



THE PARTY OF LEBANON



حزب لبنان

Together, We Will !

The PARTY OF LEBANON is a political party the purpose of which is to unite the Lebanese living in Lebanon and abroad to create a democratic, secular republican Lebanon. The PARTY OF LEBANON is a legalistic party that believes in the rule of law, the respect of individual freedoms and the power of dialogue over the use of force and confrontation to solve problems.



THE PARTY OF LEBANON

INTRODUCTION

Lebanon is a country of 10,452 km² on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea, blessed with a mild Mediterranean climate and beautiful topography. Lebanon is also blessed with the talents of the Lebanese, an industrious, highly intelligent, creative and adaptable people that succeeded in almost every country they have emigrated to and in almost every industry and endeavor in which they have engaged.

4.2 Million Lebanese live in Lebanon and in excess of 12 million live outside of Lebanon following waves of emigration due to hunger and poverty at the beginning of the 20th century and to political unrest and civil wars since the 1960s.

The Lebanese identity is strong. Lebanon's name is mentioned 70 times in the Bible. Lebanon gave the world the first alphabet and its first school of law. It has more than 10,000 years of continuous history and includes two of the oldest inhabited cities in the world. The Emirate of Lebanon, the first ever Lebanese nation, lasted for 350 years.

The Republic of Lebanon was created in 1926 and adopted the French Republican constitution. In 1943, Lebanon became independent and the dominant political families and religious leaders twisted what was essentially a republican and democratic constitution by adopting the 'National Pact', a non-written power sharing agreement between the religious communities.

Unfortunately, the National Pact carved the religious divide of the Lebanese people into the legal system, the political system and the administrative system, weakening the Lebanese Nation.

Religious sectarianism weakened Lebanon politically, economically, financially, internally and externally, to the extent that the preamble of the 1990 Constitution includes the need to remove sectarianism from politics as a strategic objective.

Over the last 73 years, at a time when the world experienced one of the longest periods of peace in the history of humanity, and the strongest economic and social development ever, with the emergence of Europe, Asia, Japan, China, the GCC, the fall of communism, the rise of globalization, the widespread adoption of new technologies, and a global increase in living standards for billions of human beings, Lebanon has gone backwards, in every respect.

Politically, the country is paralyzed. The current administration and legislature have no legitimacy and although the Government and the Army are handling current affairs and security rather well, there is a widespread, unanimous distrust among Lebanese for their political system and their politicians.

Financially, the country is bankrupt. Tourism, commerce and industry have come to a standstill. The Government is running deficits and has accumulated US\$ 77 Billion of public debt, the equivalent of US\$ 16,382 per capita, growing exponentially at US\$ 1,382 per annum. The Republic of Lebanon is technically bankrupt. Every sector of the Lebanese economy is feeling the consequences of political paralysis. Trade is declining, real estate is in crisis, investments are dwindling and unemployment is rising across the board.

Socially, the country is derelict. The current political system, rather than uniting the people and increasing living and social standards has further divided the various communities, instilled fear and distrust, widened the gap between the rich and the poor, between cities and regions, and has degraded considerably the level of education, health and moral values. The country's administration, justice and civil service are crippled by corruption, sectarianism and nepotism.

Lebanon is also one of the few societies in the world that fails to provide its citizens with electricity 24 hours a day, proper internet, waste management, sewage treatment, pollution controls, coherent urbanism, and transportation



THE PARTY OF LEBANON

MANIFESTO

The purpose of the PARTY OF LEBANON is to unite all Lebanese who want a peaceful, efficient and modern Lebanon; to give all Lebanese equal rights, including the right to choose legal and administrative secularism while retaining the right to practice their faith in total freedom; to take sectarianism out of the political and administrative system as stipulated in the Lebanese Constitution; to implement the rule of law and fight corruption and nepotism; and to create the conditions for the peaceful and harmonious economic development of the country.

The PARTY OF LEBANON aims at becoming the party of LEBANESE UNITY, financed by THE LEBANESE themselves in a transparent and accountable manner, pursuing a Lebanese political agenda in a legal way and bringing all the Lebanese together to build A NEW LEBANON.

THE NEW LEBANON

A Country where PEACE PREVAILS

A Country where the RULE OF LAW PREVAILS

A Country where JUSTICE PREVAILS

A Country where INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS ARE GUARANTEED

A Country where ALL THE CITIZENS HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS

A Country where CORRUPTION AND NEPOSTISM ARE ERADICATED

A Country where THE LEBANESE CAN LIVE, WORK AND INVEST SECURELY

A Country where THE LEBANESE CAN GIVE THEIR CHILDREN A FUTURE

A Country that provides SECURITY, EDUCATION, HEALTH, JOBS, and SECURE RETIREMENT

A Country with PROPER ELECTRICITY, INTERNET, WASTE MANAGEMENT and TRANSPORTATION

A Country OPEN TO THE WORLD but DISTANCED FROM REGIONAL ISSUES

A Country where PUBLIC AFFAIRS ARE MANAGED HONESTLY AND TRANSPARENTLY

A Country that attracts INVESTMENT and creates JOBS for the Lebanese

A Country that PRESERVES ITS NATURAL BEAUTY AND ENVIRONMENT

The PARTY OF LEBANON aims at making THE NEW LEBANON an efficient country living in peace, a country every Lebanese can be proud of, and a country respected by the international community.



THE PARTY OF LEBANON

A POLITICAL PARTY

- Create a POLITICAL PARTY to promote the vision of a NEW LEBANON
- PROPOSE a workable, complete and coherent program: THE NEW LEBANON
- Make the Lebanese realize that this is ACHIEVABLE and that it is ENTIRELY IN THEIR OWN HANDS
- Give the Lebanese the DESIRE TO ENGAGE AND ACT for their country
- Become the LARGEST POLITICAL FORCE IN LEBANON by uniting Lebanese of all religions
- WIN THE PARLIAMENTARY AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS to start reforming the country IN A LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC WAY
- RUN PUBLIC AFFAIRS IN A CLEAN AND EFFICIENT WAY, at the service of the nation and its citizens
- FINANCE THE PARTY by contributions from the LEBANESE THEMSELVES through TRANSPARENT and AUDITED mechanisms

ORGANIZATION OF THE PARTY

The PARTY OF LEBANON is a Structured Political Organization. Its aim is to be efficient and deliver results, to promote initiatives that are appropriate, duly researched and workable.

The Party is organized with

A Supervisory Board High Profile Lebanese - Advises and Supervises Internal Elections

A Political Council Enacting the policies and the political roadmap

An Executive Committee Implementing the roadmap, managing the day-to-day affairs

Executive Departments

Political	in charge of constitutional, political and foreign Policies
Legal Affairs	in charge of all the legal affairs
Communication	in charge of press, lobbying and digital communication
Foreign Affairs	in charge of international issues
Finances	in charge of fund raising and the Party budget
Members	in charge of enrollment and liaison with Party Members

Technical Commissions in charge of elaborating Party projects related to legal reform (civil laws, criminal laws, anti-corruption laws), public services, taxation, electricity, water supply, water treatment, economic policies, education, health, retirement, pollution and urbanization.



THE PARTY OF LEBANON

POLITICAL PLATFORM

1. BUILD THE LEBANESE IDENTITY
2. UNITE THE LEBANESE
3. OPTIONAL SECULARISM
4. PROMOTE THE RULE OF LAW
5. PROMOTE THE RULE OF PEACE
6. ENSURE EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL LEBANESE
7. ENSURE WOMEN'S RIGHTS
8. ERADICATE CORRUPTION
9. CREATE AN EFFICIENT LEBANON
 - A. SOUND PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
 - B. REFORMING PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
 - C. ENERGY POLICIES
 - D. WATER RESOURCES POLICIES
 - E. WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICIES
 - F. INTERNET AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICIES
 - G. PUBLIC TRANSPORT POLICIES
 - H. HOUSING AND URBANIZATION POLICIES
 - I. PUBLIC HEALTH POLICIES
 - J. RETIREMENT POLICIES
 - K. EDUCATION POLICIES
 - L. SOCIAL POLICIES
 - M. ECONOMIC AND REGIONAL POLICIES
10. MAKE LEBANON BEAUTIFUL AGAIN
11. ADOPT THREE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES
12. CODE OF NATIONALITY



THE PARTY OF LEBANON

1. BUILD THE LEBANESE IDENTITY

The Lebanese are not Syrian, Palestinian, Egyptian, Iraqi, Iranian, Israeli, Cypriot, Turks or anything else. If the Republic of Lebanon is only 73 years old, the Emirate of Lebanon lasted for 350 years and the independent coastal cities thrived continuously for thousands of years.

THE LEBANESE ARE LEBANESE AND NOTHING ELSE. Lebanon has its own unique history dating back 10,000 years and has built its DNA by integrating Phoenician, Egyptian, Canaanite, Greek, Roman, Italian, Arab, Ottoman, Armenian, Palestinian and French populations and cultures.

The 10,452 km² of its mountains, its coastal cities, Akkar and the Beq'aa valley are the sacred territory of the Lebanese nation, the soil where the same populations have lived and thrived continuously for thousands of years.

LEBANON IS, BY ESSENCE, A COUNTRY OF INTEGRATION. Its history has been to provide sanctuary and to integrate persecuted populations - Maronites and Druzes in the 7th and 10th centuries and more recently to Armenians and Palestinians in the 20th century.

Lebanese coastal cities have seen generations of merchants from different cultures and backgrounds arrive, establish trading posts and develop their businesses. Thus Greeks, Byzantines, Turks, Arabs, Italians, Egyptians and Armenians mixed with the local populations of Phoenician and Canaanite origin to become today's rich mixture of Greek-Orthodox and Sunnis that is synonymous with the great Lebanese ports.

THE LEBANESE IDENTITY IS STRONG.

