

3. **Hizbullah's 2000 Parliamentary Elections Program**<sup>65</sup>  
*(My translation)*

The elections offer a chance to participate in the parliamentary life in order to continue defending the rights of our people, country and causes.

We work for the continual readiness of the [Islamic] Resistance, the populace, and the official stance of defending the country.

The unique relations with Syria are an element of strength for Lebanon and Syria in facing the challenges.

Alleviating the economic problem needs extraordinary efforts by propagating a general reformist economic plan.

Giving due care to the deprived areas, especially the Biqa' and Akkar, and allocating to them the necessary attention in order to develop them.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate

"But seek, thanks to what Allah gave you, the Hereafter, and do not forget your portion of the here below [the present world]. Be charitable, as Allah has been charitable to you, and do not seek corruption in the land; for Allah does not like the seekers of corruption" (28:77).

Our loyal Lebanese populace:

Based on the experience that we provided [through our work in] the Lebanese political life, and using as a point of departure our immutable and clear intellectual-political curriculum, which is based upon our civilizational belonging and commitment that makes religious norms the fulcrum of human life, and which aims at providing felicity to man in conjunction with upholding his/her dignity and elevating his/her status... we continue the road to offering, giving, sacrifice, and *ithar* or "preference" in all positions and domains, putting our mind on continuing to defend our people's and country's rights and causes. [We] face the dangers and challenges that target our *umma*, primarily the "Zionist" conquest and US hegemonic projects.

[We] stress national unity, and we uphold national coexistence with all the religious denominations in Lebanon.

From this perspective, our engagement in the elections constitutes an opportunity for us to take part in Lebanese parliamentary life in order to continue our course in defending our people's and country's rights and causes.

## 1. *Resistance and liberation*

The Resistance has proven over the course of the past 18 years of continuous sacrifice and *jihad*, and through the blood of its dignified martyrs, that it is the only road to deter [Israeli] aggression and face "Zionist" greed, uphold the security and dignity of our people, [achieve] the liberation of our land and a true national unity based upon a national consensus in rejecting the occupation and its corroborators, and in buttressing the resistance.

- The Resistance was able to regain occupied Lebanese land and enforce its stance in the regional and international equation, forcing the Zionist enemy to capitulate and withdraw in humiliation, a precedent that the region [Middle East] has never experienced in the history of struggle against the "Zionist Entity". Moreover, the resistance has proven its salient civilizational [cultured] behaviour during the liberation, that it is up to the grand national responsibility, and its upholding of the security of all the citizens, without any discrimination among their groups and sects, and the country. This great achievement [liberation] has been accomplished by the cooperation of the public government, and the Lebanese army. This was conducive to the creation of a general positive atmosphere, which has shielded the victory [liberation].
- The Resistance imposed itself as a serious option that could be bet upon in order to regain the rights and liberate occupied land, without any conditions or dictated peace treaties. It [the Resistance] became a model to emulate and to adopt by all the people in the region, especially the oppressed Palestinian people inside Palestine [Occupied Territories].
- That is why, it is a duty to consolidate and generalise the experience of the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon [Hizbullah's model], in order to awaken and elevate the *umma* as well as to strengthen the stances of its rulers and regimes, and to stop normalization with the Zionist enemy. This will lead to inflicting a "retreat" on the US-Israeli project, which aims at imposing their hegemony on the region and imposing their dictates forcing its people to grant them concessions.

- We work to continuously keep on guard the Resistance and the readiness of the populace as well as the official [Lebanese] stance to defend our country against any aggression or “Zionist” threat. [This is in line with] our continued convictions and belief in facing the Israeli enemy in order to prevent its schemes and dangerous projects from materialising in the region [Middle East].

