

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

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| Prime Minister Fouad Siniora <i>FM</i> Sunni | Justice Ibrahim Najjar <i>LF</i> G. Orthodox | Economy M. Safadi <i>Ind</i> Sunni | Education Bahia Hariri <i>FM</i> Sunni | Finance M. Chatah <i>FM</i> Sunni | Deputy P M I. Abu Jamra <i>FPM</i> G. Orthodox | Foreign Affairs Fawzi Salloukh <i>Amal</i> Shiite | Agriculture Elias Skaff <i>Ind.</i> Greek Catholic | Youth Sport Talal Arslan <i>LD</i> Druze | Interior Ziyad Baroud <i>Non-Affiliated</i> Maronite |
| Information Tarek Mitri <i>Ind.</i> G. Orthodox | Public Work Ghazi Aridi <i>PSP</i> Druze | Environment Antoine Karam <i>LF</i> Maronite | Culture Tamam Salam <i>Ind.</i> Sunni | Displaced Raymond Audi <i>Ind.</i> Greek Catholic | Labour M Fneish <i>Hezbollah</i> Shiite | Energy Water A Tabourian <i>Tashnag</i> A. Orthodox. | Telecoms Gebran Bassil <i>FPM</i> Maronite | Health M Kalifeh <i>Amal</i> Shiite | Defence Elias Murr <i>Non-Affiliated</i> G Orthodox |
| Admin Reform Ib. Shamseddine <i>Ind.</i> Shiite | Tourism Elie Marouni <i>Kataeb</i> Maronite | State Nassib Lahoud <i>DRM</i> Maronite | State K Qabbani <i>FM</i> Sunni | State Wael A Faour <i>PSP</i> Druze | State J Ogassapian <i>Ind.</i> A. Orthodox | State Ali Qanso <i>SSNP</i> Shiite | Industry Ghazi Zoayer <i>Amal</i> Shiite | Social Affairs Mario Aoun <i>FPM</i> Maronite | State 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 |
| By Gender | Men | 15 | 11 | 3 | 29 | 14 | 10 | 4 | 28 |
| | Women | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| By Confession | 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 |
| 2008 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | |
| 2009 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 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 |
|-------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------------|---------------|----------|-----------|--------------|----------|
| 2008 | Majority | Majority | Majority | Majority | Majority | Majority | Majority | Majority | Majority | Majority | Majority | Majority | Majority | Majority | Majority | Majority | Majority | Majority | Majority | Majority | Majority | Majority | Majority | Majority |
| 2009 | 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 |
| Ministers of State (without full portfolio) | | 4 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 7 |