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## Lebanon's new Cabinet lineup



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The new Lebanese Cabinet:

### **Prime Minister Saad Hariri (Sunni, Future Movement)**

Hariri leads the Future Movement, the dominant Sunni political force in the country, and will be heading his third government. Born in Saudi Arabia, Hariri obtained an MBA from Georgetown University. He lived in Saudi Arabia managing part of his father's business until the latter's assassination 2005. After the murder, Hariri entered politics, taking on the leadership of his father's movement.

### **Deputy Prime Minister Ghassan Hasbani (Orthodox, Lebanese Forces)**

Hasbani was health minister and deputy prime minister in the last Cabinet. After studying electrical engineering at the University of Westminster, Hasbani later obtained an MBA from the University of Hull. He was a partner at Booz & Company (now Strategy&) and former executive at Saudi Telecom Company International.

### **Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil (Maronite, Free Patriotic Movement)**

Bassil has been a member of every Cabinet since 2008, holding the telecommunications, energy and water, and foreign affairs portfolios. He is also leader of the FPM, taking over from his father-in-law, President Michel Aoun, in 2015. He was elected MP for Batroun in 2018. He obtained a B.A. and an M.A. in civil engineering from the American University of Beirut.

### **Interior Minister Raya El Hassan (Sunni, Future Movement)**

Hassan was finance minister in Hariri's first government and is one of three deputy leaders of the Future Movement. She is currently the chair and general manager of the Tripoli Special Economic Zone.

### **Defense Minister Elias Bou Saab (Orthodox, Free Patriotic Movement)**

Bou Saab is a former education minister and was elected to Parliament in 2018 for Metn. He is also the founder and vice president of the American University of Dubai. He obtained a B.A. in business administration from the American College in London and an M.A. in international relations from Boston University.

#### **Finance Minister Ali Hasan Khalil (Shiite, Amal Movement)**

Finance minister under the past two governments, Khalil is a member of the Amal Movement and a senior aide to Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri. He has been an MP for Marjayoun-Hasbaya since 1996 and has previously served as health minister and agriculture minister. He graduated from the Lebanese University in 1992 with a law degree.

#### **Public Works and Transportation Minister Youssef Fenianos (Maronite, Marada)**

Fenianos was Public Works and Transportation Minister in the previous government and had occupied several positions within the Marada movement. He holds a law degree from the Lebanese University in addition to certificates in arbitration from the Arab Arbitration Institute in Cairo and the International Arbitration in London.

#### **Industry Minister Wael Abou Faour (Druze, Progressive Socialist Party)**

Abou Faour is a longtime member of the PSP leadership and has held several Cabinet positions. He previously served as minister of social affairs, state, and health. He holds a B.A. in Business Administration from the American University of Beirut, which he attended on a scholarship from The Hariri Foundation.

#### **Telecommunications Minister Mohamed Choucair (Sunni, Future Movement)**

Choucair is president of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in Lebanon. He has held several positions in his family's chocolate business, Patchi, and has launched several of his own industrial projects and real estate companies. Born in Beirut, his family moved to Paris during the Civil War, where he continued his secondary and university studies.

#### **Education Minister Akram Chehayeb (Druze, Progressive Socialist Party)**

Chehayeb is mainstay in Parliament, serving Aley from 1992 to the present. He has previously held three Cabinet positions: environment minister, agriculture minister and minister for the displaced. He is a longtime member of the Progressive Socialist Party and served as the party's director in Damascus from 1985 to 1991.

#### **Justice Minister Albert Serhan (Orthodox, Free Patriotic Movement)**

Serhan is the former President of the State Shura Council. He had been a judge on the Shura Council since 1977. He is currently a lecturer in Public Law at the Faculty of Law at the Holy Spirit University - Kaslik. He holds a PhD in Public Law from Saint Joseph University.

#### **Tourism Minister Avedis Guidanian (Armenian Orthodox, Tashnag)**

A high-ranking member of Tashnag, Guidanian was also tourism minister in the previous Cabinet. He holds a degree in physics from the Lebanese University.

#### **Environment Minister Fadi Jreissati (Orthodox, Free Patriotic Movement)**

Jreissati is the chief executive officer of Sakr Real Estate. Jreissati also heads the Lebanese National Energy Association, an NGO sponsored by President Michel Aoun. He received a degree in Public Administration and Political Science from the American University of Beirut in 1993.

#### **Minister for the Displaced Ghassan Atallah (Catholic, Free Patriotic Movement)**

Atallah was an unsuccessful Free Patriotic Movement candidate in 2018 elections. He has received commendations from President Michel Aoun for his role in facilitating Aoun's 2005 return to Lebanon from exile in France.

