



The Guardians of the Cedars Party - The Movement for Lebanese Nationalism issued the following message:

A year after the formation of this "National Entente" government, let us return to its pompous ministerial statement in which it called itself the government of "Growth and Development" and extended many promises to the Lebanese people, and conduct an assessment of its accomplishments during this year that was otherwise full of wrangling, bickering and dramatic developments.

Suffice it to say that this brief communiqué cannot address all the headlines of the ministerial statement and will, therefore, focus on the main issues that are close to the heart of the citizens, namely their livelihood, security, and future. In so doing, we will rely on the poll conducted by Information International Corporation, SAL.

1- The government promised to bolster the structure of the State and renew trust in it. Yet, State institutions have witnessed increased inertia, neglect and corruption at the expense of competence and integrity. The Lebanese citizens' trust in their government has declined to virtually zero.

2- The government promised to create a mechanism enabling the expatriate Lebanese to exercise their right to vote within a period not exceeding 6 months. This deadline has now passed and the government has not taken any measure demonstrating any seriousness in achieving this objective. In fact, the Foreign Affairs and Emigrants Minister has just announced that this objective will not be met.

3- The government promised to fight poverty and reduce economic and social disparities, and focus of rebuilding the middle class which is the pillar of social stability in the country. Yet, the middle class has continued to shrink while the numbers of the poor have continued to swell. The purchasing power has continued to be eroded by rising prices of food, consumer goods, housing, transportation, school tuitions and others. The poverty rate has risen.

4- The government promised to fight unemployment and stop emigration. Yet, unemployment has risen and job opportunities have dwindled, while the brain drain and young emigration continues to bleed the country.

5- The government promised to alleviate the burden of the public debt and reduce its cost. Yet the public debt has continued to grow surpassing US\$50 billion for the first time ever. The cost of the debt has also risen to more than \$US12 billion which becomes due during the course of next year.

6- The government promised to submit a general budget to Parliament by the end of January of this year. To date, the budget remains mired in problems, and the budget laws for the past 5 years have yet to be approved.

This is the tip of the iceberg, and the promised growth and development is mere ink on paper. The "National Entente" government has mutated into the "National Fraud" government with divisions among ministers at their highest. Nothing brings these people together other than insults, trading accusations of all kind including that of treason, and an insistence on eliminating the other side. These ministers disagree on all matters, beginning with the Special Tribunal and its impending indictment of Hezbollah in the Hariri assassination, the fabricated "False Witnesses" lie, the issue of the illegal Lebanese and Palestinian weapons, not to mention foreign affairs and all the domestic issues and concerns of daily life of the

Lebanese people. The "Majority" in government follows the Saudi-Egyptian axis, while the "Minority" in government follows the Syrian-Iranian axis. The third, supposedly neutral, axis of the President operates in a grey zone in between trying to reconcile the irreconcilable with obvious futility.

In conclusion, it thus appears that the only "achievement" of this dislocated and schizophrenic government is a perfect paralysis of the constitutional institutions and driving the country to the verge of the abyss, and driving the people to further disgust, despair, and fear. While the saying goes that a new day always brings hope after a dark night, the Lebanese in fact sleep on fear and wake up in terror.

In the darkness of this long endless tunnel, the only faint glimmer of hope rests with the institution of the Army and its chief's sage, honest and stern words, which bring to the troubled minds of the Lebanese people a modicum of hope and reassurance.

We reiterate our conviction that the politicians of the country, at least in their majority, are artists of charlatanism, deception, theft and the pilfering of dirty money. They are adept at starving and impoverishing their people, driving their young to emigrate, and trampling on the dignity of the Lebanese. They are masters at dwarfing the State to the benefit of the militias and the mini-states, and at selling the country to the highest paying neighboring and regional states. What they lack any mastery in, is the art of resigning that politicians of respectable countries know very well. So, we call on our people to exercise the art of accountability and demanding answers from the politicians like civilized and advanced peoples do. We, in fact, call on the Lebanese people to a revolution against this extremely mediocre clique of politicians, stop swearing allegiance and automatically renewing their mandate every four years, and stop blindly following their bosses like a herd of sheep led to the slaughter by a reckless shepherd.

It is time that our people learn the art of wrath, and learn that God's wrath stems from the wrath of the people.

Lebanon, at your service
Abu Arz
November 12, 2010