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After retired military veterans asked the Ministry of Finance to clarify its stance toward their retirement benefits, the Ministry issued the following statement:

The Ministry of Finance would like to express its solidarity and understanding toward the concerns of retirees from all military and civilian bodies. It would like also to indicate that during the preparation of 2019 Budget, an amount was allocated for the end-of-service benefits according to the usual estimations of their annual cost, which is 450 billion LBP.

What happened is that after the talks about freezing early retirement, many military staff and employees submitted end-of-service requests, which demanded from the Treasury additional funds, amounting to around 540 billion LBP. Therefore, the Ministry of Finance asked for an additional credit in 2019 Budget to cover the end-of-service benefits and pensions. The Ministry is waiting the decree to be passed so it can duly pay the rights of the retirees.