



## OOREDOO CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS DAY

CELEBRATION IN COOPERATION WITH MINISTRY OF STATE FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo, the fastest network in Kuwait in 2016, celebrated the International Volunteer Day in cooperation with the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs last Monday evening at the Amricani Cultural Center. This is the first event after the two entities signed a memorandum of understanding to join efforts in supporting Kuwaiti youth and to support the youth and their efforts.

The event was attended by a number of high ranking officials from the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs and the Ministry of Education including the Undersecretary of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs Sheikhha Al-Zain Al-Sabah and the Undersecretary of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs Mishaal Al-Subaai and Assistant Undersecretary for Education Development and General Manager of Night-time Educational Clubs, Faisal Al-Maqsid. Ooredoo was represented by Corporate Communications Senior Director



Mijbil Alayoub and his team.

A number of distinguished entities and volunteers were awarded for their contribution to volunteerism throughout the year

such as The Proteges, Ghaliyah Tech, Ata'a Hub, Spread the Passion, Ox Adventure, Noori Charitable Association, Huawei, Refood and other entities specialized in volunteerism. Social media influencers were also awarded including Abdulla Al-Jasser (Abodka), Mohammed Mirza and a number of Ooredoo employees such as Yousef Al-Hammar and Mishari Al-Fadhli. The event also included a round table discussion in the area of volunteerism with the participation of Yousef Al-Shallal, Senior Manager Corporate Social Responsibility and Sponsorships at Ooredoo Kuwait.

Commenting on the event, Mijbil Alayoub, Senior Director of Corporate Communications at Ooredoo Kuwait said "We're happy to be participating in such an event that focuses on youth and their efforts. Our social responsibility strategy places great emphasis on youth, and we took it upon ourselves in the past to raise awareness about the importance of volun-

teering when we started our volunteer program two years ago. The program succeeded in attracting hundreds of young men and women in Kuwait who were eager to find volunteering opportunities."

Alayoub added: "We have experienced this zeal and enthusiasm for giving and vol-

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unteering in our youth, and we strongly believe that youth in Kuwait have big ambition, and it is our role to support them. Our corporate social responsibility agenda focuses on supporting youth in different fields, throughout the year."

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tent was located across Ooredoo's head office in Soor Street, Kuwait City. Meals were served at the tent daily, and the distribution was operated by the volunteer groups affiliated with the Ooredoo Volunteer Program. The company highlighted its goal to encourage giving back to the community and to raise people's awareness about the importance of philanthropy and charity. Ooredoo believes that through these experiences, it will contribute to shaping a better generation of youth, who believe in giving unconditionally and volunteering to create change. Prior to the event, workshops were held last Sunday at the Abdulla Al-Salem Center for the Development of Future Leaders. The workshops were organized by Ooredoo, in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth. The workshops focused on the importance of the youth in the area of volunteering and its vitality for the future of our beloved Kuwait.



## THE NEW MERCEDES-AMG GLE 43 4MATIC COUPE ARRIVES IN KUWAIT



**KUWAIT:** Mercedes-AMG's attractive entry level sports model has arrived in Kuwait. Available at Abdul Rahman Albisher and Zaid Alkazemi Company, the authorised general distributor for Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait, the GLE 43 AMG 4MATIC CoupÉ is the third vehicle in this new line (the 43 series model) which offers an attractive entry point into the world of AMG performance.

With hallmark characteristics including the enhanced engine output by Mercedes-AMG and higher torque of the 3.0-litre biturbo engine, specific AMG suspension, Sports Direct-Steer system, nine-stage automatic transmission 9G-TRONIC and permanent all-wheel drive 4MATIC with rear-biased torque distribution of 40:60; the new V6 top model of the GLE series facilitates an impressive driving performance.

"Agile and sporty, the new GLE 43 AMG 4MATIC CoupÉ creates a highly emotive and appealing drive, with immediate and direct implementation of all driving commands. With acceleration, handling and top speed on par with those of sports saloons, Mercedes-AMG have taken yet another step towards making sports car technology accessible to a wider segment of the market," said Michael Ruehle, Chief Executive Officer, A.R. Albisher and Z. Alkazemi Company.

With a newly developed set-up for the drive system and suspension, the visual appearance is backed up by the technology. Together with the further developed DYNAMIC SELECT dynamic handling control, the SUV CoupÉ with up to five transmission modes offers multiple, completely different driving experiences - from superior comfort to exhilaratingly sporty - which can be changed depending on the driving situation.

The interventions occur via numerous parameters such as throttle response, load development, switch points, shift speed,

chassis, steering, engine sound or instrumentation. "Sport" and "Sport Plus" turn the GLE 43 AMG 4MATIC CoupÉ into a sporty, dynamic vehicle with pronounced longitudinal and transverse dynamics for plenty of fun at the wheel on winding stretches of road. The "Comfort" setting places an emphasis on relaxed, effortlessly superior cruising, plus an energy-efficient driving power, while "Slippery" mode optimises the handling on snow with low friction coefficients such as surfaces or ice. In addition, "Individual" mode enables the driver to programme and store personal preferences in the individual setting parameters, regardless of the engine variant.



