### Constitutional Positions

By political agreement since Lebanese independence in 1943, the three key constitutional positions are reserved for citizens from specific confessional groups.

#### President
- **General Michel Sleiman**
  - Maronite Christian
  - No political alignment
  - Formerly the Head of the Lebanese Armed Forces.

#### Prime Minister
- **Fouad Siniora**
  - Sunni Muslim
  - Future Movement
  - Prime Minister since July 2005.
  - Standing as a candidate in Saida.

#### Parliamentary Speaker
- **Naibh Berri**
  - Shiite Muslim
  - Amal Movement
  - Speaker since November 1992.
  - Standing as a candidate in Zahrayn.

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### Parliamentary Blocs

The 128-seat Lebanese Parliament currently has two parliamentary blocs: the majority bloc (with 67 Deputies) consists of political parties and affiliated independents referred to as “March 14”. The other bloc (with 56 Deputies) consists of political parties and independents affiliated to two coalesced groups, the March 8 coalition and the Reform and Change alliance. At the time the June 7 elections were called, three Deputies are not affiliated to either bloc and there were two vacant seats. This chart refers to numbers of Deputies as of April 2009 and the confessional group to which the party is most closely linked.

#### March 14 Parliamentary Bloc
- **67 Deputies**
  - **Future Movement (FM)**
    - 27 Deputies
    - Leader: Saad Hariri
    - Mostly Sunni Muslim
  - **Progressive Socialist Party (PSP)**
    - 6 Deputies
    - Leader: Walid Jumblatt
    - Druze
  - **Lebanese Forces (LF)**
    - 5 Deputies
    - Leader: Ts. Samir Geagea
    - Christian
  - ** Kataeb (Phalange)**
    - 1 Deputy
    - Leader: President Amin Gemayel
    - Christian
  - **Democratic Left Movement**
    - 1 Deputy
    - In the National Coalition
    - Christian or Maronite
  - **Democratic Renewal Movement**
    - 1 Deputy
    - In the National Coalition
    - Christian
  - **Ramgarar**
    - 1 Deputy
    - Armenian Christian
  - **Hanshak**
    - 1 Deputy
    - Armenian Christian

#### Independent Deputies affiliated to the March 14 bloc
- **24 Deputies**
  - (16 Christian, 4 Sunni, 2 Armenian, 1 Druze, 1 Alawite)

The March 14 bloc also includes non-parliamentary political parties, including the Lebanese Option Group (Shiite), the National Bloc Party and the National Liberal Party (both Christian).

#### March 8 and Reform and Change Parliamentary Bloc
- **56 Deputies**
  - **Hezbollah**
    - 11 Deputies
    - Leader: Hassan Nasrallah
    - Shiite Muslim
  - **Amal Movement**
    - 10 Deputies
    - Leader: Nabih Berri
    - Shiite Muslim
  - **Free Patriotic Movement (FPM)**
    - 7 Deputies
    - Leader: General Michel Aoun
    - Christian
  - **Tashnak**
    - 2 Deputies
    - Leader: Hovig Mekhitarian
    - Armenian Christian
  - **Syrian Social Nationalist Party**
    - 2 Deputies
    - In the National Coalition
    - Secular
  - **Nasserist Popular Movement**
    - 1 Deputy
    - Sunni
  - **Arab Socialist Baath Party**
    - 1 Deputy
    - Sunni
  - **Independent Deputies affiliated to the M8 and C&R bloc**
    - **22 Deputies**
      - (13 Christian, 3 Sunni, 4 Shiite, 1 Druze, 1 Alawite)

The March 8 and Change & Reform bloc also includes non-parliamentary political parties such as Marada (Christian) and the Lebanese Democratic Party (Druze).

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### The Council of Ministers

The Lebanese Cabinet is composed of 30 Ministers, with portfolios distributed equally between Christian and Muslim confessions. Following the May 2008 Doha Agreement, the current Cabinet has sixteen Ministers affiliated to March 14, nine Ministers affiliated to the March 8/C&R bloc and three non-affiliated Ministers who were nominated by President Sleiman. Under Article 65 of the Lebanese Constitution, the Council of Ministers must have a two-thirds majority to decide on ‘national issues’ such as the budget, international treaties, the election law, the dissolution of Parliament etc.