In order to continue the path and aims of liberation we stress the following:

- Exhort the government to decree and execute a *developmental-service oriented socio-economic program* for the liberated areas and their peripheries, and work on the reconstruction and development of human resources, the economic cycle, and the return of all the displaced, without discriminating against them and giving their cause the appropriate care without humiliating them and forcing them to seek favours<sup>66</sup>. (Italics are added for emphasis).
- The continuation of different and rapid efforts in order to liberate the prisoners of war, detainees, and the purified bodies of the martyrs. The activation and development of the necessary social care for the families of the martyrs, the liberated prisoners of war and detainees, and the wounded and handicapped of the Resistance.
- Being cautious on safeguarding our total rights and national interests in order to accomplish a total liberation of Lebanese soil, and expropriating our total sovereignty on our land, water rights, and security rights, without giving in any part of it, especially those aspects (points) of disagreement<sup>67</sup> and the *Shib’a Farms*.
- Resisting normalization [of relations with Israel], opposing the cultural conquest, refusing coexistence with the Zionist invaders [by not] giving legitimacy to their “Rapist Entity”, and refusing the naturalization [of the Palestinians living in Lebanon]<sup>68</sup> and insisting on their right of return to all their land in Palestine.

## 2. *Lebanese foreign policy*

- Work on consolidating the Lebanese stance in the face of the US aggressive policy, which is always biased towards and supportive of the “Zionist Entity”, covering up all its crimes, aggressions, and terrorism against our people. Reject the continuous US interference in Lebanese domestic affairs, which is against all norms and diplomatic standards.
- Consider the special and destined relations with Syria as an element of force for both Lebanon and Syria in order to confront the challenges facing them, especially the dangers posed by the “Zionist Entity”.

- Follow a governmental policy towards taking care of the matters and causes of the Lebanese expatriates and diaspora in order to make it as an element of force for Lebanon abroad (in the international domain) as well as an element of economic support for the Lebanese residing inside the country.
- Aspire for consolidating Lebanon's relationships with the Arab and Islamic countries as well as other friendly countries in the world of nations.
- Fortify interests and complimentarily with the Arab nations economically.
- Develop the relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has always been a staunch supporter of Lebanon.

### 3. *Socio-economic problem*

- The aggravation of the social problem reached a serious level making most Lebanese suffer from poor living standards, which are marked by severe shortages. This calls for exercising extraordinary efforts in order to solve the problem by propagating a general economic reform plan that aims at materializing the following:
  - Treating the budget deficit by adopting a general and balanced economic-developmental plan among the different sectors in order to increase revenues, decrease expenses, and increase the levels of growth.
  - Austerity in expenditure, dealing with the public debt, and reducing its burdens.
  - Follow homogeneous fiscal, monetary, and economic policies, which aim at developing economic growth, increasing employment, and encouraging investment.
  - Energise the national productive sectors of industry and agriculture by increasing government spending on these sectors and by following stimulating policies and animating procedures.
  - Protect local production; be committed to the principle of [fair] competition, increase the ability to compete in foreign markets, and protect the interests of the consumer.
  - Develop the sectors [material resources] and human resources by adopting up to date plans and programs aimed at rehabilitation, organisation, and guidance.
  - Taking due care of the deprived areas, especially in the *Biqā'* and *Akkar*, and allocate to them due attention in order to develop them, especially the agricultural sector and work on accomplishing the following:

1. Find a plan to buttress agricultural products.
2. Make available agricultural loans and ensure investment.
3. Begin actual work in the Public Foundation for Alternative Agricultural products in the *Biqā'* region, and place a time-schedule suitable in dealing with the grave catastrophe that has ravaged this struggling, productive area.
4. Engage in a continual effort in order to make available the necessary funding required for alternative agricultural products.
5. Decrease the middleman role between the farmer and the consumer by activating the role of cooperative agricultural farms.
6. Fortify the interest of domestic products and protecting it by contracts and agreements.
7. Reduce the cost of insecticides, fertilisers, electricity, and water.
8. Give due attention to natural resources, and prepare the ground for exploiting them, and looking for them, especially oil and water.

4. *The building of the state of law and institutions, and the promotion of political participation*

From the stance of our concern: with the development of political life and the establishment of social justice among all the Lebanese without any discrimination; the building a stable country; of a fruitful future that offers equal opportunities to all individuals, groups, and geographical areas, and where all people are equal in rights and duties, we [Hizbullah] will continue to work so that the following will materialise:

- Establish the “National Body for the Abolishment of Political Sectarianism”.
- Accord special attention to the youth in order to activate their role in the public and political life, and founding specialised centres in order to rehabilitate them on different levels or scales.
- Strengthen the role of women and open the doors for them to participate in the building and activation of public life.
- Enact an election law that is conducive to the development of political life and which gives chance to be a better representation that is based on political programs according to proportional representation, and reduce the voting age [from 21] to 18 in order to offer the opportunity for the youth to express their genuine nationalistic choices.
- Strengthen the role of political parties, the institutions of civil society, and the associations and syndicates [that are engaged in] the public life.
- Develop surveillance and accountability bodies, and activate their role away from the politics of arbitrary decisions and the centres of power.

