



**Date 31/10/2020**

Caretaker Finance Minister Dr. Ghazi Wazni inaugurated the Registry and Cadastre offices in Bint Jbeil, in the presence of MPs Ali Bazzi and Hassan Fadlallah, as well as the town's Mayor Afif Bazzi and the Acting Director General of Finance, George Maarawi. #

Minister Wazni delivered the following speech on this occasion: #

“Bint Jbeil has witnessed many stories of immigration, resistance, suffering and neglect, similarly to other towns and cities in Lebanon. I have seen this firsthand, growing up in an expatriate family with my mother being from Bint Jbeil. The demands are high and the concerns and needs are urgent, especially in light of the current difficult circumstances resulting from the well-known financial, economic and social situation. The State's capabilities are modest; “the eye sees but the hand can't reach”. However, this did not prevent the achievement of this vital and modest requirement: the opening of the Land Registry and Cadastre Departments in Bint Jbeil. #

This place is not just made of a space, some employees and offices. It represents the administrative and developmental decentralization that the Taif Agreement called for. We would like to see this expand to all the State's administrations, in order to reduce distances, which would prevent the inhabitants of Bint Jbeil and all the villages of the District from going to Nabatieh to carry out a simple transaction, which makes them lose time, money and effort, while it can be promptly achieved here. #

We would like these offices to be a model in facilitating people's transactions without having to bribe any employee or resort to any intermediary for a transaction that is actually at the heart of the obligations of the State and its institutions towards citizens. We would like them to be a model for the swift handling of transactions and the management of people's affairs with nice words, good treatment and an exemplary relationship

between employees and citizens. #

These offices would not have seen light had it not been for the persistence of Speaker Nabih Berri, the close follow-up of the area's MPs and the provision of the building by the town's municipality. I would like to thank you all for supporting this step, and I would also like to thank those present here with us today." #