

MUNICIPALITY TO LAY OFF UNDERPERFORMING MANAGERS

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmed Al-Manfouhi stressed that the municipality will lay off 'managers' who do not do their jobs according to laws and regulations. He made his statements during a press conference yesterday to launch and follow up the municipality's plans on facilitating the procedures of issuing advertisement licenses, health licenses and health certificates.



KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmed Al-Manfouhi speaks during the press conference. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Responding to a question about removing camps on the conclusion of the camping season, Manfouhi said that citizens who do not remove their camps will not be refunded the deposit paid to license the camp. Commenting on the controversy about allowing barbecuing in public places, Manfouhi said that the topic was still subject for discussion with the Environment Public Authority (EPA) and Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR). Manfouhi said that the municipality had signed a partnership agreement with the World Bank with the aim of developing it. "We need to administratively revolutionize the

municipality and reduce paperwork and shift to online transactions," he underlined, noting that the municipality would stop accepting paper and manual transactions soon.

Dangerous situations

MP Yousef Al-Zalzal stressed that in view of specialized economists' confirmations about the Kuwaiti currency's purchasing power and likelihood that it would fall, this will lead to dangerous economic situations unless the government made a package of economic and financial decisions. "We are facing two bitter choices - either to reject the government's proposed electricity consumption tariffs, which will cause the Kuwaiti dinar to lose much of its value and prices to jump by 20 percent, or to pass the proposal and overburden citizens," he said.

Speaking to visitors at his diwaniya, Zalzal stressed that the proposed electricity prices were more than twice compared to the current ones and said that the government had been warned by IMF that unless it made financial and economic decisions, it would have to reduce the Kuwaiti currency's purchasing power. He added that the speaker of the house had recently met IMF and told them about the proposed new electricity prices and that the project was still being discussed. "We are number one worldwide in electricity and water consumption and this means that something is wrong," he underlined, calling for making wealthy people living in palaces who leave lights on around the clock to pay the new prices. He also called for holding government bodies accountable for wasteful consumption rates, not overburdening citizens with limited and medium incomes and not to impose 'indirect' taxes on them in the form of electricity bills. Commenting on the issue of discovering people with fake Kuwaiti citizenships, Zalzal said the problem started long ago after the liberation when the Interior Ministry had non-trustworthy data entry employees who were behind forging those citizenships. He added that the real number of 'fake' citizens was much more than the number of 3,100 declared by the Interior Ministry.



Assistant Undersecretary for Correctional Facilities Affairs Major General Khalid Al-Dayeen tours an exhibition held on the sidelines of the forum.

INTERIOR MINISTRY ORGANIZES 'IDEOLOGICAL TERRORISM' FORUM

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior held an 'ideological terrorism and anti-hatred' forum yesterday which focused on the younger generation. The event was attended by school students and young cadets of the police academy. Assistant Undersecretary for Correctional Facilities Affairs Major General Khalid Al-Dayeen said Kuwait is proactive in taking all anti-terrorism precautions. "Such forums are very important as they discuss different issues, especially protective procedures. We had suspicions of terrorist sympathies among some prisoners, so we took action and launched a program for the prisoners in cooperation with other institutions. It is now being applied for the second year and it's very successful," he noted.

He also defined ideological terrorism as suppression of differing opinions and gagging freedom. "This is reflected in aggressive behavior due to extremism and fanaticism that is contrary to the Holy Quran and hadiths of our Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), who said that who attacks us with a weapon is not one of us.

This was behind setting a plan to defeat ideological terrorism and fight black flag holders along with wrong concepts. And after this terrorism attracted many youth, the ministry took the responsibility to spread the ideology of moderation to prevent negative aspects.



KUWAIT: Assistant Undersecretary for Correctional Facilities Affairs Major General Khalid Al-Dayeen speaks at the forum. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat and the Interior Ministry

We took these steps at the prison as well," added Dayeen.

The ministry of interior is keen to develop the skills of its staff. "We believe that knowledge and practical skills are important to fight crime, especially cybercrime. So we always provide continuous training for our staff and are able to prevent many crimes from happening," he concluded.

National unity

The daughter of a martyr who died during the Iraqi invasion in 1990 spoke about the

importance of national unity and said that her father who was killed during a battle at Qura House was a Kuwaiti Shiite and was cooperating with his friends, who also died in the battle, and they were Kuwaiti Sunnis. "There are no differences over sects or religions - we are all nationals of the same country," she stated.

A documentary about various terrorist attacks was also shown, including photos of the terrorist attacks on the convoy of the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad in 1985 and the bombing of traditional cafes in Salmiya and Kuwait City in the same year.