ALL LEBANESE ARE AND FEEL LEBANESE

THE LEBANESE IDENTITY IS WHAT MAKES LEBANON

10,000 YEARS OF LIVING TOGETHER AND INTEGRATING THOSE WHO TOOK REFUGE IN LEBANON OVER THE CENTURIES HAS BUILT THE IDENTITY OF THE LEBANESE PEOPLE

THE PARTY OF LEBANON IS ABOUT PUTTING THE LEBANESE IDENTITY FIRST

THE PARTY OF LEBANON IS ABOUT TAKING CONFSSIONALISM OUT OF THE LEGAL, POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS, AS PER THE PREAMBLE OF THE LEBANESE CONSTITUTION

THE PARTY OF LEBANON IS ABOUT UNITING THE LEBANESE INTO A NATION

THE PARTY OF LEBANON IS ABOUT BUILDING THE LEBANESE NATION



THE PARTY OF LEBANON

2. UNITE THE LEBANESE

WHAT UNITES THE LEBANESE IS MORE POWERFUL THAN WHAT DIVIDES THEM.

EVERYTHING UNITE THE LEBANESE. The Lebanese are united by their common history, culture, way of life, cuisine, entrepreneurship, and tradition of hospitality.

THE ONLY THING THAT DIVIDES THE LEBANESE IS SECTARIANISM. Religious beliefs should remain a PERSONAL CHOICE and should NOT INTERFERE IN POLITICS.

Lebanon is 35% Christian, 29% Sunni, 29% Shia and 7% Druze according to the last census. **No religious community has democratic legitimacy to rule over the others.**

There is NO FUTURE FOR LEBANON unless the Lebanese distance themselves from religious divisions and WORK TOGETHER, as Lebanese citizens, to BUILD AN EFFICIENT COUNTRY where ALL the citizens have equal rights, regardless of their personal beliefs.

There is NO FUTURE FOR LEBANON unless the Lebanese start acting politically as Lebanese citizens and no longer as members of religious communities.

There is NO FUTURE FOR LEBANON unless the Lebanese start counting only on the Lebanese and stop relying on foreign help to rule over the other communities.

THE 16 MILLION LEBANESE ARE ALL LEBANESE.

THERE ARE MORE LEBANESE LIVING ABROAD THAN THERE ARE LEBANESE LIVING IN LEBANON

Most of the 12 million Lebanese living abroad have NOT chosen to emigrate. They were forced to because of economic or political considerations. They still cherish Lebanon and wish for the possibility to come back, invest, work, and retire in Lebanon

The 3 Million Lebanese that have emigrated in the past 30 years make Lebanon survive economically through the billions of dollars they transfer annually, through their investments in Lebanon through the financial help they provide to their families living in Lebanon.

The Lebanese are talented. They have settled in every corner of the world and have given the world some of the most successful entrepreneurs, doctors, professors, scientists, architects, designers, financiers, artists and thinkers. The talents, knowledge, experience, and industrial and financial resources of Lebanese expatriates are a priceless capital that Lebanon must leverage.

The Lebanese Nation is a wealth. The Lebanese diaspora must be encouraged to bring back to Lebanon its wealth of experience, know-how and resources. The young Lebanese of the diaspora must be given the ability to come back to Lebanon. The senior members of the diaspora must be encouraged and given the possibility to retire in peace in Lebanon.



THE PARTY OF LEBANON

3. OPTIONAL SECULARISM

Building the LEBANESE IDENTITY and the LEBANESE NATION entails GIVING EVERY LEBANESE EQUAL RIGHTS

BUILDING A STRONG AND EFFICIENT LEBANON ENTAILS UNITING THE LEBANESE.

UNITING THE LEBANESE ENTAILS TAKING RELIGION OUT OF THE LEGAL, POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS.

Paragraph H of the preamble of the Lebanese Constitution recognizes the need to abolish political sectarianism as a strategic priority. The right of personal belief and freedom of religion are fundamental constitutional rights that must be exercised in the PRIVATE SPHERE.

A SECULAR LEGAL SYSTEM

THE LEBANESE WANT

LAWS THAT HAVE BEEN VOTED BY A DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENT

A CIVIL MARRIAGE

A CIVIL DIVORCE

CIVIL INHERITANCE RIGHTS

CIVIL RIGHTS OF FILIATION AND ADOPTION

EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL

THE PARTY OF LEBANON WANTS

- a. **THE RIGHT FOR EVERY LEBANESE TO CHOOSE ADMINISTRATIVE SECULARISM** and have their religion removed from ALL public records, documents and civil status. As per Art. 9 of the Lebanese Constitution, the Lebanese have the right to give up their initial religion and opt for another one. This should include the right to opt for secularism, keeping their religion in the private sphere and have their personal status, civil rights and political rights ruled by laws voted democratically and judged by civil tribunals.
- b. **THE ADOPTION OF THE FRENCH CIVIL CODE OF THE FAMILY** in exactly the same way the French civil code of obligations was adopted as the core of the Lebanese legal system.
- c. **THE SUPREMACY OF THE CIVIL LAW OVER RELIGIOUS LAWS**, in case of conflicts, as the constitution provides that only the elected Lebanese Parliament and only the elected Lebanese Government have the sovereignty over the country. In case of conflicts, the Law applicable to ALL the Lebanese, without discrimination and voted democratically, should prevail.
- d. **EQUALITY OF CIVIL RIGHTS FOR ALL CITIZENS**, regardless of gender, religion, origin or residency. The Lebanese Constitution provides for equal rights for all citizens. The Lebanese Constitution must prevail over religious laws when they are in conflict.

Individuals and couples WANTING to submit their personal affairs to religious laws or religious tribunals can keep that right as per the freedom of beliefs inscribed in Article 9 of the Lebanese Constitution, but in case of conflict, the sovereignty of the Lebanese Constitution and of the Civil Legal system MUST prevail as per the fundamental principles of the Lebanese Constitution.



THE PARTY OF LEBANON

A SECULAR POLITICAL SYSTEM

A country where the Government is NOT a TEAM that manages the country but an AGGREGATE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VARIOUS RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES fighting for their privileges and advantages through corruption and nepotism is doomed.

A country where the Parliament does not represent the citizens, but religious communities according to rules that are both artificial and unfair is doomed.

THE LEBANESE WANT

AN EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT

A TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT FREE FROM CORRUPTION

POLITICAL LEADERS THAT WORK IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE

POLITICAL LEADERS WITH NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST NOR DOUBLE ALLEGIANCE

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT REPRESENT THEIR CONSTITUENTS, NOT THE VESTED INTERESTS OF PARTICULAR COMMUNITIES

THE PARTY OF LEBANON WANTS

1. **THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE FOR EVERY LEBANESE CITIZEN TO REGISTER, PAY HIS TAXES AND VOTE AT HIS PLACE OF EFFECTIVE RESIDENCY**
2. **THE RIGHT FOR EVERY CITIZEN TO VOTE FOR ANY CANDIDATE IN ANY ELECTION** regardless of the religion of the candidate or of the voter.
3. **THE OBLIGATION FOR EVERY MINISTER AND MEMBER OF GOVERNMENT TO OPT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SECULARISM.** Holders of Public Offices are nominated to ADMINISTER LEBANON as a whole and treat the citizens indiscriminately. As such they MUST HAVE OPTED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SECULARISM
4. **THE OBLIGATION FOR EVERY CANDIDATE TO AN ELECTIVE POST TO OPT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SECULARISM.** Members of Parliament and members of Municipal Councils must vote on issues of national interests and CANNOT HAVE DOUBLE ALLEGIANCE. In law, they are elected to represent the PEOPLE OF LEBANON without discrimination. As such they MUST HAVE OPTED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SECULARISM.



THE PARTY OF LEBANON

A SECULAR ADMINISTRATION

An administration where civil servants are nominated and 'protected' by political leaders or religious communities is doomed. An administration where double allegiance and nepotism are the norm is doomed.

A country where a simple citizen cannot exercise his rights and deal with the administration without a political or religious sponsor is doomed.

A country where no administrative process can take place without corruption is doomed.

THE LEBANESE WANT

**AN EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION
AN ADMINISTRATION FREED FROM CORRUPTION AND NEPOTISM
CIVIL SERVANTS THAT ARE AT THE SERVICE OF THE CITIZENS
EQUALITY OF TREATMENT AND THE ERADICATION OF FAVORED TREATMENT
AN EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

The judges, civil servants, members of the police and of the Armed Forces are at the service of all the Lebanese citizens, regardless of their personal religious beliefs or belongings.

LEBANON'S EXECUTIVE, JUDICIARY, ADMINISTRATION, POLICE AND ARMED FORCES MUST BE FREED FROM DOUBLE ALLEGIANCES AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS.

THE PARTY OF LEBANON WANTS

- 1. THE OBLIGATION FOR ALL CIVIL SERVANTS AND PUBLIC OFFICERS TO BE SECULAR.** Holders of public office, Ministers, Civil Servants, Judges, Magistrates and members of the Police and the Armed forces are required to deal with issues that are of concern to ALL the Lebanese. THEY CANNOT HAVE DOUBLE ALLEGIANCES. In law, they are nominated to ADMINISTER LEBANON without discrimination. **As such they MUST HAVE OPTED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SECULARISM.** This requirement should be inscribed as part of the job description and qualifications for all job openings in public administration.
- 2. RESTORE THE POWERS AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE MAGISTRATES, THE NATIONAL COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE, THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE COURTS.** Independent checks and balances are a necessity in any society. The independence of the national courts and administrative oversight bodies cannot be effective unless their members are secular and protected from nepotism, threats and violence. **As such they MUST BE SECULAR and Nominated on MERIT NOT ON CONFSSIONALISM.**
- 3. CREATE A NATIONAL SENATE** the role of which is to validate the constitutionality, compatibility and secularity of the laws voted by the Parliament, as is the case in any efficient democracy, and **THAT REPRESENTS THE VARIOUS REGIONS OF LEBANON IN AN EQUAL WAY.**

4. THE RULE OF LAW

THE NEW LEBANON must be built on the RULE OF LAW and ONLY the RULE OF LAW

IN EVERY MODERN SOCIETY, THE RULE OF LAW IS THE PILLAR OF THE SOCIETY.

ONLY LAWS ADOPTED BY A DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED PARLIAMENT ARE LEGITIMATE. ONLY COURTS OF JUSTICE THAT ARE INDEPENDENT AND SECULAR ARE LEGITIMATE.