Driving performance takes an entirely new shape in the GLE 43 CoupÉ, delivering the thrust of an AMG-enhanced biturbo V-6 via a sport-tuned chassis and drivetrain, and supported by an AMG sports exhaust system which controls the entire acoustic repertoire of the powerful racing sports car. Standard equipment for the Mercedes-AMG GLE 43 CoupÉ includes adaptive brake, attention assist, collision prevention assist plus and AMG performance 4 MATIC designed to provide a thrilling driving pleasure.

### Decidedly sporty design

The sportily striking AMG exterior design makes the enhanced performance discernible at first glance: the two chromed twin tailpipe trims and the black-painted, high-sheen (21-inch) 5-spoke light-alloy wheels, bi-turbo 4MATIC lettering on front wings, 43 Series specific AMG specific front and rear aprons, AMG logo on the right in

the upper radiator louvre and powerful and efficient 3.0 litre bi-turbo engine enhanced by Mercedes-AMG ensure a clear differentiation. The interior of the GLE 43 AMG 4MATIC CoupÉ is enhanced by the nappa leather sports steering wheel with its flattened bottom section, as well as the trim parts in light



longitudinal-grain aluminium and brushed stainless steel sports pedals with rubber studs. Sporty round dials on the instrument cluster, including a 280 km/h speedometer scale, signal pure dynamism even while the car is at a standstill. The sporty interior comprises elements from the AMG line interior.

### A perfect combination

Depending on the drive program, the nine-stage automatic transmission 9G-TRONIC changes gears with high agility and responsiveness and effortless calm. The potential of the new transmission is exploited to the full, offering an impressively high shift speed and perfect transitions for ener-

getic sprinting, as well as gentle, barely perceptible gear shifting for enjoyable travelling. The transmission's large kingpin inclination enables cruising with the lowest engine speed during relaxed driving, which simultaneously ensures optimum efficiency.

The AMG development engineers have

## POLITICAL RISK COULD PROMPT MORE ECB ACTION: ANALYST

**FRANKFURT AM MAIN:** The European Central Bank will offer further support tomorrow to a still-fragile eurozone recovery, analysts said, against a background of uncertainty over US President-elect Donald Trump, Brexit and political risks in Europe. Italians' rejection of constitutional reforms in a Sunday referendum did not roil markets as some observers had feared, but means that worries over one of Europe's weak spots will be prolonged-and will likely push the ECB to maintain its mass bond-buying program at this week's meeting.

"We don't have increased market uncertainty, but we have political uncertainty," ING Diba bank economist Carsten Brzeski told AFP. Growth and inflation remain on a slow upward path across the 19-nation eurozone, he pointed out. But doubts about Italy's ability to overhaul its economy and fears of anti-euro populists making gains in the next parliamentary elections will join other concerns dogging policymakers as they gather in Frankfurt for the last governing council meeting of 2016. "Geopolitical uncertainty has become the major source of uncertainty for the months to come," central bank president Mario Draghi warned MEPs in Brussels last week.

In the US, Trump's bombastic Twitter sallies on trade and relations with China have rattled observers in recent days. Britain's objectives for a deal with the EU after its June vote to quit the bloc remain opaque.

And 2017 will bring elections in heavyweight eurozone members France and Germany overshadowed by swelling populist forces. "So much uncertainty will be used by the ECB to extend quantitative easing," Brzeski said, referring to the bank's massive bond-buying program. "The Italian referendum is just a small part of it."

### Reliant on ECB

A mammoth package of unconventional monetary policy launched by the ECB in March pushed inflation in the eurozone to 0.6 percent by November-the highest level since April 2014 but still far short of the bank's target of just below 2.0 percent.

Policymakers insist that its cheap loans to banks, ultra-low interest rates and 80-billion-euro (\$85 billion) monthly bond purchases have stimulated growth and inflation. But Draghi last month acknowledged that what growth there is remains "highly reliant" on ECB support. Jump market reactions to a Bloomberg News report in October that the bank might begin "tapering", or winding down, QE mean the ECB is unlikely to broach the possibility on Thursday, Natixis bank economist Johannes Gareis told AFP. He expects Draghi to extend the asset-purchasing programme at the same rate for a further six months. "The bond markets are extremely nervous," ING Diba's Brzeski agreed. Hinting at tapering "runs the risk that this leads to another self-off and that interest rates go up," throttling the economic recovery by making access to credit more difficult, he said.

### The next move

Beyond extending quantitative easing, the ECB may adjust its self-imposed rules about the bonds it is allowed to buy. Feared shortages of eligible bonds have yet to bite, but changing the parameters "would stress the ECB's ability to act", Gareis said. Currently, the ECB cannot buy more than 33 percent of any issuer's bonds, cannot buy bonds with a yield below the interest rate banks pay on deposits (currently -0.4 percent), and must buy bonds in proportion to a country's share of the eurozone's gross domestic product. —AFP