

التاريخ: 2019/8/20

Finance Minister Ali Hassan Khalil met with the Minister of Industry, Wael Abou Faour, and the President of the Syndicate of Pharmaceutical Industries in Lebanon, Carol Abi Karam, to discuss the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals in Lebanon.

After the meeting, Minister Abou Faour gave the following statement:

“We discussed two issues: the first is how to exempt from VAT the raw material imported for local pharmaceutical industries. We agreed with the Finance Minister on preparing a draft law in this sense, especially that the medicines that are imported from abroad are VAT exempt and so should be the importation of raw material for drug manufacturing.

The Minister agreed to tackle this matter in the Budget, as well as the issue of expanding the array of VAT exemptions for pharmaceutical equipment, specifically for medicines that we import from abroad and that are filled and packed in Lebanon. We agreed on submitting a syndical letter to the Higher Council of Customs asking them for their opinion.

Minister Abou Faour indicated that there are 11 pharmaceutical plants in Lebanon that are relieving the Lebanese from a heavy burden by importing medicines. Measures have been taken by the Ministry of Health to give priority to Lebanese pharmaceutical manufacture.

He concluded, “The implementation of these two measures will be a step forward for pharmaceutical industries.”

Within the framework of his meetings with the economic bodies and entities concerned by providing suggestions for 2020 Budget, Minister Khalil met with the President of the Association of Lebanese Industrialists, Fadi Gemayel, and they discussed the Association’s proposals.