



**REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORT AND YOUTH**

September 6, 2023

**Address by the Minister of Education, Sport and Youth,
Dr Athena Michaelidou, at the inauguration ceremony
of the American University of Beirut - Mediterraneo**

Wednesday, 6 September 2023, 6.00 p.m., Pafos

Distinguished Guests,

It is my great pleasure to be here with you today to share an important milestone for the American University of Beirut, with the official opening of the Mediterraneo Campus in Cyprus. This constitutes a significant event for our country and a testament to our commitment to academic excellence and cultural exchange. This momentous occasion marks a culmination of dedication, collaboration, and a shared vision for education that transcends borders.

We welcome the American University of Beirut – Mediterraneo in Cyprus, which is the first satellite campus of AUB located outside Lebanon. The American University of Beirut, with a rich legacy spanning over 157 years, has influenced the lives of thousands of students and left its mark based on its global reputation as an academic institution. It is renowned for its dedication to providing a world-class education and fostering an environment of innovation, research, and critical thinking. With the official opening of this esteemed Higher Education Institution in Cyprus, we are opening new avenues for students seeking access to high-quality education.

Education is the cornerstone of progress, and it is through knowledge that we can build a better future. The establishment of The American University of Beirut – Mediterraneo in Pafos is a significant step forward in our collective pursuit of excellence in education. It will empower our students to explore, question, and contribute to the advancement of knowledge and understanding.

Higher Education in Cyprus has made tremendous progress over the recent years and continues to develop with the establishment of new Higher Education Institutions. Our commitment to academic excellence and the provision of high-quality Higher Education leads

to the establishment of more universities, establishing Cyprus as a regional, as well as an international, educational, technological and research centre of excellence.

Higher Education has a significant role to play in the economic and social development of a country. It is considered the vehicle through which citizens acquire the skills and competences that society and economy need in order to remain competitive and innovative. The opening of new universities contributes to the further enhancement of the financial development of our country. As our universities stand among the world's top universities in the global ranking system, more investors are attracted to invest in Higher Education in Cyprus.

The American University of Beirut – Mediterraneo offers programs of study which all have been evaluated and accredited by the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Higher Education. It is designed to be a hub of inquiry and innovation where students will be engaged in groundbreaking research that addresses the challenges and opportunities of our time. The knowledge and skills imparted will not only benefit the graduates but also improve our society as a whole.

Cyprus and Lebanon share historical, cultural, and economic ties. The American University of Beirut Mediterraneo will serve as a bridge between our countries, fostering collaboration and friendship between our academic communities. It is our hope that this partnership will continue to grow and flourish, enriching both our societies.

I wish to express our appreciation to the American University of Beirut for choosing Cyprus as the location of its first campus outside Lebanon thus recognizing our commitment to academic excellence. We pledge our support in ensuring the success and growth of the American University of Beirut – Mediterraneo.

Concluding, I would like to ask everyone to embrace this remarkable occasion as a token of our shared commitment to education, collaboration, and the pursuit of knowledge. Together, let us celebrate the opening of this prestigious university and embrace the countless opportunities it will bring. May the University of Beirut Mediterraneo be a beacon of enlightenment, hope, and inspiration fostering a brighter future for generations to come.

Congratulations to all who contributed to the realization of this endeavour.

Thank you, and let the pursuit of knowledge take its course...