SECULAR LAW AND THE STATE JUDICIARY HAVE SUPREMACY OVER ALL OTHER LAWS OR JURISDICTIONS, unless voluntarily and freely chosen by all conflicting parties as is the case with commercial arbitration or religious tribunals.

In case of conflicts of Laws or of Jurisdictions, SECULAR LAWS MUST PREVAIL and NATIONAL COURTS MUST HAVE JURISDICTION.

THE PARTY OF LEBANON WANTS

1. INSCRIBE THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY IN THE CONSTITUTION

As in all democracies, it is paramount that The JUDICIARY exerts its powers in FULL INDEPENDANCE and remains protected from interference by the EXECUTIVE or the LEGISLATIVE POWERS.

Lebanon's legal organization is flawed and has been singled out several times in the ARAB CENTER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RULE OF LAW reports on Lebanon. The Taëf Agreement stipulated a formula to uphold judicial autonomy through the election of members of the Higher Judicial Council by the judicial body. This formula, however, was not implemented and no legislation has been thus endorsed and members of the Judiciary live under constant political pressure and threats.

The establishment of a HIGHER AND UNIFIED JUDICIARY BODY to run judicial affairs, whether legal, administrative or financial, and replace the existing bodies, is paramount. This higher body must be granted full authority to monitor administrative, judicial and financial bodies, whether commissions, courts, councils or committees. It must be granted a full right to take administrative and financial decisions related to judicial authority without any intervention from the Executive. Therefore, the power of the Minister of Justice and the Cabinet shall be annulled in this respect, with a few exceptions that do not reduce the Higher Body's full authority.

2. A SECULAR JUDICIARY FREE FROM CORRUPTION AND NEPOTISM

The Judiciary must be FREED FROM SECTARIANISM. Judiciary personnel must apply the Law to all citizens in equal ways and make no difference based on religion, gender or origin. Judiciary personnel MUST opt for secularism by Law and declare their assets and revenues annually. There should be severe prison sentences and financial penalties for members of the Judiciary convicted of corruption.

THE PARTY OF LEBANON

3. REDUCE THE POWERS AND REFORM THE EXCEPTIONAL COURTS

It is also paramount to reduce the authority and jurisdiction of exceptional courts, such as the military courts, and limiting their jurisdiction to strictly military crimes. It is also necessary to reexamine the religious and confessional courts' authorities in order to limit the religious judiciary to the regular courts that fall under the judicial oversight authority, becoming a part of it, in the event a full secular system is not adopted. Many Arab countries, such as Egypt and Tunisia abolished religious and confessional courts of justices.

4. REFORM OF THE JUDICIARY

The Judiciary must be reformed to eradicate sectarianism, corruption, nepotism, double allegiance, interferences and to enhance professional standards and the pace of adjudication.

- ELIMINATE SECTARIANISM IN THE NOMINATION PROCESSES AND BASE CAREERS ON MERIT.
- DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF MAGISTRATES AND ATTRACT TALENTED LAWYERS
- TREBBLE THE BUDGET OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE to 5 % OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURES
- BUILD NEW PRISONS with 95,000 inmate capacity (2.2 % of the population) to human standards
- INCREASE SALARIES, INCENTIVES, MEDICARE AND RETIREMENT PACKAGES FOR JUDICIARY PERSONNEL and align them with international standards

5. LAW ENFORCEMENT MUST BE SECULAR AND FREE FROM CORRUPTION AND NEPOTISM

Law enforcement personnel must opt for secularism by law or resign. Law enforcement personnel must declare their assets and revenues annually. There should be severe prison sentences and financial penalties for law enforcement personnel convicted of corruption.

6. REFORM OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

- DOUBLE THE BUDGET OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES
- INCREASE SALARIES, INCENTIVES, MEDICARE AND RETIREMENT PACKAGES and align them to international standards
- INVEST IN EQUIPMENT AND REFURBISH ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT FACILITIES
- STRICT ETHICAL CODES TO BE ENACTED FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES
- TRAINING AND FORMATION MUST BE OF THE HIGHEST STANDARDS.

ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICIES

- WEAPONS AND GUNS MUST BE TAKEN OUT OF THE PUBLIC WITH ZERO TOLERANCE
- ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS MUST BE ENFORCED WITH ZERO TOLERANCE
- EQUALITY OF RIGHTS MUST BE ENFORCED WITH ZERO TOLERANCE
- THE RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS MUST BE ENFORCED WITH ZERO TOLERANCE
- INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS OF THE CITIZEN MUST BE ENFORCED WITH ZERO TOLERANCE
- TRAFFIC LAWS AND REGULATIONS MUST BE ENFORCED WITH ZERO TOLERANCE
- BUILDING SAFETY AND URBAN PLANS MUST BE ENFORCED WITH ZERO TOLERANCE
- TAX LAWS MUST BE ENFORCED WITH ZERO TOLERANCE
- ANTI-POLLUTION LAWS MUST BE ENFORCED WITH ZERO TOLERANCE

5. PROMOTE THE RULE OF PEACE

THE NEW LEBANON MUST BE BUILT ON THE RULE OF PEACE.

THE NEW LEBANON MUST BE BUILT ON THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTS, JUSTICE and RESPECT FOR OTHERS.

THE USE OF FORCE, WEAPONS, ARMAMENTS AND VIOLENCE IN THE RESOLUTION OF PUBLIC OR PRIVATE CONFLICTS MUST BE BANNED FOREVER FROM THE CULTURE, THE HABITS AND THE LEGAL AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS OF THE NEW LEBANON.

THE USE OF FORCE IS THE EXCLUSIVE PREROGATIVE OF THE STATE

FORCE CAN ONLY BE USED FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAW AND THE CONSTITUTION AND FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE NATION.

THE PARTY OF LEBANON WANTS

1. **THE EXCLUSIVE SUPREMACY OF THE LEBANESE STATE AND OF THE LEBANESE ARMY.**
Military force and law enforcement is the exclusive prerogative of the Lebanese State
2. **EXCLUDE IN LAW THE RECOURSE TO MILITARY FORCE IN CONFLICTS.** Lebanon has no role in military action in any regional or international conflict. Lebanon has no desire to use its military for any purpose other than its own defense. No organization can use the Lebanese soil as a base for military or paramilitary activity inside Lebanon or outside of Lebanon.
3. **A SECULAR ARMY FREE FROM CORRUPTION AND NEPOTISM**
Army and Internal Security Forces are at the service of the nation as a whole. They protect citizens and enforce the Law without regard to religion, gender or origin. The Lebanese Army MUST be a strong and united corps of the LEBANESE STATE.
Army and Internal Security Forces personnel must opt for secularism by law or resign. Army Officers and Internal Security Forces must declare their assets and revenues annually. Severe prison sentences and financial penalties must be enacted for members of the Army convicted of corruption or nepotism.
4. **REFORM THE ARMY AND THE INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES**
BUILD THE LEBANESE ARMY INTO A NATIONAL DEFENSE FORCE MODELED ON THE SWISS MILITARY, AN EFFICIENT, HIGHLY TRAINED, AND HIGHLY EQUIPPED DEFENCE AND SECURITY.
5. **REFORM THE NOMINATION AND PROMOTION SYSTEM AND BASE CAREERS ON MERIT.**
6. **ENACT A GENERAL PARDON FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS SURRENDERING THEIR WEAPONS VOLUNTARILTY DURING A LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME**
7. **ENACT SEVERE PENALTIES FOR THE RETENTION OF WEAPONS BY INDIVIDUALS AFTERWARDS**

6. ENSURE EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL LEBANESE

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is an integral part of the Lebanese constitution as per Para B of its Preamble and Lebanon has ratified the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

THE PARTY OF LEBANON believes in the **FULL EQUALITY OF RIGHTS** between citizens, regardless of their gender, religion, origin, sexual preferences and personal beliefs, and particularly in the equality between men and women.

NO NATION CAN BE BUILT UNLESS ALL CITIZENS HAVE EXACTLY THE SAME RIGHTS

THE PARTY OF LEBANON WANTS

1. **FULL EQUALITY OF RIGHTS BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN**
Lebanon has adhered to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and has incorporated it into its own Constitution. The Lebanese Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights both recognize the full equality of rights between all citizens and between men and women. One of the founding principles of Lebanese society is the equality of rights between men and women.
2. **EQUAL LEGAL PERSONAL STATUS FOR ALL CITIZENS** regardless of their gender, religion, marital status or origin. The Lebanese Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights both recognize the full equality of rights between all citizens.
3. **The RIGHT FOR LEBANESE WOMEN TO TRANSMIT NATIONALITY RIGHTS TO THEIR CHILDREN**
In exactly the same way men do. There is nothing in the Lebanese law that forbids women from passing on their nationality to their children.
4. **EQUALITY OF RIGHT TO TRANSMIT NATIONALITY TO THEIR SPOUSES FOR MEN AND WOMEN.** Effective residency criteria and nationality acquisition conditions must be enacted and apply to both foreign men and women marrying Lebanese citizens, once the legitimacy of the marriage is proven.
5. **EQUAL INHERITANCE FOR EVERY LEBANESE CITIZEN** regardless of their gender, marital status or religious belonging.
6. **EQUAL CIVIL AND WORKING RIGHTS FOR EVERY PERSON LEGALLY RESIDENT IN LEBANON.** Numerous human rights and labor conditions prevailing in Lebanon are UNCONSTITUTIONAL
7. **EQUAL TAX TREATMENT FOR EVERY LEBANESE CITIZEN, CORPORATION AND LEGAL ENTITIES.** Numerous tax exemption situations prevailing in Lebanon are UNCONSTITUTIONAL

7. WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is an integral part of the Lebanese constitution as per Par. B of its Preamble of the Lebanese constitution and Lebanon has ratified the 1966 International Treaty for Civil and Political rights.

The Lebanese Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights both recognize the full equality of rights between all citizens and between Men and Women. One of the founding principles of the Lebanese society is the Equality of rights between Men and Women and the need to protect women as weaker members of the society.

LEBANON still has a number of legal situations and articles of Law that are openly discriminating against women and deprive women from fundamental rights.

