

Press Release

Itani visited the Port of Tripoli to Oversee the Preparations for the Mleb Program Renewal

Tripoli, June 13, 2017 – The Chairman of the Investment Development Authority of Lebanon (IDAL), Engineer Nabil Itani, visited the port of Tripoli to oversee the ongoing preparations for the renewal of the M.LEB program which will be launched under the patronage of His Excellency Prime Minister Mr. Saad Hariri on Thursday noon at the Grand Serail.

Eng. Itani had visited the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Tripoli and the North, and then headed to the port accompanied by the President of the Chamber, Mr. Toufic Dabbousy, the Director General of the Port of Tripoli, Ahmad Tamer, and a crowd of producers, exporters, shippers and quality control officers, where they toured a number of ferries shipping cargo destined for export in preparation for the recommencement of work.

In his address, Tamer declared the readiness of the port, its administration and all its departments to resume the work of the program, pointing out that the development and expansion process of the port is still ongoing, in an aim to provide exporters and shipping companies with the best service.

Dabbousi praised the partnership between the public and private sectors, stating that Tripoli is endowed with all the characteristics, facilities and advantages to leverage the national economy and constitute Lebanon's economic capital. He underlined the importance of renewing the M.LEB program, as it primarily serves to sell off Lebanese products, prevent slump and open up new markets.

Engineer Itani addressed the cooperation between IDAL and the Chamber of Tripoli which hosts events, bodies and investment promotion agencies and discussed the common projects with the Chamber.

Furthermore, Itani explored the program, its launching conditions and the situation from which Lebanese exports suffered before its implementation, particularly the rapidly perishable goods, such as vegetables and fruits, due to the closure of the Syrian border with Jordan and Iraq. He wished that the shipping line would be adopted as a supplement to land transport and be reopened since it is the easiest route.

Itani stressed that this visit aims at looking at the readiness of clients, shippers and exporters for the announcement of the M.LEB program renewal. It is noted that the said program has had a direct positive impact on three sectors, namely agriculture (especially rapidly perishable goods), small industries (which opt for collecting production in one export shipment) and the transport sector, particularly land fleet that resumed its work after a total stop due to the closure of land borders.

About IDAL

The Investment Development Authority of Lebanon (IDAL) is Lebanon's national investment promotion agency. It aims to promote Lebanon as a key investment destination, and attracting, facilitating, and retaining investments in the country. IDAL provides local and foreign investors alike with a range of incentives and business support services across the following sectors; Industry, Agriculture, Agro-Industry, Tourism, Information Technology, Technology, Telecommunication, and Media. In addition to its role as an investment promotion agency, IDAL is entrusted with the active promotion and marketing of Lebanese exports including but not limited to agricultural and agro-industrial products.

For more information please **contact us on:**

Riad El Solh Street, Lazarieh Tower, Block A, 3rd Floor |

Po. Box: 113- 7251 | Beirut, Lebanon

T +961 1 983306

F +961 1 981502

invest@idal.com.lb

www.investinlebanon.gov.lb

