

# Profiles of new ministers

## Mohammad Thneibat

*Minister of Education*

Holder of a PhD in administration from the University of Southern California, masters' degrees in political science and administration, and a BA in political and economic science from the University of Jordan, Thneibat served as minister of public sector development and parliamentary affairs in Marouf Bakhit's first government in 2006-2007. He served as minister of administrative development in Ali Abul Ragheb's Cabinet in 2000. In October 2001 he took on a second portfolio of culture minister in the second reshuffle of Abul Ragheb's government. Thneibat also served as secretary general of the Civil Service Bureau and worked as assistant professor at the University of Jordan.



## Akef Zu'bi

*Minister of Agriculture*

Born in Ramtha in 1950, Zu'bi earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural sciences from the University of Aleppo in 1974, a master's in agricultural economics from the University of Jordan in 1990 and a PhD in economics from Al Neelain University in Khartoum in 2000. He served as minister of agriculture in Marouf Bakhit's first government after working as secretary general of the Ministry of Agriculture. Zu'bi previously served as director of the Agricultural Marketing Department at the Ministry of Agriculture and director of the Agricultural Marketing Corporation.



## Taher Shakhshir

*Minister of Environment*

Shakhshir has a BSc in Pharmacy from Cairo. He served as president of the Jordan Pharmacy Association and President of the Arab Pharmacy Union. He was Minister of Environment in Marouf Bakhit's first government.



## Mohammad Hamed

*Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources*

Hamed, who has a PhD in transportation and mobility development from the University of Washington, served as chief commissioner and CEO of the Electricity Regulatory Commission until his appointment as minister. He previously worked as strategic analysis manager at the Royal Court and as an international expert on EU missions. Hamed was also a professor in the Jordan University of Science and Technology and has served as director general and vice chairman of the board of the Land Transport Regulatory Commission.



## Sami Halaseh

*Minister of Public Works and Housing*

Born in 1963, Halaseh is a civil engineer with an MSc in construction management from Oklahoma State University in the US. He served as secretary general at the Public Works Ministry from 2008 until his appointment as minister. A recipient of the Independence Medal of the Second Order in 2007, Halaseh has managed and supervised major projects led by the ministry and funded through international grants and loans.



## Bassam Talhouni

*Minister of Justice*

Born in 1964, Talhouni has a PhD in Law from the University of Edinburgh and a BA and an MA in law from the University of Jordan. A lawyer by profession who has been registered at the Jordan Bar Association since 1988, he has worked as assistant professor at the University of Jordan's (UJ) law faculty and assumed several administrative posts there. Talhouni was a member in the legislation and justice branch within the National Agenda Committee. He also served as the Ministry of Industry and Trade's companies' comptroller.



## Ali Hiasat

*Minister of Health*

Born on February 1, 1958 in the city of Salt, Hiasat is a general surgeon by profession. He was director of Prince Hamzah Hospital from July 2009 until his appointment as minister. Between 2009 and 2008, he was director of the Balqa Health Directorate and director of Al Nadeem Hospital in Madaba. He also served as director of Al Hussein Hospital in Salt and Southern Shuneh Hospital.



## Salameh Neimat

*Minister of State*

Born in Maan in 1955, Neimat holds a PhD in history from the University of Durham and an MA and a BA in the same field from the University of Jordan (UJ). Neimat previously worked at UJ as dean of student affairs, dean of the faculty of arts and deputy dean of the faculty of human sciences for post-graduate studies and scientific research. He taught history at the same university and has authored several books and research papers.



## Hayel Dawood

*Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs*

Born in Amman in February 2, 1959, Dawood has a PhD in Islamic jurisprudence from the University of Jordan. He has worked as assistant professor at the University of Jordan's faculty of Sharia, where he was also assistant to the dean. He also taught at Zarqa University and previously worked at the Awqaf Ministry, the Iftaa Department and the Zakat Fund. He was also an imam in the Jordan Armed Forces.



## Khaled Kalaldeh

*Minister of Political and Parliamentary Affairs*

Born in Amman in 1955, Kalaldeh has a university degree in medicine from Romania. While studying at university, he was a member of the national union for Jordanian students. He was a member of several medical and political committees and served as secretary general of the Social Leftist Movement. He was selected as a member of the National Dialogue Committee and was a member of the Communist Party.



## Lana Mamkegh

*Minister of Culture*

Mamkegh obtained a PhD from the University of Jordan's faculty of arts in 2002. She holds an MA and a BA in arts from the same university. She is a columnist at Al Rai Arabic daily and writes for a number of local and regional magazines. Mamkegh also produced and presented programmes on Jordan Television and several local radio channels. She taught at the University of Petra's faculty of arts and sciences and at Isra University's faculty of arts.



## Lina Shbeeb

*Minister of Transport*

Born in 1962, Shbeeb holds a PhD in traffic planning and engineering from Sweden's Lund Institute of Technology. Since 2002, she has worked as consultant to a number of local and international firms specialised in traffic planning, safety and management, and transport planning and economics. Before her appointment, she was assistant professor at Al Ahliyya Amman University, teaching courses on transportation engineering, geometric design and urban transportation planning, among others. Shbeeb has also worked at the Ministry of Public Works and Housing and the Greater Amman Municipality.



## Azzam Sleit

*Minister of Information and Communications Technology*

Sleit, who holds a PhD in computer science, worked as associate professor at the University of Jordan's (UJ) computer science department. Before joining UJ in 2005, Sleit was the chief information officer at Hamad Medical Organisation, which is affiliated with Qatar's ministry of public health. Sleit also worked at several US companies and participated in various research activities related to image processing, databases, and health information systems. He has been teaching computer science courses at various universities in the US and the Middle East since 1987.