It also mentioned the hijacking of the 'Al Jabriya' aircraft in 1988, a kidnap attempt on a former US president when he visited Kuwait in 1993, terrorist attacks in Salmiya and Um Al-Haiman in 2005, the bombing of Al-Sadiq Mosque last year and the arrest of the 'Abdali' terrorist cell, also in 2015.

Dr Abdullah Noufal, Head of the Option National Group, highlighted the importance of this forum to fight extremism and terrorism. "Terrorism is attacking various countries and is spread all over the world, and Kuwait also witnessed such destructive activities. We have gathered here today to find a way to fight terrorism and hatred in our society that damaged our beautiful world. We should spread tolerance and love to build a country that's safe for everyone," he pointed out.

KGOC UNION REJECTS BILL

KUWAIT: Secretary of Kuwait Gulf Oil Company's (KGOC) employees syndicate Thamer Mohammed Al-Omairah stressed the syndicate's total rejection of a new law prepared by the government to regulate union work.

Omairah added in a statement that the bill presented to the oil sector employees' union includes many mistakes and violations. "After reviewing it,

the syndicate addressed the union and demanded that it does not pass because it is against international unionist standards and agreements signed by Kuwait," he said. "The law should be agreed upon by all labor unions," he added, noting that the fact that the bill was prepared by the Manpower Public Authority is considered an unacceptable interference in union work.

HCA NHS Ventures



Committed to collaboration

HCA NHS Ventures is a subsidiary of HCA International which was set up in 2006, the HCA NHS Ventures division leads on private partnerships with NHS Trusts across the country.

Harley Street at UCH is a joint partnership with top teaching hospital University College London Hospital, formed in 2006. Based on level 15 in the tower at UCLH, the 18 bed acute facility is a specialist cancer centre for complex and rare conditions. Patient rooms are private and en-suite offering panoramic views across London. We offer medical and surgical care including day case chemotherapy and a comprehensive JACIE accredited bone marrow and stem cell transplant service one of only a few in the UK. The centre offers the pioneering cord blood transplant, this treatment significantly widens the opportunity to find a suitable unrelated donor particularly beneficial for international patients.

The Young Person's Unit at Harley Street at UCH is the only private teenage cancer unit in Europe, treating any form of cancer in 13-19 year olds and further establishes the relationship with UCLH. The 6 bedded Unit treats all kinds of cancers and provides high quality care. All rooms are private and en-suite with views across central London. There are facilities in each room for a parent or guardian to stay with patients throughout their treatment and international entertainment packages, including internet access to keep in touch with friends and family abroad. Patients also have access to educational facilities and an entertainment lounge. 5* catering is provided with specially adapted menus to suit international patient requirements.

State-of-the-art technology includes the revolutionary TrueBeam STxTM, the latest radiotherapy and radiosurgical equipment which the most advanced linear accelerator in the world and is the first of its kind to be installed in the UK.

Harley Street at Queen's is a joint partnership with Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals Trust, based at Queen's Hospital Romford, offering advanced cancer, neurosurgical and general surgery treatment. It is the only centre of its kind in Essex and includes a dedicated High Dependency Unit, Chemotherapy Day Care Unit and advanced radiotherapy through a dedicated linear accelerator including

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IMRT and RapidArc™ technology. Harley Street at Queen's offers advanced state-of-the-art treatment in the most comfortable of surroundings.

The Christie Clinic is the latest HCA NHS Venture and a partnership with The Christie NHS Foundation Trust in Manchester. The £35million development houses a state-of-the-art cancer clinic with 34 inpatient rooms, 10 chemotherapy chairs, advanced radiotherapy, sophisticated operating theatres and private patient pharmacy. This impressive facility takes the HCA standard of care outside of London to Manchester and the North of England. Located in the heart of Manchester The Christie Clinic offers light and airy private en-suite rooms, with international entertainment packages and is in close proximity to the city centre.



RENEWABLE ENERGY TO COVER 15% OF KUWAIT'S CONSUMPTION BY 2030

GCC STATES TO INVEST \$100 BILLION IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

KUWAIT: Renewable energy is to cover 15 percent of Kuwait's consumption by 2030, said Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa. Kuwait supports all efforts by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) that promote global usage of the power, Essa said in an opening speech of the 6th Middle East and North Africa Renewable Energy Conference (MENAREC 6) on Monday night.

The conference is organized by Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) and the Energy and Building Research Centre (EBRC) in partnership with the IRENA and the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) of Germany.