#### **Agriculture Minister Hasan Lakkis (Shiite, Amal Movement)**

Lakkis has since 2014 been the head of the Amal Movement's central education office, and was a member of its polit bureau from 2012-2014. Lakkis holds a PhD in mechanical engineering from the University of INSA, in France. He is a lecturer at the Lebanese University's Faculty of Engineering.

#### **Information Minister Jamal Jarrah (Sunni, Future Movement)**

Jarrah was telecommunications minister in the last government, and was an MP for Western Bekaa-Rashaya from 2005 until last year. Having obtained a B.A. in business from the Lebanese American University, Jarrah went on to become regional director of BankMed in the Bekaa Valley.

#### **Health Minister Jamil Jabaq (Shiite, Hezbollah affiliated)**

Jabaq is a cardiologist. He is not a member of Hezbollah but is closely affiliated to the party.

#### **Economy and Trade Minister Mansour Bteich (Maronite, Free Patriotic Movement)**

Bteich has been the general manager of Fransabank since 2005 and Chairman of the Studies Committee of the Association of Lebanese Banks since 2013.

#### **Culture Minister Mohammad Daoud (Shiite, Amal Movement)**

Daoud is a medical surgeon who graduated from, and practices at, the American University of Beirut. He is the son of the late Amal Movement military commander Dawoud Dawoud, who was assassinated in 1988.

#### **Youth and Sports Minister Mohammad Fneish (Shiite, Hezbollah)**

Fneish is a mainstay in Cabinet, serving as a minister since 2005. Currently youth and sports minister, he has also been the labor minister, energy minister, minister of state for parliamentary affairs and twice the minister of state for administrative development. He was an MP for Tyre from 1992 until this year.

#### **Energy Minister Nada Boustani (Maronite, Free Patriotic Movement)**

Boustani was an adviser to her predecessor at the Energy Ministry, Cesar Abi Khalil, and is an activist with the FPM. After obtaining a B.A. in economics from Saint Joseph University, Boustani pursued an M.A. in business administration and management at the ESCP Europe Business School.

#### **Social Affairs Minister Richard Kouyoumjian (Armenian Catholic, Lebanese Forces)**

Formerly a dentist in the U.S., Kouyoumjian went on to study international politics and national security at the Institute of World Politics in Washington. Kouyoumjian was the Lebanese Forces' main spokesperson in their 2009 electoral campaign and has been an electoral candidate three times – in 2009, 2013 and 2014.

#### **Minister of State for Administrative Affairs May Chidiac (Maronite, Lebanese Forces)**

Chidiac is a longtime journalist who survived a 2005 assassination attempt as a leading critic of Syrian forces' presence in Lebanon. She began her career at the Voice of Lebanon radio station, and then moved to television as an anchor and war correspondent at the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation.

**Minister of State for Refugee Affairs Saleh Gharib (Druze, Consensus Druze)**

Gharib is the son of Druze Sheikh Nareddine al-Gharib's sister. He has been the logistics manager at Transmed since 2018 and holds a Bachelors in Business Management from the Lebanese American University.

**Minister of State for Social and Economic Rehabilitation for Youth and Women Violette Safadi (Orthodox, Independent)**

Safadi is a graduate from Notre Dame University and has worked as a newsreader, presenting the political show "Akid Fina." She is the executive director of Safadi Group Holding. She is married to Tripolitan former Minister Mohammad Safadi,

**Minister of State for Foreign Trade Hasan Mrad (Sunni, Consultative Gathering)**

Mrad is the son of MP Abdel-Rahim Mrad, one of the six pro-Hezbollah Sunni MPs that held up government formation since October. He is vice president of public relations at the Lebanese International University, a post he has occupied since 2005.

**Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Mahmoud Qmati (Shiite, Hezbollah)**

Qmati is the current vice president of Hezbollah's Political Bureau.

**Minister of State for Presidency Affairs Salim Jreissati (Catholic, Free Patriotic Movement)**

Jreissati, the incumbent justice minister and former labor minister, previously worked as a lawyer and a judge. He graduated from the American University of Beirut, and holds both a Libano-French diploma of law and a diploma of private law.

**Minister of State for Information Technology Adel Afiouni (Sunni, Azm Movement)**

Afiouni spent 19 years in various roles at Credit Suisse before leaving the banking giant in 2018. He serves on the board of Lebanese International Finance Executives, a networking and advocacy group of diaspora professionals. He holds dual masters' degrees in economics and finance and telecommunications engineering.

**Labor Minister Camille Abousleiman (Maronite, Lebanese Forces)**

Camille Abousleiman is a senior partner at London-based law firm Dechert, where he chairs the Middle East and Africa practice. Abousleiman holds a law degree from Saint Joseph University, an LLM from Harvard Law and an M.A. from the Fletcher School. Abousleiman is the son of former MP and Maronite League President Chaker Abousleiman.