

### A Council of Ministers has been agreed

Five months after the June 7 elections, and following protracted wrangling between the different Lebanese political factions over the allocation of portfolios, the proposed members of the Council of Ministers were today announced by President Michel Sleiman and the Prime Minister designate, Saad Hariri MP. In accordance with Article 64(2) of the Constitution, the new Government now has 30 days to prepare its statement of policy and to present that statement of policy to Parliament for a vote of confidence.

#### Article 64 (2) of the Constitution:

[The Prime Minister] shall sign with the President the decree of the Government's formation. The Government must present its general statement of policy to Parliament in order to gain its confidence within thirty days of the date of issuance of the decree in which the Government was formed. The Government shall not exercise its powers before it gains confidence ... except in the narrow sense of a caretaker government.

### The "15-10-5" Government

The proposed 30-member Council of Ministers reflects the attempts to agree upon a post-election 'Government of National Unity' with ministerial portfolios divided up between representatives from all of the major political factions. It includes 15 Ministers of the parliamentary majority, ten from the parliamentary opposition as well as five Ministers without political affiliation who have been nominated by President Sleiman.

### The 2009 Government

Ministers nominated by the Parliamentary Majority			Ministers nominated by the President	Ministers nominated by the Parliamentary Opposition	
<b>Prime Minister</b> Saad Hariri MP <i>FM</i> Sunni	<b>Finance</b> Raya AlHasan Aafar * <i>FM</i> Sunni	<b>Justice</b> Ibrahim Najjar <i>LF</i> Greek Orthodox	<b>Defence &amp; DPM</b> Elias Murr <i>Non-Affiliated</i> Greek Orthodox	<b>Foreign Affairs</b> Ali Chami <i>Amal</i> Shia	<b>Telecoms</b> Charbel Nahass <i>FPM</i> Greek Catholic
<b>Economy</b> Mohamed Safadi MP <i>Independent</i> Sunni	<b>Social Affairs</b> Salim Sayegh <i>Kataeb</i> Maronite	<b>Information</b> Tariq Mitri <i>Independent</i> Greek Orthodox	<b>Interior</b> Ziyad Baroud <i>Non-Affiliated</i> Maronite	<b>Energy &amp; Water</b> Gebran Bassil <i>FPM</i> Maronite	<b>Health</b> Mohamad Khalife <i>Amal</i> Shia
<b>Culture</b> Salim Warde <i>LF</i> Greek Catholic	<b>Labour</b> Boutros Harb MP <i>Independent</i> Maronite	<b>Public Works</b> Ghazi Al Aridi MP <i>PSP</i> Druze	<b>State</b> Adnan Hussein <i>Non-Affiliated</i> Shia	<b>Agriculture</b> Hussein Hassan MP <i>Hezbollah</i> Shia	<b>Tourism</b> Fadi Aboud <i>FPM</i> Maronite
<b>Displaced</b> Akram Chehayeb MP <i>PSP</i> Druze	<b>Education</b> Hassan Mnyamneh <i>FM</i> Sunni	<b>Environment</b> Mahmood Rahal <i>FM</i> Sunni	<b>State</b> Adnan Qassar <i>Non-Affiliated</i> Sunni	<b>Industry</b> Ibrahim Dedeyan <i>Tashnag</i> Armenian Orthodox	<b>Admin Reform</b> Mohamad Fneish MP <i>Hezbollah</i> Shia
<b>State (Parliament)</b> Michel Pharon MP <i>Independent</i> Greek Catholic	<b>State</b> Jean Ogassapian MP <i>Independent</i> Armenian Orthodox	<b>State</b> Wael Abou Faour MP <i>PSP</i> Druze	<b>State</b> Mona Ofeich * <i>Non-Affiliated</i> Greek Orthodox	<b>State</b> Youssef Saade <i>Marada</i> Maronite	<b>Youth &amp; Sports</b> Ali Abdullah <i>Amal</i> Shia

*FM* Future Movement  
\* indicates Ministers who are women

*PSP* Progressive Socialist Party  
*DPM* Deputy Prime Minister

*LF* Lebanese Forces

*FPM* Free Patriotic Movement

The previous Government (formed on 11 July 2008) also consisted of 30 Ministers from the parliamentary majority and opposition, but positions were allocated between political blocs along a 16-11-3 formula.