THE PARTY OF LEBANON WANTS:

1. **ABROGATION OF ALL THE ARTICLES OF THE PENAL CODE REGARDING HONOR CRIMES AND RAPE** and replacing them by articles of Law specifying **STRONGER PUNISHMENTS** rather than the current leniency. Crimes committed by citizens in the name of their "Honor" and their supposed right to make justice themselves are against the fundamental principles of the Constitution and should be punished extremely severely. Individuals convicted of Rape or Child abuse will be condemned.
2. **PUNISHING SEVERELY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** by enacting Laws protecting Women and Children from any form of domestic violence. Launching regular advertising campaigns to make the Lebanese sensitive to Domestic violence.
3. **RECOGNITION OF THE LEGAL STATUS OF SINGLE MOTHERS AND OF SINGLE PARENT CHILDREN** giving the mothers and the children exactly the same rights as every member of society.
4. **SETTING THE MIMIMUM AGE FOR MARRIAGE at 17 FOR WOMEN and 18 for MEN** imposing the legal obligation for the officer or member of clergy to verify the minimum age and actual consent of the spouse to the marriage.
5. **RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHT TO ABORTION** and compulsory inclusion in the insurance coverage.
6. **CREATION OF WOMEN HELP OFFICES** across the country to provide guidance, counseling and support to Women in case of Domestic Violence, Abuse, Rape, Abortion, Divorce and civil rights, operating on the basis of confidentiality and protection.
7. **CREATION OF SHELTERS FOR WOMEN** across the country to provide women and their children with shelter and protection in case of abuse, physical, mental and psychological threats.

8. ERADICATE CORRUPTION

Corruption is endemic in Lebanon. It is the direct consequence of the double allegiance of civil servants to their position and to the religious community which protects them within their jobs.

Drastic measures to eradicate corruption at every level of the JUDICIARY, ADMINISTRATION and POLITICAL systems are crucial.

THE PARTY OF LEBANON WANTS

1. **DRASTIC ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS**, with extremely severe sentences for corrupt Ministers, holders of public offices, civil servants, judges, magistrates and members of the army and law enforcement agencies and their relatives, confiscation of personal assets, long prison terms and heavy financial penalties.
2. **DRASTIC ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS PUNISHING THE BRIBERS** with extremely severe sentences against people attempting to bribe Ministers, holders of public offices, civil servants, judges, magistrates and members of the army and law enforcement agencies and their relatives, with long prison terms, confiscation of assets and heavy financial penalties.
3. **PUNISH THE PROFESSIONAL INTERMEDIARIES**: anyone who uses his or her profession – for example, as banker, lawyer, consulting firm or accountant – or makes use of his or her personal connections – family, friends, relatives – in order to facilitate, enable or simply allow corrupt practices to take place will be subject to extremely severe financial and criminal penalties.
4. The creation of an independent **ANTI-CORRUPTION COURT OF LAW**, to hear cases of corruption and which rule according to the above set of law.
5. The creation of an independent **ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICE FORCE WITH EXTENDED POWERS OF INVESTIGATION** to identify and prosecute cases of corruption and bring corrupt individuals to justice.
6. The creation of an independent **ANTI-CORRUPTION OFFICE** in charge of the independent oversight of all administrative personnel, civil servants, politicians and tenders.
7. **OBLIGATION TO DECLARE ASSETS AND REVENUE FOR ALL PUBLIC OFFICIALS**. Members of Parliament, Government officials, municipal officials and directorate staff, political candidates, leaders of political parties, holders of public offices, magistrates, civil servants members of the army and of law enforcement agencies and their relatives must declare their assets and revenues every year.
8. The abrogation of **BANK SECRECY LAWS** for all Members of Parliament, Government officials, municipal officials and directorate staff, political candidates, leaders of political parties, holders of public office, magistrates, civil servants members of the army and of law enforcement agencies and their relatives must file their assets and revenues every year.



THE PARTY OF LEBANON

9. CREATE AN EFFICIENT LEBANON

Lebanon has become a bankrupt State plagued with inefficient, corrupt and deficient public services.

Today, The Lebanese State FAILS TO PROVIDE its citizens with adequate ELECTRICITY, WATER, SEWAGE TREATMENT, WASTE MANAGEMENT, EFFICIENT INTERNET, ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE, MASS TRANSPORTATION, MASS EDUCATION, HEALTH COVERAGE, RETIREMENT PLANS, URBAN PLANNING, POLLUTION CONTROLS and PUBLIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The Republic of Lebanon has accumulated US\$ 77 BILLION OF PUBLIC DEBT.

Its debt GROWS BY ANOTHER US\$ 6.5 BILLION EVERY YEAR, US\$ 2 Billion of primary deficit and US\$ 4.5 Billion of debt servicing.

The DEBT burden of Lebanon has become unbearable and is now OUT OF CONTROL.

Every Lebanese owes US\$16,382 and sees his debt increase by US\$ 1,382 every year.

LEBANESE BANKS are at risk of insolvency due to their high exposure to Government debt. 40% of Lebanese Banks' balance sheets are exposed to the Lebanese Government debt through mandatory reserves and Government bonds. What caused the bankruptcy of the Greek and the Cypriot banking systems was their high exposure to the Greek Government debt. The Lebanese banking system is in a similar situation today.

The LEBANESE INDIVIDUALS' SAVINGS are at risk due to their high exposure to the Lebanese PUBLIC DEBT and the LEBANESE BANKING SYSTEM through bank deposits

The Lebanese economy ONLY survives thanks to the US\$ 6 to 8 Billion that LEBANESE EXPATRIATES transfer back to Lebanon every year.

Lebanese Public Finances ONLY survive thanks to the Billions of US\$ that FOREIGN COUNTRIES HAVE DEPOSITED WITH THE LEBANESE CENTRAL BANK, creating a dangerous situation of dependency on foreign countries' policies.

The combination of a real estate crisis, the absence of foreign tourism and investments from the GCC countries and a downturn in economic activity is driving the banking system towards a Liquidity crisis that could have devastating effects.

IT IS URGENT TO ACT TO PREVENT A MASSIVE FINANCIAL CRISIS AND AN ECONOMIC DISASTER.

LEBANON SHOULD CAN BE AN EFFICIENTLY and PROPERLY MANAGED COUNTRY



THE PARTY OF LEBANON

IN THE POLITICAL ARENA, LEBANON IS PARALYZED.

For more than 4 years, the Lebanese Parliament has been run without any political, constitutional or even legal legitimacy. In constitutional law, the current situation is characteristic of a Coup d'Etat.

Lebanon has just appointed a new President. But two and a half years of a Presidential vacuum – due to the blockage of the electoral process – have rendered obsolete and without legitimacy the laws voted by the Parliament. The two-year Presidential vacancy also impeded the smooth functioning of the administration, blocked the process of appointing senior officials and ambassadors and undermined the country's international relations.

The Government of National Unity is only an aggregation of representatives of communities sharing the national cake and valuable state contracts at the expense of impoverishing the country, the Lebanese and the public finances.

LEBANON is a country of 4.2 million inhabitants, half the population of Switzerland or London.

Its land area of 10,452 km² barely matches the size of a French province.

Lebanon has all the ingredients to be an EFFECTIVE and RICH country.

Lebanon should simply aim to be WELL MANAGED, HONESTLY AND TRANSPARENTLY.



THE PARTY OF LEBANON

A. SOUND PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The most pressing issue facing Lebanon is the level of its public debt (US\$77 Billion) and its annual growth (US\$ 6 Billion) which comes from US\$ 1.5 Billion of Primary deficit (State expenses minus Revenues) and US\$ 4.5 Billion of Interest due on the public debt.

The equation is not ONLY to reduce the YEARLY BUDGET DEFICIT BUT ALSO TO GENERATE A TAX SURPLUS TO AMORTIZE THE LEBANESE DEBT AND REDUCE ITS ABSOLUTE AND RELATIVE LEVELS OVER TIME.

- 1. REDUCE PUBLIC EXPENDITURES by US\$ 1 to US\$ 1.5 Billion per annum** by increasing the civil administration's productivity, reducing the number of civil servants and increasing their average salaries. Today, Lebanon employs 160,000 civil servants while it could operate efficiently with 120,000 civil servants if the right investments in technology are made and administrative processes are modernized and streamlined.
- 2. INCREASE GOVERNMENT REVENUES by US\$ 5 Billion per annum**
 - Increase VAT from 10% to 17% on all products except for food and pharmaceutical products
 - Standardize Individual Income and Corporate Taxes at 20%
 - Close tax loopholes and suppress unconstitutional Tax exemptions
 - Remove import duties and replace them by VAT
 - Improve Tax collection
 - Save US\$ 2 Billion on Electricité du Liban
- 3. REDUCE THE COST OF SERVICING THE PUBLIC DEBT by 2.5% to save US\$ 2.5% Billion per annum**

LAUNCH AN US\$ 80 BILLION - 50 YEAR NATIONAL RECOVERY BOND PAYING 2 TO 3% INTEREST to:

Buy back the entire stock of existing higher interest rate debt and cancel it,
Finance the reforms of the Lebanese Administration, Invest in Technology and Infrastructure
Bridge the Gap between the old Social Security Retirement system and the new Capitalization Based Pension System

The National Recovery Bond will be partially guaranteed by the IMF, the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Asian Infrastructure Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the African Bank for Development and will be sold to Sovereign funds, Institutional investors, Lebanese Banks and all the Lebanese individuals living inside and outside of Lebanon who want to contribute to the reform of Lebanon.

The National Recovery Debt will be amortized over 50 years at the rate of US\$ 2 Billion per annum in principal and interest, hence reducing the debt-servicing burden from US\$ 4.5 to 2 Billion per annum.

4. Create the LEBANESE SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUND as a Secular Independent Authority. Entrust it with the task of managing the Country's NATIONAL RESOURCES and PUBLIC COMPANIES.

Ownership of all national companies will be transferred from the Central Bank to the Lebanese Sovereign Wealth Fund (LSWF) and will be operated with full transparency and accountability. National Companies such as Ogero and MEA will then be privatized and the proceeds will be used to reduce the country's debt.

Ownership of and revenues from utility concessions such as electricity, water, telecom, mobile phones, garbage collection, sewage treatment at the national level will be transferred to the LSWF.

Ownership and revenues of the Offshore Gas resources will be transferred to the LSWF and exploited immediately.

