



Date: 25/05/2019

Finance Minister Ali Hassan Khalil tweeted the following:

“We could have lowered the deficit even more, but that would have required imposing additional burdens on people, and we did not accept to touch the poor and middle classes since we are committed to holding our promises. Improving the people’s life is as important to us as improving the State’s performance.

We have fulfilled our commitment to adopt an extraordinary budget that cuts the deficit to the best possible rate, restores order to the administration of public finance and strengthens the trust of citizens and the world in the State.

We will not comment on some rumors, leaks and media coverage related to this matter. The most important thing now is that we have reached a deficit of around 7.5% and we have adopted real institutional reforms that aim to reactivate the economy and address fiscal imbalance.

As we have committed to prepare the final accounts that had been pending for 20 years, we shall continue to work on a regular and daily basis on pursuing serious and comprehensive economic and fiscal consolidation.

This is our moral commitment ever since we assumed the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance. It is of the utmost importance now for all the political forces and parliamentary blocks to unite in order to reveal the national accomplishment that will push forward a comprehensive economic beginning, and not simply mark political points, a situation that people have grown tired of.

We have stated from the start that we are not seeking personal victory, but a victory for Lebanon and its economic and social stability. This was accomplished today through the efforts of everyone.

After the final adoption session at the Presidential Palace in Baabda, we will talk in detail about what was adopted and accomplished in this Budget.”