Press Office of the President of the Council of Ministers Saad Hariri

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**Hariri from Dubai: Lebanon has a golden opportunity it must seize and anyone who will try to stop this process will have a problem with me**

The President of the Council of Ministers Saad Hariri said today that Lebanon has a golden opportunity it must properly seize. He said: "I will work day and night to materialize it and anyone who will try to stop this process for political reasons will have a problem with Saad Hariri".

Hariri’s words came at a reception held in his honor at the Lebanese Consulate in Dubai by Lebanon's Ambassador to the UAE, Fouad Dandan, and the Lebanese Consul in Dubai and the Northern Emirates, Assaf Doumit, in the presence of several ambassadors and Arab consuls.

Consul Doumit, after welcoming President Hariri, said at the beginning of the reception: "This government that you have called "To Work" expresses your understanding of the concerns, needs and aspirations of the Lebanese people. Your sincere and determined desire to lead the country to security has resulted in the completion of the Ministerial Declaration in record time, which has been reflected in the general satisfaction of the Lebanese who hope for greater political and security stability as well as economic and social development".

For his part, Ambassador Dandan said: "We look forward, like all Lebanese, residents and expatriates, to the achievements of your government to promote our national economy, through the implementation of the CEDRE projects that will offer many opportunities for our young people to encourage them not to leave Lebanon and convince them that their homeland is capable of fulfilling their aspirations for a better future for themselves and their children.

They aspire to constructive work and real and effective reform at all levels, so that we can all enjoy a homeland where all citizens are equal and have equal opportunities far from sectarian and partisan quotas that are humiliating for any free citizen proud of the skills he has acquired with seriousness and determination".

In the end, Prime Minister Hariri thanked Ambassador Dandan and Consul Doumit for organizing this visit, as well as the Lebanese community.

He said: "We sometimes failed the hopes of the Lebanese living abroad, because of our divisions and our problems, but fortunately we have formed this government. We now have a clear agenda to bring Lebanon back to the forefront and to change the laws that have been in place for fifty and sixty years. We reached a consensus within this government, especially during the term of President Michel Aoun, regarding the need to break the division that has struck the country. While there are known regional differences, these differences will not affect our internal situation, as we agreed to focus on the Lebanese economy and to carry out all the reforms set out in CEDRE, which have been inserted in the ministerial declaration".

He added: "What matters to me is that you, the Lebanese community in the United Arab Emirates, are in this country that welcomes you and where you work with its sons. I thank the Emirates for all they did for Lebanon and the Lebanese”.

Hariri continued: "We insist that the reforms decided at CEDRE be completed and any project without reforms will result in a greater debt for Lebanon, because the reforms will improve the economic situation and the work in Lebanon. This government will fight corruption, waste and all that Lebanon complains about. You will see, when the reforms become laws, how Lebanon will be, and as soon as possible”.

He added, "I am optimistic by nature, and maybe the last nine months have been difficult, but today I am very optimistic because there is a very large consensus in the country, so we can achieve all your dreams. With this government, before the elections, we must work together to implement the CEDRE decisions, which helped to open investment to the private sector, which did not exist before".

He concluded: "Lebanon has a golden opportunity that must be properly captured and monitored on a daily basis. I will work day and night to materialize it and anyone who tries to stop this process for political reasons will have a problem with Saad Hariri".