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## KUFPEC confirms 'largest ever' gas discovery

KUWAIT: Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC), on behalf of its wholly owned subsidiary KUFPEC Malaysia (SK-410B) Limited, confirmed yesterday its largest-ever hydrocarbons discovery. According to a KUFPEC press release, obtained by KUNA, the company said that this discovery was proven by the Lang Lebah-2 appraisal well in the SK-410B Block located approximately 90 kilometers offshore Sarawak, Malaysia. The appraisal drilling campaign followed the successful drilling of the first exploration well, Lang Lebah-1RDR2, in the SK 410B Block in 2019, indicated KUFPEC. "KUFPEC Malaysia (SK-410B) Limited holds a 42.5 percent working interest under the PSC, with PETRONAS Carigali Sdn. Bhd. and PTTEP HK Offshore Limited (as operator) holding 15 percent and 42.5 percent working interests, respectively," KUFPEC said. It went on to say that, "The appraisal drilling in Lang Lebah-2 was completed at a total depth of 4320 meters, with over 600 meters of proven net gas pay."

The well was tested and flowed at 50 million cubic feet of gas per day with a significant amount of gas in place, indicating a substantially larger reservoir than the initial estimate. This result will accelerate the development plan for the project. "This successful world-class gas discovery is a testament to our steadfast efforts to maximize the value to our shareholder by exploring for hydrocarbons in highly prolific basins," said KUFPEC CEO Shaikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah. "KUFPEC played a strong and active role in maturing the prospect that led to a giant discovery. I am proud of our team," he added. KUFPEC is an international upstream company engaged in exploration, development and production of crude oil and natural gas outside the State of Kuwait and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC). — KUNA

# Editors-in-chief discuss proposed amendments to Kuwait media laws

'Current laws are restrictive towards the media'



KUWAIT: Editors-in-chief of daily newspapers and their representatives meet at Al-Anbaa newspaper.

KUWAIT: Editors-in-chief of daily newspapers and their representatives held a meeting at Al-Anbaa newspaper in the presence of Kuwait Journalists Association to discuss the proposed amendments to media laws, as requested by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah during their meeting with him lately.

The editors-in-chief presented the ideas they see necessary to improve performance in the field of media. They said some of the current

laws have many flaws, such as strictness in referral to courts, in addition to contradiction in some items, particularly over the issue of fines. The attendees said current laws are criticized by the media over many aspects, as some of them refer suspects to other stricter laws, or settlements are not allowed.

They also discussed the issue of obsolescence in implementing cases and differences of periods mentioned in some laws, in addition to texts that restrict courts from reducing punish-

ments. The existence of loose legal texts incriminates media institutions and their employees without clarity, as mentioned in national unity laws and other legislations.

The editors-in-chief insisted that current laws are restrictive towards the media, especially in the field of electronic media, which has become of great interest to the public, adding that it is necessary to carry out amendments that contribute to the enhancement of the media sector and not restrict it.



Editors-in-chief of daily newspapers pose for a group picture following their meeting.

## Limak hosts Turkish Minister at new airport terminal site

KUWAIT: The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, Mevlut Cavusoglu, accompanied by the Ambassador of Turkey in the State of Kuwait, Ayse Hilal Sayan Koytak, visited the New Kuwait Airport Terminal 2 (T2) construction site on Tuesday to monitor the progress carried out by the Turkish company Limak. The minister and the ambassador were welcomed by key representatives from the Turkish company including Limak CEO and Board Member Feyiz Genc and Limak Insaat Kuwait SPC Country Manager Kayihan Bagdatli, before undergoing a briefing session of the \$4.3 billion terminal project and \$559 million car park.



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KUWAIT: SME owners, supporters, and advocates meet with First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamad Al-Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah.

## SME recovery plans on the officials' table

KUWAIT: Kuwait's SME owners have been invited to various meetings with officials in response to the recent protest that took place by Kuwaiti entrepreneurs and owners of small enterprises against the decision made by the government to close various sectors of businesses during the partial lockdown. A series of meetings were conducted between various SME owners, supporters, and advocates with state officials including Marzouq Al-Ghanem, Speaker of National Assembly, Sheikh Hamad Al-Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, and Mohammad Al-Saqer, President of Kuwait's Chamber of Commerce and Industry in addition to other officials discussing various solutions for the SME crisis in Kuwait.

In an official statement, Dawood Marafie, former Chairman of the Association of SMEs in Kuwait, and one of the protestors who supported the calls of SME owners, stated that a list of requests and proposals were provided in the meetings with the officials including:

- 1- Reopening all closed commercial activities while ensuring the implementation of the state's health guidelines. Businesses that violate the health restrictions are to be closed.
- 2- Compensate suspended businesses by:

- Paying the salaries registered in the system of the Public Authority for Manpower in Kuwait.

- Paying the businesses' rents that are registered under the Public Authority of Manpower or Civil Information.

- Exempt the businesses from electricity, water, telecommunication, membership fees of the Ashal program of the workforce, Kuwaiti allowance, residence fees, stamp fees, license renewal fees, municipality fees (billboards, health cards for workers, and any other fees related to activities), and from all state fees related to closed activities.

3- Postpone the installments of the Industrial Bank and the National Fund for a period of one to two years without carrying over the interest, and this support will continue throughout the closing period and for a year after reopening the activities.

Marafie praised the efforts of the SME owners in Kuwait who are currently exploring various solutions with the officials to the crisis. He also explained that the recovery and survival of this sector cannot be sustained through the government only. Other entities such as the private sector, international grantees and organizations, and civil societies must be involved. Accordingly, a recovery plan is being drafted and will be presented to the government, private sector entities, and international grantees for support.



Dawood Marafie

## Kuwait, New Zealand discuss bilateral cooperation

KUWAIT: Kuwait and New Zealand yesterday held the first online meeting of the joint-cooperation committee, where a number of regional and international issues of common interest were discussed. The two sides also focused on ways to enhance cooperation in various fields, most notably food security, economy and digital trade, in addition to the environment, higher education, sustainable development, health and community investigation to limit the spread of the COVID-19. In a statement to the press, Assistant Foreign Minister for Americas Affairs Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan noted that the meeting constituted a valuable opportunity for the foreign ministries of the two countries to exchange

views and discuss ways to develop bilateral relations.

Mashaan said that the meeting comes in line with the directives of the Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, and with the close follow-up of the Deputy Foreign Minister, to strengthen bilateral relations with brotherly and friendly countries. Moreover, he expressed his satisfaction with the meeting results, which he described as fruitful, indicating that this meeting laid foundations that constitute a new start to strengthen bilateral relations and allowed senior officials of the two countries to communicate despite the circumstances of the coronavirus pandemic.

Mashaan praised the active participation of 15 Kuwaiti government agencies in the meeting and the submission of a number of draft memoranda of understanding for signature in areas such as environment and development. The meeting was held in activation of the memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries in July 2018 regarding the establishment of a joint committee for cooperation, which is held once every two years. —KUNA