### The 2008 Government

<b>Prime Minister</b> Fouad Siniora <i>FM</i> Sunni	<b>Justice</b> Ibrahim Najjar <i>LF</i> G. Orthodox	<b>Economy</b> M. Safadi <i>Ind</i> Sunni	<b>Education</b> Bahia Hariri <i>FM</i> Sunni	<b>Finance</b> M. Chatah <i>FM</i> Sunni	<b>Deputy P M</b> I. Abu Jamra <i>FPM</i> G. Orthodox	<b>Foreign Affairs</b> Fawzi Salloukh <i>Amal</i> Shiite	<b>Agriculture</b> Elias Skaff <i>Ind.</i> Greek Catholic	<b>Youth Sport</b> Talal Arslan <i>LD</i> Druze	<b>Interior</b> Ziyad Baroud <i>Non-Affiliated</i> Maronite
<b>Information</b> Tarek Mitri <i>Ind.</i> G. Orthodox	<b>Public Work</b> Ghazi Aridi <i>PSP</i> Druze	<b>Environment</b> Antoine Karam <i>LF</i> Maronite	<b>Culture</b> Tamam Salam <i>Ind.</i> Sunni	<b>Displaced</b> Raymond Audi <i>Ind.</i> Greek Catholic	<b>Labour</b> M Fneish <i>Hezbollah</i> Shiite	<b>Energy Water</b> A Tabourian <i>Tashnag</i> A. Orthodox.	<b>Telecoms</b> Gebran Bassil <i>FPM</i> Maronite	<b>Health</b> M Kalifeh <i>Amal</i> Shiite	<b>Defence</b> Elias Murr <i>Non-Affiliated</i> G Orthodox
<b>Admin Reform</b> Ib. Shamseddine <i>Ind.</i> Shiite	<b>Tourism</b> Elie Marouni <i>Kataeb</i> Maronite	<b>State</b> Nassib Lahoud <i>DRM</i> Maronite	<b>State</b> K Qabbani <i>FM</i> Sunni	<b>State</b> Wael A Faour <i>PSP</i> Druze	<b>State</b> J Ogassapian <i>Ind.</i> A. Orthodox	<b>State</b> Ali Qanso <i>SSNP</i> Shiite	<b>Industry</b> Ghazi Zoayer <i>Amal</i> Shiite	<b>Social Affairs</b> Mario Aoun <i>FPM</i> Maronite	<b>State</b> Youssef Taqla <i>Non-Affiliated</i> G. Catholic

The Constitution requires a two-thirds majority of Ministers as quorum to hold meetings of the Government and also for the taking of key decisions known as 'basic national issues'. The current allocation of ministerial positions along a 15–10–5 formula has therefore removed the possibility of a so-called 'blocking third'.

**Article 65 (5) of the Constitution:**

The following basic national issues require the approval of two thirds of the members of the Council of Ministers named in the Decree forming the Government:

- Amendments to the Constitution
- Declarations of a state of emergency, mobilization or war
- International agreements and treaties
- The annual government budget
- Comprehensive and long term development projects
- Appointment of Grade I government employees
- Review of the administrative map
- The dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies
- Electoral laws
- Nationality laws
- Personal status laws
- The dismissal of Ministers

**The new Government: representation by gender and confession**

		2008 Cabinet				2009 Cabinet			
		Majority	Opposition	President	Total	Majority	Opposition	President	Total
<b>By Gender</b>	Men	15	11	3	29	14	10	4	28
	Women	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	2
<b>By Confession</b>	Maronite	3	2	1	6	2	3	1	6
	Sunni	6	0	0	6	5	0	1	6
	Shia	1	5	0	6	0	5	1	6
	Greek Orthodox	2	1	1	4	2	0	2	4
	Druze	2	1	0	3	3	0	0	3
	Greek Catholic	1	1	1	3	2	1	0	3
	Armenian Orthodox	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	2

**Ministerial representation by Political Affiliation**

	Majority						Opposition							President	
	Future Movement	Lebanese Forces	Progressive Socialist Party	Kateab	Democratic Renewal Movement	Affiliated Independents	Free Patriotic Movement	Amal	Lebanese Democratic	Hezbollah	Tashmag	Syrian Social Nationalist Party	Marada	Affiliated Independents	Non-Affiliates
<b>2008</b>	4	2	2	1	1	6	3	3	1	1	1	1	0	1	3
<b>2009</b>	4	2	3	1	0	5	3	3	0	2	1	0	1	0	3

**Ministerial portfolios by Political Bloc**

	Prime Minister	Deputy P.M	Foreign Affairs	Interior	Defence	Finance	Economy	Education	Justice	Telecoms	Health	Energy Water	Environment	Information	Public Work	Agriculture	Labour	Industry	Social Affairs	Youth & Sport	Culture	Displaced	Admin Reform	Tourism
<b>2008</b>	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority
<b>2009</b>	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority

\* Minister retains the portfolio    △ Minister has moved portfolios from 2008

The position of Deputy Prime Minister, a separate Ministerial portfolio in 2008, is now held concurrently by the Minister of Defence.

		2008				2009			
		Majority	Opposition	President	Total	Majority	Opposition	President	Total
<b>Ministers of State</b> (without full portfolio)		4	1	1	6	3	1	3	7