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World Bank Regional Director, Saroj Kumar, praised the adoption of the budget at the Parliament and the serious discussions that took place on fiscal reforms.

He also praised the efforts deployed by Finance Minister Ali Hassan Khalil in preparing the 2020 Budget and his determination to submit it within constitutional deadlines.

Kumar's statement came during his visit with a WB delegation to Minister Khalil's office at the Ministry. Their meeting focused on the joint projects between Lebanon and the World Bank with the Bank stressing on providing support to the economic sectors, indicating that approving the compensations from illegally occupied public properties shall push forward several projects aiming to stimulate growth.

Minister Khalil had met earlier with a delegation from **Fitch** rating agency headed by Toby Iles.