"Kuwait is working on facilitating the transfer of renewable energy techniques, as well as providing applications and policies to tackle current challenges, mainly pollution and global warming," said Minister Essa. He pointed out that the State of Kuwait is methodologically and voluntarily, contributing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as well as attempting to diversify energy sources through major projects by KISR.

Minister of Water and Electricity Ahmad Al-Jassar said meanwhile that securing energy sources is one of the major challenges facing the MENA region. Kuwait, according to Jassar, is considered of the top water and electricity consumer countries due its geographical location, hot temperature during the summer and urban expansion. This led the ministry to discover new and innovative ways to clean energy, including solar, he said.

\$100 billion

Meanwhile, Director-General of Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) Dr Samira Ahmad Omar said that Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states plan to pump up to \$100 billion into renewable energy projects over the coming two decades.

Such robust funding aims to meet the growing energy consumption in the GCC states, estimated at three percent a year, Dr Omar said in a speech at the opening ceremony. She attributed the increasing demand for energy to economic transformations, including the tendency towards establishing industrial and service bases, and the growth of population.

"The environmental challenges relating to pollution and global warming left us with no choice other than relying heavily on clean and renewable

energy, which is the focus of energy research circles worldwide," she stressed.

"The GCC states, as well as other countries in the Middle East and Africa, have promising opportunities in the field of exploitation of the solar energy given the fact that they enjoy equatorial climate and sun shining rates of 1,400 to 1,800 hours a year," she went on.

The State of Kuwait has been earliest countries that sought to tap into the renewable energy. In 1978 KISR designed and operated a pilot solar energy station with a generating capacity of 100 kilowatts," Dr Omar said, noting that the project was backed by Germany.

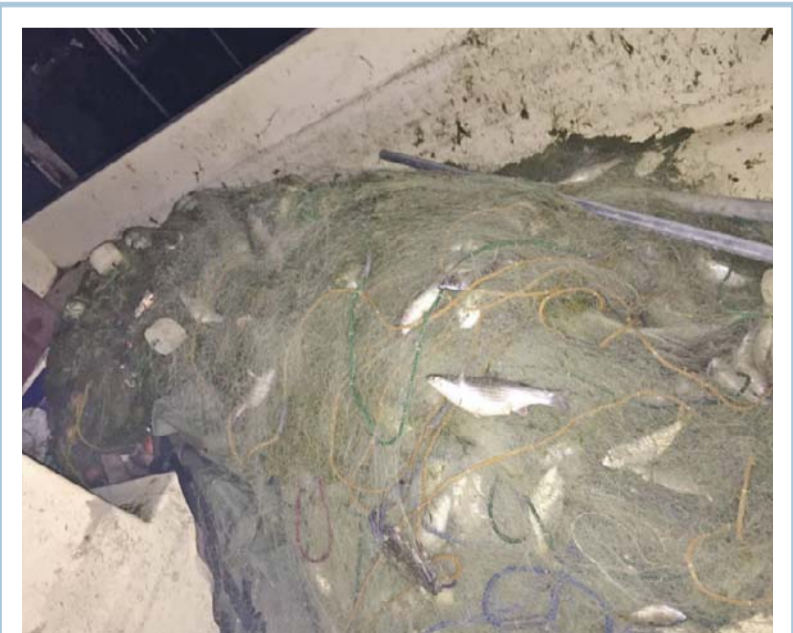
Al-Saqaya complex

KISR pursued researches into renewables and their utilization in seawater desalination and electricity generation. A few years ago, KISR launched Al-Saqaya renewable energy complex,

which covers an area of 100 sq km, with a compound capacity of 200,000 megawatts, she said, adding that the project will go operational by the end of 2016.

Executive director KISR's energy and construction research center Salem Al-Hajraf affirmed meanwhile that the domestication of renewable energies will have great impact on the economies of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

"Renewables will revitalize the economic growth and diversify the sources of economies through opening up new opportunities for the foreign investments in the industrial sector of the region and creating unconventional job opportunities for the youth," Hajraf, who is also chairman of higher committee of MENAREC-6, said. MENA region which is rich in fossil fuels enjoys unique opportunities in renewables, notably the solar energy resources, he added. — KUNA



BOAT IMPOUNDED FOR ILLEGAL FISHING

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Marine environment police caught a leisure boat fishing in Kuwait Bay in an off-limits area, using illegal fishing nets. A citation was issued and the boat was impounded.

Thieves caught
Hawally detectives arrested

two persons who stole mobile phones from picnickers at a Salwa park. Detectives received several complaints about a citizen and an Iraqi who stole phones of Salwa park patrons. A task force caught the two red-handed with two mobile phones. Both were found to be ex-convicts and both confessed to the thefts.