The Above measures should enable THE NEW LEBANON to generate a Net Budgetary Surplus of US\$ 1 to 2 Billion per annum without taking into account the revenues from the Offshore Gas fields accruing in the Lebanese Sovereign Wealth Fund.

4. SET STRICT RULES FOR PUBLIC TENDERS AND ANY CONTRACTS WITH PUBLIC ENTITIES

Any tender or procurement by the Government, the Army, Municipalities or public authorities must follow strict rules with regards to tender processes, transparency and transparency of the bidding companies.

Tenders must be public in all instances and awarded on the basis of value for money. Tenders are organized by the procurement offices of the buying entity or authority and not by the Government. The Government only finally validates the tender after verification that the process has been fair, transparent and compliant with the guidelines.

Bidders must have at least three years of existence, serious references, fully audited accounts and a clear identification of the ultimate owners of the companies. No company benefitting from particular statuses or tax exemption can be awarded contracts.

All Government, Public offices and Municipalities Contracts, save for the Army and Internal Security Forces, are made public and available to the press.

B. REFORMING PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The Lebanese Public Service employs 160,000 people, 38 civil servants per 1,000 inhabitant. Every country that has some degree of efficiency operates with between 8 and 20 civil servants per 1,000 inhabitant. Lebanon can operate with 80,000 to 120,000 civil servants, particularly if their processes are modernized and the State invests in technology.

Lebanon's central and regional administrations are inefficient because they are plagued with conflicts of interests, double allegiances and nepotism. Recruitment processes are religion based.

They are also plagued with:

- Inefficient and wasteful administrative processes
- Overstaffed administrations and poorly qualified civil servants
- Poor ethical standards and client service
- Nepotism and corruption
- Too many public holidays and short working hours.

THE PARTY OF LEBANON WANTS

1. SECULAR ADMINISTRATION

Administrations and civil Servants are at the service of each and every Lebanese citizen, regardless of their religion, gender, origin and residency.

ALL Civil Servants and Public Officers MUST HAVE OPTED for SECULARISM in the fulfillment of their functions.

- Restoring MERITOCRACY AND QUALITY in the Recruitment Processes
- Prevent and Punish NEPOTISM and External Interventions.

2. PUBLIC SERVICE EFFICIENCY

- Reduce the number of civil Servants by 40,000 (25% reduction) to 120,000

- Increase civil servants salaries by 25%

- Recruit qualified personnel

- Spend on training

- Invest US\$ 1.2 Billion in IT equipment and software (US\$ 10,000 per civil servant)

- Reduce the number of public holidays by 20%

- AUDIT, MODERNIZE and STREAMLINE the processes to CUT BUREAUCRACY

- Develop INTERNET-BASED servicing and TELEPHONE CALL CENTERS

- Implement ETHICAL CODES and CLIENT SERVICING STANDARDS

- Implement INTERNAL and EXTERNAL CONTROLS and AUDITS

- Implement proper ACCOUNTING AND PAYMENT standards with "4-eyes" processes

Reforming the Lebanese Administration can save US\$ 2 to 3 Billion per annum in public expenditures.

But it is also about improving the global efficiency of the economy by freeing the time of the citizens, reducing transportation time and costs, reducing traffic congestion and reducing air and noise pollution.

C. NEW ENERGY POLICIES

ELECTRICITY OF LEBANON has failed to deliver 24 hours electricity to its citizens for years, as it is paralyzed by sectarian and nepotistic corporate governance and by constant political interference. Entire segments of the population are connected to the EDL network illegally and do not pay for the electricity they use.

As a result, a parallel industry of local providers make residents pay for electricity during blackout hours at the rate of US\$ 100 to 150 per month per household, with the proceeds used to finance political families. At least two million households are connected to private generators in addition to their EDL connection, generating revenues of between US\$ 2 and 3 Billion for private power generators and their political sponsors. This is more than the annual deficit of EDL. The private electricity generators that are servicing households and all the generators operated by corporations are fuel-powered generators that consume a lot of fossil fuel, emit carbon and create noise pollution.

Lebanon has 320 days of sun per annum and has massive “jurd” land that is not usable for agriculture or construction. The development of solar farms should be a strategic priority for the country to reach energy self-sufficiency and dramatically reduce pollution.

The following scenario is illustrative: 1,000 people need 1 MW of energy. A 1 MW solar power plant costs US\$ 1 Million and uses 10,000 Sqm. of land. Installing solar farms for the entire Lebanese population would be US\$ 4.7 Billion, or only two and a half years of EDL deficits, and could be done in 10 years, using the “jurds”.

THE PARTY OF LEBANON WANTS

1. The creation of **AN INDEPENDENT ELECTRICITY REGULATORY BOARD** that develops technical specifications, implements transparent bidding processes, regulates the industry, controls operators and regulates prices. Lebanon should constrain by law the use of fossil fuels to 20% of total energy consumption, as recently legislated by the State of California.
2. **STATE INVESTMENT IN SOLAR POWER PLANTS.** Install 20 Solar farms producing 20 MW per annum to cover the electricity needs of the entire Lebanese population over 10 years, using the ‘jurds’.
3. **PRIVATIZE LOCAL ELECTRICITY GENERATION** to Qualified National or International Local Operators, operating in transparency under the supervision of the ELECTRICITY REGULATORY BOARD.
4. Develop **PRIVATE RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION PLANTS** powered by NATURAL GAS, SOLAR, WIND and HYDROGEN through tax-exemptions and Government financing.



THE PARTY OF LEBANON

5. Develop **GRID OPERATORS** investing in infrastructure, underground cabling, fiber-optics, water distribution, sewage collection managing the network and the last miles connections.

6. **ENCOURAGE HOME OWNERS TO INVEST IN SOLAR POWER GENERATION AND SOLAR WATER HEATERS** through tax exemptions, favorable financing terms and the obligation to incorporate it into any new building permits in exactly the way parking spaces are compulsory.

7. **HEAVILY TAX PRIVATE GENERATOR OWNERS** and their operations. They should be obliged to declare their revenues, collect VAT and pay tax on their profits. Their profits should be subject to a surcharge for consumption of fossil fuels.

D. WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT POLICIES

Lebanon has extremely large water resources, probably the largest of the whole Middle East, but the derelict state of the infrastructure and the lack of pro-active management has led the country to waste water equivalent of US \$5 Billion per annum. In 2015, rainwater in Lebanon amounted to 10,000 Million cubic meters. 2,560 Million m³ were consumed and the potential usable surplus represented 1,940 million m³. In Beirut, the official water authorities only provide 3 hours of water per day and the parallel market represents 75% of the water consumption, again feeding political sponsors.

The main issues identified by the World Bank are insufficient storage, derelict piping, a massive volume of water flowing freely into the sea and insufficient black and grey water treatment. Despite numerous plans and studies done by both Lebanese authorities and by foreign consultants such as Parsons Main International Inc., only two out of the 18 projected dams and none of the projected 23 lakes have been constructed. Out of the 20 water treatment plants proposed, 9 were built and only 4 are working as the others are not even connected to the wastewater network.

Only 11% of the water delivered and invoiced by the State is actually being paid for, leaving the water authorities with extremely large deficits, preventing investments in maintenance and new network capacity expansion.

THE PARTY OF LEBANON WANTS

1. Re-instate the powers of the **WATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY** and make it independent. Its mission being to manage, control, monitor and plan the water resources and water treatment of the country, supervise private operators, and quality control.
2. **ENACT A GENERAL MASTER PLAN and TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS** for water resources management, collection, storage, transportation and recycling of water based on the 2004 Water Code project and the Parsons Main International study.
3. **RESTORE WATER PAYMENT COLLECTION** and disconnect illegal and unpaid connections to the network.
4. **REHABILITATE THOUSANDS OF KM OF WATER PIPES** that are currently leaking water, the largest cause of water wastage. Connect the 5 water treatment plants that have been built to the wastewater network. Build the remaining 11 stations as planned.
5. **BUILD 15 HYDRO-ELECTRIC DAMS** on the main rivers to retain, stock and re-distribute the water from the winter season in 23 different lakes. Couple the dams with electricity generation and solar power generation capabilities. Reform the irrigation network to optimize water consumption.
6. **EXPLOIT THE FOUR UNDERGROUND WATER RESERVOIRS** that have been identified by geological studies in Tripoli, Beirut, Qaraoun and Hasbaya. **DE-POLLUTE THE LITANI BASIN AND THE LAKE OF QARAOUN** to better exploit the water flowing and restore its use for drinking water and irrigation.
7. Enact and enforce **SEVERE PENALTIES FOR WATER AND RIVER POLLUTERS**, including individuals, corporations and households.
8. **CLEAN AND DEPOLLUTE** existing lakes, rivers, and water wells.

E. WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICIES

Providing efficient, timely, cost-efficient and non-polluting sewage and garbage treatment is, and has always been, an important priority for any human urban settlement since time immemorial.

Reforming sewage and garbage treatment in Lebanon, AND MAKING IT CLEAN AND POLLUTION FREE, is easy and can be done extremely swiftly and at no additional cost to the state or the citizens.

It requires processes, logistics and technologies that have been tried, tested and implemented for billions of individuals in small villages as well as in mega-cities around the world.

THE PARTY OF LEBANON WANTS

1. Create an **INDEPENDANT WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY** to control, monitor and plan waste management, water treatment, sewage treatment and residual pollution management.
2. **ENACT A GENERAL MASTER PLAN and TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS** for waste management, water recycling, de-pollution, plastic and fossil fuel waste recycling. **APPOINT REPUTABLE INTERNATIONAL CONSULTING FIRMS** to draw, enact and detail the Master Plan, develop the technical specifications, run the bidding process, award the concessions, coordinate with the regional authorities, supervise the private operators, and provide quality control.
3. **CREATE A GARBAGE COLLECTION TAX** set by the waste management authority and collected by the Municipalities to finance the collection and treatment of domestic garbage at the local level and its transportation to regional treatment centers.
4. **FARM OUT GARBAGE COLLECTION and WASTE MANAGEMENT** through Build / Operate / Transfer contracts at the local, regional and national levels awarded to reputable waste management operators.
5. FARM OUT the building and operation of **SEWAGE COLLECTION NETWORKS** and **WATER TREATMENT PLANTS** at the local, regional and national levels.
6. **APPOINT REPUTABLE INTERNATIONAL QUALITY CONTROL FIRMS** to provide quality control, supervise the contractors and authorize payments.
7. **ENACT AND ENFORCE SEVERE PENALTIES FOR POLLUTERS**, individuals, corporations and households.
8. Impose **WASTE SEPARATION** on households and corporations, and tax garbage collection.
9. **CLEAN AND DEPOLLUTE** existing dumps, waste disposal sites, beaches and mountains.

