

**Lebanese Ministry of Information
Course of action within six months**

In the twenty-first century, we can no longer rely on ancient techniques to keep pace with the future and its ever-growing challenges, especially within the scope of the media sector, which now heavily relies on modern technological tools, such as digital platforms, to deliver news to the farthest corners of planet earth — in a matter of seconds. Accordingly, the Ministry of Information’s vision has been to exert relentless efforts to bolster the media sector, both public and private, and to empower it in a way which enables it to confront the increasing challenges of the modern era.

The Ministry’s vision also aims to serve the state and its goals, without compromising media freedoms, whilst simultaneously protecting the work of media professionals.

**Dr. Manal Abdel Samad Najd
Minister of Information**

#	Item	Beginning date	End date	Description
1	Strategic plan for Ministry of Information	February 2020	June 2020	<p>A strategic plan has been developed based on proposals by a committee formed by the Ministry of Information for this purpose. The committee includes media professionals, academics, specialists, and legal professionals.</p> <p>The strategic plan is summarized as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Replacing the Ministry of Information and the National Media Council by a media regulatory body to organize the public and private media sectors, which completes independence and executive powers. * Establishing a unified, digital, independent and modernized platform for state media titled <i>Liban Media</i> that includes the National News Agency, Radio Lebanon, and Tele Liban. This platform aims to unify media efforts in state media institutions and reduce the financial cost. * Establishing a state office for communication affairs to ensure inter-ministerial and government people communication.
2	Setting up mechanism at Ministry of Information to train university students and media professionals (internship)	February 2020	July 2020	Minister's decision has been issued in the wake of the State Shura Council's approval.
3	Editors' Syndicate project law	March 2020	May 2020	<p>Draft law has been reformulated to expand enrolments to Editors' Syndicate and to transform it into a journalists' hub which gathers workers from the print, audiovisual, and digital media.</p> <p>The draft law has been referred by the MoI to the Editors' Syndicate for the latter's opinion.</p>

4	Revamping Ministry of Information's electronic website	March 2020	Completed	The Ministry of Information's website has been re-launched in a new and interactive form and content. A page has been added to spread Coronavirus news, information, and statistics, and another page has been added to check fake news (Fact Check Lebanon).
5	<p>Launch of a series of awareness campaigns on the dangers of the novel Coronavirus in cooperation with the Army Command-Directorate of Orientation and the Ministry of Public Health (through two hashtags #مَش مزحة and #معا), and with the UNICEF and WHO.</p> <p>Launch of a page on the Ministry of Information's website to follow up on Coronavirus news "corona.ministryinfo.gov.lb"</p> <p>Compilation of verified list of rumors (Rumors Log)</p> <p>Launch of an awareness campaign through special video clips for people with special needs in cooperation with associations and specialists</p>	March 2020	Ongoing	Several measures have been taken as part of media awareness campaigns on the novel Coronavirus. Special video clips have been published in this context, which include sign language videos for the deaf and the mute.
6	<p>Launch of awareness videos with the hashtag "صححوا المعلومة"</p> <p>Training of editors and reporters from the National News Agency (NNA) to verify fake news, in cooperation with Agence France-Presse (AFP)</p>	March 2020	Partnership ongoing	Several measures have been taken to combat fake news and rumors within the framework of a partnership with WHO, UNICEF, and UNDP.

	<p>A forum was held about combatting fake news with the participation of Lebanese and foreign journalists, politicians, psychologists, as well as representatives from the United Nations, Facebook, Twitter, CNN, AFP and others</p> <hr/> <p>Launch of a page through the National News Agency's website to verify fake news: Factchecklebanon.nna-leb.gov.lb</p>			
7	Distance learning on Tele Liban	March 2020	End of June 2020	In contribution to the Ministry of Education's campaign, which was launched through the Educational Center for Research and Development, 300 hours were allocated on Tele Liban, during which 600 episodes (30minutes each) were broadcasted.
8	Establishment of National Media Academy	March 2020	Project underway	Draft agreement to be signed with UNESCO has been prepared, along with engineering maps for this project.
9	Preservation of the archives of Tele Liban, and all the Ministry of Information's directorates	March 2020	Project underway	A committee was formed to manage the archives and liaise with the French Institute for Audiovisual Archives (INA France) and the National Archives Foundation (Lebanon) to follow up on the digital archiving project of the Ministry of Information and Tele Liban.

