicopters: $45 million.
100 public buses: $12 million.
100 lorries: $10 million.
1 prison: $8 million.
3 shopping malls: $15 million.
5 cinemas: $10 million.
7 nightclubs: $5 million.
3 casinos: $4 million.