

Miqati sets conditions for return to power

Caretaker Prime Minister Najib Miqati said that he would only accept to return at the head of a new government if certain conditions were met.

“If I said that I didn’t want to stay in power, I would be lying. But I have learned from past experiences that [I] can only return when specific factors, not conditions, are met,” Miqati was quoted as saying by *An-Nahar* newspaper in a meeting with the media on Tuesday evening at the Grand Serail in Beirut.

“My main condition is to secure consensus, and this is necessary to complete the rescue operation that the country needs today.”

The caretaker PM also said that he will not accept to lead a new government that would only be responsible for overseeing the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Miqati tendered his resignation last week after the cabinet failed to approve the formation of a supervisory electoral body and did not vote on the extension of the tenure of Internal Security Forces chief Ashraf Rifi.

Talks have emerged since regarding the nature of the new cabinet, with the Kataeb Party calling for a salvation government, the Free Patriotic Movement backing a coalition cabinet, and the Future Movement advocating the formation of a neutral government.