F. INTERNET AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICIES

Lebanon has the most expensive and least efficient Telecom and Internet industries in the world. OGERO has a monopoly on landlines, Internet infrastructure and bandwidth management. Two Mobile Operators share the market for mobile and data transmission. Landline phones are expensive and OGERO installation, management and administrative processes are inefficient. Despite the fact that Lebanese pay the same prices as anywhere else, they get one of the worst Internet services in the world for lack of investment in infrastructure and submarine cable capacity.

Lebanese telecommunication companies are known in the world of TELECOMS for having voluntarily negotiated and maintained the HIGHEST International landline and mobile call rates and international data roaming rates, EFFECTIVELY USING THEIR MONOPOLY TO TAX THE LEBANESE CITIZENS INDIRECTLY IN FAVOR OF THEIR PRIVATE INTERESTS.

Internet and telecommunication are to today's world what trains and roads were for the industrial revolution in the 19th century: the main drivers of growth and economic development.

Efficient INTERNET and TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES are STRATEGIC issues for any country in the 21st Century.

THE PARTY OF LEBANON WANTS

1. Create an **INDEPENDENT TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY BOARD**, a non-profit State organization, in charge of regulating the telecommunication market, making Internet infrastructure investments, managing the sub-marine capacity, managing the regional distribution via a fiber-optic network and managing the connectivity to regional and municipal activities.
2. **REVOKE OGERO MONOPOLY AND OPEN THE LANDLINE BUSINESS TO FULL COMPETITION** as part of the general cabling and grid/utility process modeled on the CABLE OPERATORS.
3. **TERMINATE EXISTING CONCESSIONS and OPEN THE PREMIUM MOBILE BUSINESS TO FULL COMPETITION** with at least three mobile operators under the supervision of the TELECOM REGULATORY BOARD, with full transparency.
4. **MAKE INTERNET A FREE PUBLIC SERVICE OFFERED BY THE STATE** in exactly the same way road and transportation infrastructures are a State and Municipal prerogative. To use the public service, users will have to register with full identification through their mobile phone subscription so as to prevent criminal, unidentified and illegal use of the Public internet.
5. **FINANCE THE INVESTMENTS AND THE OPERATION OF THE INTERNET NETWORKS** through a standard US\$ 20 ANNUAL COMMUNICATION TAX on every taxpayer.
6. **INVEST IN FIBER OPTIC NETWORKS AND HIGH CAPACITY SUB-MARINE CABLES.**

G.PUBLIC TRANSPORT POLICIES

Lebanon has one of the world's most derelict road infrastructure and suffers from major traffic congestion. Planning, repair and maintenance of the road and highways network is poor and causes accidents and abnormally fast wear and tear of the stock of vehicles in use.

Non-respect of traffic regulations and of zoning regulations that limit commercial activities on high traffic roads creates unnecessary traffic congestion and accidents.

The absence of public transportation in large cities and between cities creates pollution and traffic congestion.

THE PARTY OF LEBANON WANTS

1. **ENACT A ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE MASTERPLAN** for Lebanon as a whole, including highways, Speedways, Inter-city Speed links and Suburban Highways, the vertical doubling up of some existing highways and the solving of bottlenecks.
2. **ENACT A RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE MASTERPLAN** and develop a complete NETWORK OF INTER CITY TRAINS and build INNER CITY TRAMS in Lebanon's major cities. Develop public car parks at the entrance of cities.
3. **ENACT A PUBLIC BUS TRANSPORTATION MASTERPLAN** in major cities and between cities, tendered out to qualified operators
4. **FORBID THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES ON HIGHWAYS** and close commercial outlets that have been developed against the law
5. **IMPOSE STANDARDS ON CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF ROADS AND HIGHWAYS.** Invest in training, new technologies and qualified personnel. Enact a binding quality control regime.
6. **REFORM THE VEHICLE TAXATION and CONTROL SYSTEM** to include an Annual Road Tax for the maintenance of the road network
7. **IMPLEMENT A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY ON TRAFFIC LAW VIOLATIONS** with hefty financial penalties to ensure Lebanese drivers respect traffic laws, reduce traffic congestion and reduce traffic accidents and casualties.



THE PARTY OF LEBANON

H. HOUSING AND URBANIZATION POLICIES

The 1975-1990 Civil War has left Lebanon with major issues:

200,000 displaced people who have settled in suburban dwellings away from their original towns and villages, posing health, urbanism and public utilities concerns.

270,000 Palestinian refugees have been living in refugee camps in Lebanon for more than 50 years.

The increase in poverty and the perpetuation of refugee camps have created areas of urban chaos and sub-standard housing in many regions of the country.

Since the Civil War, Lebanon has been devastated architecturally and from an urban design perspective as none of the rules of urban planning have been respected. Entire regions were developed without a global urban development plan. Building permits have been awarded illegally through endemic corruption.

Corruption also led to the illegal privatization of entire chunks of the public maritime domain and the destruction of areas of natural beauty.

THE PARTY OF LEBANON WANTS

1. **ENACT AN URBANIZATION MASTERPLAN** for Lebanon as a whole, including urban zoning, preservation zoning, architectural guidelines, public transport, anti-pollution and waste management guidelines.
2. **INVEST US\$ 600 Million per annum to BUILD 10,000 SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS** per annum for 15 years to provide housing to the 470,000 people living in informal settlements and refugee camps. Develop special urbanization zones with favorable tax incentives to entice refugees to return to their villages of origin. Develop agricultural incentives via 0% financing and tax incentives.
3. **REFORM AND DEVELOP THE REGIONAL NETWORK OF FIRE PREVENTION AND LOCAL POLICE FORCES** to provide public services to the regions and the villages across Lebanon.
4. **IMPOSE HEFTY PENALTIES FOR UNFINISHED CONSTRUCTIONS** and non-compliance with the urban planning and architectural codes.
5. **REFORM THE ENTIRE LAND ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM AND THE BUILDING PERMIT PROCESSES**, punish corruption, make officers liable, and implement “4-eyes” policies.
6. **PROTECT AREAS OF NATURAL BEAUTY** by making them non-constructible.
7. **REVOKE THE PROPERTY RIGHTS OF ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTIONS, IMPOSE A HEFTY SPECIAL TAX ON OPERATORS** and replace freehold property rights in such areas with non-renewable 40 years leasehold with reversion to the State at expiry.

I. PUBLIC HEALTH POLICIES

Lebanon used to have a superior health system and citizens of the Arab world used to come to Lebanon to get medical treatment. Lebanon has a wealth of highly qualified doctors and pharmacists and its medical schools are of superior quality.

Private health in Lebanon has retained its high standards while the public health system has been degraded over the past 40 years. Lebanon's public Social Security system is virtually bankrupt and does not provide enough health coverage to the poor.

Lebanon's private medical insurance industry is thriving and provides efficient coverage to the people who have the financial means to afford it. Medical service provision is uneven, with large cities, and Beirut in particular, benefitting from high levels of health services while regional cities and villages are left behind. Emergency services are provided by the Red Cross but unevenly available and traffic congestion leads to unnecessary death and casualties for lack of immediate treatment.

THE PARTY OF LEBANON WANTS

1. **CREATE A PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITY**

The Public Health Authority will be in charge of enacting standards for hospitals, care centers, emergency services and pharmacies, as well as for developing public health policies. It will be responsible for the supervision of Public and Private Hospitals and care centers with the power to withhold certifications, tax breaks and financial incentives in case of non-compliance. It will also be responsible for delivering certifications and the authorizations. A Board of Trustees, including doctors, hospital management specialists, and public health specialists, will run the Authority.

2. **ENACT A PUBLIC HEALTH MASTERPLAN** for Lebanon as a whole, including MEDICAL Zoning, Emergency Services zoning, the building of local hospitals in regional cities and dispensaries in every village.

3. INVEST US\$ 250 Million per annum to **BUILD 50 NEW PUBLIC HOSPITALS** over 10 years, 1 for every 100,000 inhabitants. Incentivize private hospital creation financed at 0% interest rates and tax holidays operating within the guidelines and under the supervision of the PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITY.

4. **REFORM THE NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM**, imposing a minimum of health coverage for every worker in Lebanon, managed according to proven medical insurance systems and financed through a minimum employment tax.

5. **CREATE A UNIFIED PRIVATE ADDITIONAL HEALTH COVERAGE SYSTEM** managed by the private sector under the guidelines and the supervision of the Ministry of Health.

6. **CREATE A MINIMUM SALARY AND TAX INCENTIVES FOR DOCTORS AND PHARMACISTS** willing to establish their practices in low-density population areas to ensure adequate health coverage for the entire Lebanese population.

7. **CREATE A NATIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICE** consisting of ambulances and dispensaries, coupled with fire protection and local police forces to ensure adequate coverage of emergency services for the entire Lebanese population.

J. RETIREMENT AND PENSION POLICIES

Lebanon's Public Retirement and Pension Fund Service was based on the French post-war repartition system, whereby active workers' annual contributions pay for the pensions of the retired. Although Lebanon has an age pyramid which is favorable for the system, the system itself is doomed in the long run because of the diminishing birth rates.

Lebanon's retirement system is not working for all Lebanese; only a relatively small proportion of the Lebanese population has access to pension benefits.

Lebanon suffers from a lack of public and private retirement homes and medical care institutions for the sick elderly.

THE PARTY OF LEBANON WANTS

1. **CREATE A NEW RETIREMENT SYSTEM BASED ON ASSET ACCUMULATION**, modeled on the Swiss retirement system, whereby workers contribute every year into a pension plan run by non-profit retirement foundations managed according to clear rules and under the supervision of a Pension Regulatory Authority.

