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## Lebanon's new President vows to rebuild and strengthen borders after Israeli aggression



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BEIRUT, (QNA) January 9 – In his first address after taking the constitutional oath of office, Lebanon's newly elected President Joseph Aoun pledged to rebuild areas damaged by Israeli aggression and to initiate efforts for long-term political reforms. Speaking during his swearing-in ceremony on Thursday, Aoun emphasized that Lebanon had entered a new phase in its history, with a focus on recovery and stability.

Aoun made a strong commitment to reconstruct the southern regions, Beirut's suburbs, the Beqaa Valley, and other areas affected by recent Israeli attacks. He stressed the urgent need to reform Lebanon's political practices, particularly by ensuring the independence of the judiciary and preventing external interference.

"I will work with the new government to pass a law ensuring judicial independence and challenge any legislation that violates our constitution," said Aoun, outlining his vision for a collaborative governance model. He also called for parliamentary consultations to quickly appoint a prime minister who would act as a partner, not an adversary.

The president highlighted the need for securing Lebanon's southern borders and demarcating its eastern and northern boundaries. Aoun reaffirmed his commitment to the military, ensuring it plays a central role in securing Lebanon's territorial integrity and implementing international resolutions to deter Israeli aggressions.

In his speech, Aoun also pledged to enhance Lebanon's security forces to maintain law and order and emphasized the importance of a comprehensive defense strategy that combines diplomatic, economic, and military elements.

Additionally, the president called for renewed dialogue with Syria to address unresolved issues, including the fate of missing persons and displaced citizens.

Earlier on Thursday, the Lebanese Parliament officially elected Army Commander Joseph Aoun as president, ending a two-year presidential vacuum.