- Accomplish administrative and political reform, and fight and prevent corruption and waste.
- Accomplish an administrative decentralisation law.
- Accomplish a new and modern naturalisation law.

#### 5. *Educational [Pedagogical] and cultural issues*

- Strengthen public education and increase the efficiency in the teachers' roles; furnish the schools with the necessary equipment in order to be able to cope with the implementation of the new educational curricula; make the educational opportunity available to all walks of life, especially the poor and deprived; give the proper attention and care to the deprived areas in this respect.
- Accord serious attention to vocational education according to market demand.
- Develop the Lebanese University and activate its role; encourage specialised scientific studies and research.
- Enact [a law making] religious education an obligatory subject in both public and private schools.
- Reactivate the National Union of the Students of the Lebanese University.

#### 6. *Social and health issues*

- Put a just end to the displaced file or dossier, with particular attention to the special circumstances of the displaced in light of the [Israeli] occupation and "Zionist" attacks.
- Develop and activate the institutions of social care that all strata of society are in need of, especially social security; reconsider and re-evaluate social security's legislations in order to increase the benefits and the circle of the services so that they extend to all Lebanese strata [and not only those registered in social security] and contribute with the available social security's money to economic development and addressing the housing problem.
- Increase and expand social benefits and public services based on a well-studied plan in order to help the families residing in Lebanon, because 40% of these families are poor or deprived and live below the poverty line. That is why it is incumbent upon [the state] to provide a dignified way of living for these families.

- Constructively remedying the social problem according to a general developmental-economic vision in order to root it out.
- Put into practice the old-age retirement plan, and improve it for the benefit of the citizen.<sup>69</sup>
- Develop the state hospitals, and extend social security to cover all hospitalisation cases pertaining to the poor strata.
- Continue to deal with the loopholes that resulted from the naturalisation decree.
- Reform and develop the prisons, and establish and universally introduce rehabilitation centres; place mandatory safeguards in order to uphold ethical norms, moral values, and public mores, in all domains, especially in the media; launch national conscious-raising campaigns aimed at reducing the crime rate.
- Work on placing practical plans, which are conducive in solving the difficult and severe housing problem.
- Place the necessary programs and plans aimed at providing total, safe, and real care for the children.
- Encourage private initiative and work; ensure the availability of work for Lebanese manual labour; work for putting an end to the aggravated unemployment problem.

## 7. *Environmental issues*

- Develop and organise recycling plants for sanitary sewer water, and continue the installation of sanitary sewer networks.
- Put accurate, scientific plans in order to deal with the issue of "solid" garbage.
- Work on preserving forestry; launch a campaign to plant trees in all geographical areas in order to face desertification; legislate the necessary laws in order to protect forestry and establish natural conservations.
- Activate the role of municipalities in the environmental activities.
- Universally introduce a general guided program for the planning gravel and rock excavation and appropriation.
- Activate the institutions that cater for consumer protection through increased control and supervision on domestic and imported goods in order to ensure their validity and quality.
- Increase supervision and control the way factories dispose their chemical waste; legislate laws that protect the environment, especially the rivers, sea, and underground waterbeds, from the dangers of pollution.

**Dear dignified Lebanese,**

By counting on you, and with our confidence in the loyalty and consciousness of our populace that has given and sacrificed a lot, we boldly embark upon [participate in] the elections, renewing the oath to dispense all efforts and potentials [do our best] within the narrow confines of the parliament and outside it, in every place and domain, "to serve you with our eyebrows" – as the leader of the martyrs of the Islamic Resistance, al-Sayyid Abbas al-Musawi, may God have mercy on his soul – and to continue, with you, our march in order to achieve all our goals that we all aspire for, our election program, as an avant-garde.

God is behind the intention.

Hizbullah.