Contributions into the system are made by both employees and employers and are tax-free for both.

Retirement assets are accumulated on an individual basis within the global plan and management performances are accruing to the contributor. Annual reserves are deducted from annual performance to provide a smoothing of performance in negative years.

At retirement age, the Pensioner can withdraw his accumulated retirement capital in total, tax free, or acquire a life-long annuity from an insurance company. Withdrawals are limited before the age of 65 but the accumulated assets can be pledged for the acquisition of a primary residence.

During the life of the plan, the contributor benefits from death and medical insurance on top of its accumulated capital.

2. **SET ASIDE US\$ 5 Billion of the NATIONAL RECOVERY BOND TO BRIDGE THE GAP between the current REPARTITION SYSTEM and the new ACCUMULATIVE RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

K. EDUCATION POLICIES

Efficient education is the cornerstone of future development.

Lebanon has now sunk to the 67th position in terms of Human Development as per the criteria and annual reports of the United Nations, on par with Cuba and Serbia, yet way behind Israel, Cyprus, the United Arab Emirates or Saudi Arabia.

Lebanon has retained high quality but expensive private education and private universities, but has fallen drastically in terms of public education and global educational standards.

IT IS AN EXTREMELY HIGH PRIORITY FOR THE PARTY OF LEBANON TO IMPROVE EDUCATION STANDARDS AND PROVIDE ALL ITS CITIZENS WITH HIGH LEVELS OF EDUCATION.

Lebanon must become again the education and cultural hub of the Middle East it was in the past.

THE PARTY OF LEBANON WANTS

- 1. IMPLEMENT SECULARISM THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM**
Teachers, professors and administrative staff must have opted for administrative secularism to be employed by the public education system. Ban the inclusion of religious affiliation from registration processes or any data related to students and pupils. Ban religious activity in public universities and public schools.
- 2. INVEST US\$ 200 Million per annum to REVAMP THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**
Recruit teachers, invest in training, reform the curriculum, and implement the systematic teaching of at least two of the three official languages, and increase the quality standards and the regional coverage of the schooling system.
- 3. INVEST US\$ 100 Million per annum to REVAMP THE PUBLIC UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**
Create regional universities, reform the curriculums, re-orient training towards the industries of the future, and equip the universities with technical equipment.
- 4. INVEST US\$ 50 Million per annum to DEVELOP TECHNICAL APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS**
Create technical universities, entice private operators to create and run apprenticeship institutions with tax breaks and low interest financing, entice retirees to provide time to train apprentices through extra-monetary incentives.
- 5. CREATE CIVIC EDUCATION CENTERED ON THE NATIONAL IDENTITY**
Create civic education programs and national identity programs at school, centered on the Rule of Law, Equality of Rights, the understanding of democracy, tolerance and respect for the others.
- 6. CREATE INTER-PERSONAL BEHAVIORAL AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROGRAMS**
Create Interpersonal behavioral courses centered on psychology, understanding, respect, and tolerance. Promote the use of dialogue and peaceful resolution of personal conflicts to train entire generations to live together and create a non-confrontational society.

The total extra cost of the PARTY OF LEBANON'S EDUCATION POLICIES amounts to US\$ 350 Million or 2.5% the Annual State Budget.

L. SOCIAL POLICIES

Fighting against poverty and extreme poverty is one of the core duties of any society. Increasing the general standards of living of its population should be a core priority of any Government.

According to UNDP, more than 1 Million Lebanese live under the poverty threshold and 8% of the population, or 300,000 Lebanese live in extreme poverty earning less than US\$ 2.4 per day.

IT IS A CORE PRIORITY OF THE PARTY OF LEBANON TO FIGHT POVERTY AND IMPROVE THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE POOREST.

Helping families to raise their children in decent conditions and helping them go through primary and higher education is also a core duty of any advanced society. 1.25 million Lebanese are under 18 years of age and 70,000 babies are born every year in Lebanon. 900,000 pupils are enrolled in primary and secondary education.

IT IS A CORE PRIORITY OF THE PARTY OF LEBANON TO HELP FAMILIES SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN AND TAKE THEM THROUGH EDUCATION

Helping elderly to live in decent conditions and helping them go through the end of their lives in a more dignified way is also a core duty of any advanced society. 5% of the Lebanese population (235,000 people) is above 70 and the proportion should grow to 10% by 2025 according to UNDP studies.

IT IS A CORE PRIORITY OF THE PARTY OF LEBANON TO HELP THE ELDERLY IN NEED

THE PARTY OF LEBANON WANTS

1. MINIMUM STATE REVENUE FOR ADULTS LIVING IN EXTREME POVERTY

Lebanese aged 18 and above living in extreme poverty should be receiving support equivalent to US\$ 100 per month through programs managed by UNDP using the expertise and resources of UNRWA for eligibility and sustainability criteria. The cost of this measure will represent between US\$ 100 and 200 million per annum for the Lebanese Budget.

2. MINIMUM STATE REVENUE FOR ADULTS LIVING IN POVERTY

Lebanese aged 18 and above living above the threshold of extreme poverty and below the level of poverty should be receiving a monthly alimony of US\$ 50 per month through programs managed by UNDP using the expertise and resources of UNRWA for eligibility and sustainability criteria. The cost of this measure will represent between US\$ 100 and US\$ 200 million for the Lebanese Budget

THE PARTY OF LEBANON

3. BIRTH SUPPORT

The mother of every child born in Lebanon should be receiving a **one-time birth allowance of US\$ 300** paid by the State at the time of birth to help her go through the expenses associated with taking care of a newborn baby. The cost of this measure will represent US\$ 21 Million for the Lebanese budget.

4. EDUCATION SUPPORT

The legal tutor of every child registered to attend primary or secondary education should be receiving annual **education allowance of US\$ 150** paid by the State at the beginning of the school year to help parents cover the costs associated with sending their children to school. The cost of this measure will represent US\$ 135 million for the Lebanese budget.

5. CREATE AN AUTHORITY FOR THE ELDERLY

The Authority for the Elderly will be in charge of enacting standards for the care of the elderly and for the management of elderly care homes. It will be responsible for the supervision of the activity of public and private elderly care homes with the power to withhold tax and financial incentives in case of non-compliance. It will also be responsible for delivering certifications and the authorizations. A Board of Trustees including gerontologists, hospital management specialists, and representatives of elderly-care NGOs will run the Authority.

6. CREATE 200 PUBLIC RETIREMENT HOMES ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Create 200 Public retirement homes across the country over the next 10 years with a capacity of 80 persons each to provide care and shelter to the elderly in poverty and without families. These public retirement homes will shelter 16,000 elderly or 14% of the population over 70 years old. The investment cost of US\$ 3 Million each represents a US\$ 60 Million investment per annum and the running cost will represent an annual budget of US\$ 100 Million per annum.

7. CREATE TAX INCENTIVES AND FINANCING FOR OPERATORS OF PRIVATE ELDERLY CARE HOMES.

A program of development of retirement homes by private operators working under the supervision of the Authority for the Elderly must be put together with an objective to develop another 200 to 300 private retirement homes across the country. Operators will benefit from a 10-year tax exemption and from low cost financing in cooperation with programs from UNDP.

All in all, the SOCIAL POLICIES of the PARTY OF LEBANON will cost the Lebanese State Budget a total of US\$ 650 Million per annum or 5 % of the total Annual Budget.

It must be noted that all the direct transfers to citizens such as minimum revenues and exceptional allowances translate into direct consumption, and therefore impact positively both economic growth and tax receipts through the multiplier effect.



THE PARTY OF LEBANON

M. ECONOMIC POLICIES

The Lebanese economy has a dismal record in creating jobs. Although GDP grew by 3.7 percent per year between 1997 and 2009, the economy created only 1.1 percent in new jobs, an anomaly for a middle-income country. **The economy must create six times more jobs to absorb the new graduates if they are to remain in the country.** This effectively means the economy must generate 23,000 new jobs per year. So far, it has been able to create only 3,000 jobs annually.

The Lebanese economy has the potential to grow at 7 to 8% per annum once peace, rule of law and stability are prevalent. **At that rate of growth, Lebanon's GDP could reach US\$ 100 Billion by 2025 and the economy will have created 200,000 jobs over the period.**

To achieve these economic objectives, the PARTY OF LEBANON believes pro-active economic policies can be implemented in the following fields:

Invest in Infrastructure across the whole of Lebanon with the help of the various development banks. Lebanon's regions are in deep need of infrastructure investments and corporate investments. Roads, bridges, harbors, social equipment, power generation, water treatment, schools and dispensaries must be built to attract private investments and create jobs in the regional cities.

Develop the Economy of Creativity and make Lebanon a hub for intellectual and creative services; architecture, design, advertising, fashion, music, arts, media content, engineering, programming, technology, bio-technology, genetics, asset management, press and education are all economic sectors in which the Lebanese have proven their talents worldwide.

The development of Tourism is a must in a country that has so many historical sites and natural beauties. Lebanon has the capacity to attract hundreds of thousands of visitors from Europe and the Arab world and the tourism infrastructure must be upgraded.

Agriculture is a natural wealth of Lebanon and investments in rationalization, equipment, irrigation and training could make Lebanon a serious exporter of fresh produce and processed food in the region.

Encourage the development of industry in the fields of pharmaceutical products, renewable energies, construction material and recycling through tax incentives and favorable financing

Attracting foreign Investments and encouraging the Lebanese diaspora to invest in Lebanon could lead to the creation of hundreds of thousands of jobs.

