State of Palestine
Office of the Prime Minister
For Immediate Release
March 12, 2019

The Palestinian Cabinet Meeting Brief Statement

The Palestinian Cabinet congratulates Dr. Mohammed Ishtayeh on assuming his new role as a Prime Minister for the 18th Government and adopts an emergency budget that includes rationalizing its spending, and a number of austerity measures.

- **W**elcomed the decision of President Mahmoud Abbas to assign Dr. Mohammed Ishtayeh as a new Prime Minister for the 18th Palestinian government, which he is requested to form soon, wishing him and the members of the new government success in fulfilling their assigned tasks especially, in light of the challenging political, economic, and financial conditions facing the Palestinian cause and the national project. As well as, to build on the achievements that have contributed to enhancing the steadfastness of our people, endrose their ability to remain on their land, and achieve all Palestinian rights within an independent State of Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital on the 1967 borders. On that note, Prime Minister Dr. Rami Hamdallah expressed his appreciation and gratitude to President Abbas for his support and guidance to the head of the Palestinian government and its members. In addition, the PM thanked the members of the Government for their efforts during exceptional circumstances, resulted from the continuation of the Israeli occupation and its daily attempts to break the citizens' resilience and to undermine the government ability to execute its own policies, especially in Areas "C". However, the cabinet stated that the government was able to navigate its own way through its commitment to the National Policy Agenda (NPA) 2017-2022 and achieve 90% of the reconstruction process in the Gaza Strip despite the reduction in International aid, the promised pledges in the Cairo summit, the political division, and the Israeli illegal siege imposed on Gaza. *"The government invested heavily in the promotion of the rule of law, the empowerment of youth and women. As well as, in the promotion of agriculture and the rural communities, the protection of the Palestinian identity, and cultural heritage. Moreover, to the implementation of a series of vital interventions in the Occupied City of Jerusalem and the implementation of development projects in the areas of housing, education, health, electricity, and energy. In addition to providing economic and livelihood support, building infrastructure projects, roads, water, electricity networks, public utilities, parks, and the provision of basic social services to citizens."* The cabinet added.

- **D**iscussed the 2019 General budget, which has only a 20 days deadline until its legal period ends for approval. The Minister of Finance and Planning, Dr. Shukri Bishara, pointed out that his Ministry prepared the basic budget as usual according to data received in 2018. *"However, the financial crisis that we face due to the Israeli unilateral deductions of Palestinian tax funds, and the decision of the Palestinian leadership to refuse receiving any money from the tax funds if deducted, led us, upon the directions of President Abbas, to adopt an emergency budget that includes restricted austerity measures until the current*

crisis ends," Bishara said. "This means disbursing all available with the government, securing delayed obligations, and distributing available cash upon equitable and fair priority standards, including the adoption of the optimal method in disbursing operational expenses without affecting the basic services provided to citizens," Bishara added

- Condemned the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) and settler militias for storming the religious sites in many Palestinian cities, villages and towns. The most recent attack was invading Prophet Younis Mosque in Halhoul, north of Hebron, in addition to attacking Islamic locations in Kafl Hares village near Salfit. "The occupation forces are directly responsible for the consequences of repeated incursions. We call on the international community to intervene immediately to stop the occupation and its settlers from performing such attacks," The Cabinet stressed.

- Hailed the Republic of Indonesia for its $1 million contributions to the UNRWA's budget, which represents a significant increase in Indonesia's support to the UNRWA. The Cabinet renewed its calls to the world to continue providing funds and assistance to the UNRWA and to increase the financial aid during the current year, so that it can continue serving Palestinian refugees in their various places of residence.

Press here for PMO Spokesperson-recorded Statement

@GovernmentofPalestine

@Palestine.PMO

Twitter

Youtube