10	Series of consultative meetings on the financial rescue plan and economic reform	April 2020	April 2020	A series of consultative meetings (Town Hall meetings) were organized at the Grand Serail, bringing together economic and financial experts, as well as civil society organizations to discuss and formulate recommendations. These recommendations were later submitted in a detailed report to the Council of Ministers.
11	Appointment of Tele Liban's Chairperson	April 2020	Project underway	A three-stage mechanism has been put in place to appoint a Chairperson for Tele Liban's Board of Directors. The first and second screening processes have been completed and have resulted in 45 qualified candidates to conduct the oral interview, according to which the Minister of Information selects 3 names and submits them to the Council of Ministers.

12	Amendment of media law proposal and referring it to head of Administration and Justice Committee	May 2020	September 2020	<p>Fundamental amendments have been made to the media law proposal as per the formula received from the Administration and Justice Parliamentary Committee, and based on the proposals of the Ministry of Information's committee, which includes media professionals, jurists, and specialists. The amendments proposal has been submitted to the Administration and Justice Parliamentary Committee.</p> <p>The most prominent modifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Law unit (written, audiovisual, and electronic). * Remove the term media crimes and replace it with media acts. * Excluding special media-related verdicts from the criminal record. * Abolishing prison sentences for media professionals and replacing them with a financial penalty. * Respect for the international human rights law and observance of international standards for freedom of opinion and expression. <p>The Minister of Information handed over the amended version of the media law proposal to the head of the Parliamentary Administration and Justice Committee and asked of him to approve it as soon as possible for the benefit of the sector.</p>
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13	Project law to exempt media institutions from fees and accumulated arrears	May 2020	Completed	The Ministry of Information has referred to the Council of Ministers a draft law which calls for exempting the media from fees and accumulated arrears.
14	Establishment of a "Media Incubator"	May 2020	Project underway	Work is underway on a project to establish a "Media Incubator" to encouraging media production in Lebanon through a series of legal, technical, and professional incentives (such as tax exemptions, studio rentals, etc...).
15	Law proposal to grant Ministry of Information employees full-time contracts	May 2020	Project underway	The Minister of Information partook in a number of consultative meetings by the Media and Communications Parliamentary Committee, where she discussed her proposal to allow the Ministry of Information's employees to benefit from the state's retirement system and the Cooperative of Government Employees.
16	Follow-up on Tele Liban's court files that have been pending for more than 15 years	May 1, 2020	Project underway	The necessary correspondence has been made with the Council of Ministers to resolve legal disputes against Tele Liban, along with proposals that result in financial savings in favor of the Lebanese Treasury. The proposal also suggests the release of Tele Liban's seized assets.

17	Memorandum of Understanding with Ministry of Industry	June 22, 2020	Completed	The memorandum, which has been signed, includes an agreement to work on marketing an industrial plan, as well as encouraging investments and local production. The MoU also highlights the importance of the media industry and industrial media through media campaigns organized by the Ministry of Information.
18	Inauguration of transmission station for Radio Lebanon in Shoukin – South Lebanon	June 2020	Project underway	The new station aims to strengthen Radio Lebanon’s transmission in South Lebanon.
19	Application of “Right to Information” law	July 28, 2020	Ongoing	After the issuance of the draft decree N ^o 6940 dated 8/9/2020 to implement the ““Right to Information” Law No. 28 dated 10/2/2017, the Ministry of Information was keen on publishing all texts and information that the public has the right to access; it also assigned a specialized information officer to answer the questions and requests.
20	Establishment of three departments at the Ministry of Information: *Informatics Department *Electronic and Digital Media Department *Communication and Dialogue Department		August 2020	Decree No. 6845 has been issued to establish these three departments with the aim of developing mechanization, regulating digital media, and enhancing internal and external communication.
21	Possibility of enabling private radio stations to make use of Radio Lebanon’s transmission towers		Project underway	Several meetings have been held with the Ministry of Communications and other stakeholders for this purpose.
22	Handling pending dossiers of contractual workers		Completed	A number of pending dossiers dating back to previous years have been resolved for the benefit of contractual technicians at Radio Lebanon.
23	Cooperation mechanism between the	August 2020	Cooperation	A mechanism has been prepared to develop joint

	Ministry of Information and Tele Liban		Ongoing	work between the Ministry of Information and Tele Liban in a bid to make use of both institutions' human and material elements to achieve the best productivity -- at the lowest cost possible.
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