THE PARTY OF LEBANON WANTS

Develop ECONOMIC FREE ZONES

Grant TAX HOLIDAYS for newly created companies

Reform the cumbersome administrative processes

Simplify legal requirements and tax filings

Make all the processes manageable in Arabic, English and French languages

BUDGET AND PUBLIC FINANCES

In sum, all the reforms and measures included in the PARTY OF LEBANON's program to make Lebanon efficient will cost the country an incremental amount of US\$ 3.1 Billion:

INFRASTRUCTURE	US\$ 1 Billion per annum
SOCIAL PROGRAMS	US\$ 650 Million per annum
HOUSING	US\$ 600 Million per annum
EDUCATION	US\$ 350 Million per annum
HEALTH	US\$ 250 Million per annum
REFORM OF THE ADMINISTRATION	US\$ 250 Million per annum

These extra measures will be financed by:

Savings on the National Debt interests	US\$ 2.5 Billion per annum
Savings on the ELECTRICITE DU LIBAN	US\$ 2 Billion
Net savings on the Costs of the Administration	US\$ 1 Billion

Overall, for the Republic of Lebanon to become an efficient country, its public finances should target the following numbers without taking into consideration any revenues from the offshore Gas and National Sovereign Wealth Fund's Assets

GOVERNEMENT REVENUES	US\$ 14 Billion	30 % of GDP
GOVERNMENT EXPENSES	US\$ 13 Billion	27 % of GDP
CIVIL GOVERNMENT SPENDING	US\$ 3.0 Billion	23 % of Budget
MILITARY	US\$ 3.0 Billion	23 % of Budget
DEBT SERVICING (*)	US\$ 2.5 Billion	19 % of Budget
INFRASTRUCTURE	US\$ 1.0 Billion	7.6 % of Budget
HEALTH & MEDICARE	US\$ 1.3 Billion	10 % of Budget
EDUCATION	US\$ 800 Million	6.5 % of Budget
HOUSING	US\$ 800 Million	6.5 % of Budget
SOCIAL PROGRAMS	US\$ 650 Million	5 % of Budget

(*) Includes US\$ 2 Billion of debt principal amortization per annum

The above budget would generate a net surplus of US\$ 1 Billion per annum, to be used partially to amortize the national debt quicker and partially to implement specific ad hoc programs.

The revenues from the National Sovereign Wealth Fund and from the balance sheet of the Central Bank will be used to amortize the Lebanese National debt.

10. MAKE LEBANON BEAUTIFUL AGAIN

Lebanon's landscape and natural beauty have been devastated by the lack of institutions and corruption since 1975. Historical sites of World Heritage importance are crumbling and disappearing under concrete and anarchic constructions. Access to the Temple of Bacchus, to the sites of Tyre and to many other sites is made difficult by chaotic urbanization.

Areas of natural beauty are tainted by concrete and by illegal constructions. The Lebanese coast line has been spoiled and illegally privatized by real estate developments, advertising billboards, unfinished constructions and electricity poles are polluting Lebanon's beautiful sceneries visually. Lebanon is polluted physically by garbage, plastic bags, waste and polluted water

Lebanon must become again the beautiful country it was in the past. Its natural and historical heritage must be preserved, nurtured and managed efficiently.

THE PARTY OF LEBANON WANTS

- 1. Enact a MASTER PLAN FOR HISTORICAL SITES PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION.** Establish the LEBANESE HERITAGE FOUNDATION to enact a coherent plan of protection and rehabilitation of Lebanon's immense historical heritage with the help of UNESCO and civil society. Encourage private and international funding of the rehabilitation of Historical Heritage.
- 2. Enact a MASTER PLAN FOR TOURISM AND HISTORICAL SITES MANAGEMENT** Establish the LEBANESE SITES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY to enact a coherent plan of management and commercial exploitation of Lebanese sites of historical interest and natural beauty with Private - Public Partnerships to make the necessary investments and Build-Operate-Transfer management schemes.
- 3. PROTECT HISTORICAL SITES AND SITES OF NATURAL BEAUTY BY MAKING THEIR SURROUNDING AREAS NON-CONSTRUCTIBLE.** Lawfully evict current inhabitants and destroy current local constructions. State Laws and regulations will prevail and general cultural interest will prevail over local regulations.
- 4. REVOKE OWNERSHIP RIGHTS OF ALL ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTIONS ON THE PUBLIC OR MARITIME DOMAIN.** Replace ownership rights by 30-year leases with reversion to the State at the end of the 30-year period. Cancel all the Presidential or Ministerial decrees that have been enacted since 1975 providing exemptions that were not in the general Lebanese interest.
- 5. REFORM BUILDING PERMITS BY IMPOSING PERFORMANCE BONDS AND COMPLETION DATES** and hefty financial and criminal penalties on landlords and contractors who leave construction works unfinished. Owners of unfinished constructions must complete or destroy unfinished constructions within 1 year
- 6. PROHIBIT ADVERTISING BILLBOARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY,** as is the case in the Chouf Area. Billboards will only be authorized in dedicated areas of special urban or commercial density such as airports, commercial zones or urban area perimeters and will be regulated by a code of visual advertising. Existing Billboards will be phased out within three years with an obligation to physically remove the boards and rehabilitate the site at their expense of the operators.
- 7. MAKE THE ENTIRE ELECTRICITY NETWORK UNDERGROUND AND REMOVE ALL THE ELECTRICITY POLES** apart from high voltage transmission lines. The NATIONAL GRID COMPANY will manage a unique underground network handling electricity, Fiber Optic, telecommunication, water, and sewage in an efficient way.



THE PARTY OF LEBANON

11. THREE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Arabic is the historical and the official language of Lebanon. However, because of the civil war and The large emigration phenomenon at the beginning of last century, Lebanon is the only country in the world where there are MORE Lebanese living abroad than Lebanese living in Lebanon.

The vast majority of the Lebanese who live abroad HAVE NOT CHOSEN to emigrate, they had no choice but to emigrate because of political and economic instability.

The younger generations of the Lebanese diaspora do not speak Arabic.

All the Lebanese living abroad are still Lebanese and their wealth of experience, expertise and resources is a wealth for Lebanon. They should be encouraged and given the possibility to settle back in Lebanon, to retire in Lebanon and for their children make a life in Lebanon.

Foreigners living in Lebanon must be able to interact with the Lebanese Administration efficiently.

Foreign Corporations operating in Lebanon must be able to interact with the Lebanese Administration efficiently.

Tourists visiting Lebanon must be able to move around, consume and interact with the Lebanese population and Administration efficiently.

Lebanon has a tradition of speaking French as well as Arabic, and English is the universal language of the world. The Lebanese people already use several languages in their day-to-day life and the Lebanese administration should be at the service of the citizens and not the opposite.

THE PARTY OF LEBANON WANTS

1) **LEBANON ADOPTS THREE LANGUAGES, ARABIC, ENGLISH AND FRENCH** as its official administrative and legal languages, so as to promote investments, tourism and the return of the diaspora, to encourage all the Lebanese from Lebanon and from abroad to live, operate, interact with each other efficiently, to favor the establishment of foreign corporations in Lebanon and create jobs for the Lebanese, to develop tourism, commerce, and economic activity, to facilitate administrative tasks, tax collection, compliance with the laws and regulations of Lebanon.

Countries like Canada, Belgium, Switzerland, China, Europe, the United States of America, South Africa, India, Malaysia or Indonesia work perfectly with several official languages.

Countries like Dubai or Singapore have made English as their official administrative and business language, above and beyond their traditional language, a key factor of their economic success.

Adding English and French as official languages on top of Arabic does not take anything away from Arabic speakers but potentially adds all the wealth of the Lebanese expatriates and foreign corporations to the Lebanese economy and society.

2) **MAKE THE TEACHING OF TWO OF THE THREE LANGUAGES COMPULSORY IN HIGHER EDUCATION** so as to improve the general standards and qualification of the Lebanese workforce. Making the Lebanese administration work with three languages will improve the quality of the public services, the general standards of the staff and open job opportunities for minorities and Lebanese from abroad.

12. CODE OF NATIONALITY

Due to its topography, Lebanon has been a country where persecuted minorities have taken refuge and established themselves since the immemorial times of the Bible. The Lebanese Population and the Lebanese Identity were built by the aggregation of populations of diverse origins, cultures and religions. Who ended up blending in to make the Lebanese Nation.

Acceptance, respect, tolerance, diversity are at the essence of the Lebanese Culture and Society. The Lebanese BECAME Lebanese by being born on the Lebanese soil over one or several generations.

**All the Lebanese were not Originally Lebanese THEY BECAME LEBANESE.
This is the DNA OF THE LEBANESE NATION**

The only time in its centuries of history when Lebanon failed to fulfill its role and its tradition of refuge and integration was with the Palestinian refugees. There again the political decision to keep the Palestinian refugees in camps and to deny them any rights was motivated by sectarianism and fears of tilting the religious balance of the country. As a result, Lebanon ended up paying the price of a civil war, and until today Lebanon still has 280,000 Palestinian Refugees living in camps and who are still deprived of passports, citizenship, rights or individual economic future.

By keeping Palestinian refugees over 60 years in camps, in lawlessness, supported financially by the international community and with no future, Lebanon has failed its traditions of humanity and integration.

But the **Lebanese Politicians have done even worse, they have unilaterally suspended the Lebanese code of Nationality, depriving, for no valid reason, HALF ITS POPULATION from the right to transmit the Lebanese nationality.** In Lebanon, for reasons that are difficult to understand, Lebanese Women cannot pass their nationality to their spouses or their children, while Lebanese men can marry 4 Palestinian women and give them and their children the Lebanese Nationality. What is the rationale?

Moreover, Lebanon has the privilege of having forced more Lebanese to live outside of Lebanon than in Lebanon itself. The Lebanese are themselves eager to acquire the Nationality of the countries they have emigrated to and are probably amongst the largest holders of double Nationalities in the world.

EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD HAS A CODE OF NATIONALITY giving a permanent resident the right to become a citizen after a number of years of residency and under certain conditions and the Lebanese are the most eager to benefit from that chance. Why should foreigners residing in Lebanon not be allowed to? Reciprocity is a key principle of International Law.

THE PARTY OF LEBANON WANTS

1. A LEBANESE CODE OF NATIONALITY BASED ON SECULARISM

a) **Giving the right to every resident of Lebanon to acquire the Lebanese Nationality provided that :**

He or She has lived permanently in Lebanon for 18 years, paid his taxes regularly, has no criminal record and has irrevocably chosen SECULARISM.

b) **Giving the right to every Lebanese Woman to transmit the Lebanese Nationality to her Children and her foreign spouse regardless of the nationality after Five years of effective residency and life in common in Lebanon,** providing that they have irrevocably chosen SECULARISM.