



Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa



PAAET Director General Dr Ahmad Al-Athari



'SMART DEVELOPMENT' CUTS TIME, COST: MINISTER

KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa said yesterday that the technological development reduces administrative costs because it sums up the time and cost. Al-Essa made his remarks in a press statement during the opening of 'Heading Global 2016 Exhibition' organized by the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) with participation of 23 government bodies and private sector. The vision of the event is to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, he added.

Human resources

Meanwhile, PAAET Director General Dr Ahmad Al-Athari welcomed all those present at the Heading Global conference hosted by PAAET. He said human experience

has proved that material wealth alone is not enough to build a nation, and does not allow it to advance and flourish economically and socially, except by how much it has invested in its human resources. "Human resources are the result of what educational establishments produce, as they are the key to knowledge and the source of gaining skills and abilities.

Here we realize the important role of PAAET in developing human resources and readying citizens who can bear the responsibilities of national action in various development fields," Athari said. He said the authority has always looked for the sources of knowledge and science to participate in development, enhancing education quality and preparing skilled national manpower that can navigate the future with all its obstacles and difficulties.

Knowledge economy

In the meantime, the general coordinator of the conference Dr Najlaa Al-Faraj expressed appreciation to sponsoring companies that are well known in the service of the country. She said the conference topics revolve around the role of knowledge economy in developing the scientific, engineering, technological, industrial and health sectors to become pioneers in the national economy sectors. She said the conference has eight topics - smart cities, smart energy, smart transport, smart health, smart negotiations, smart environmental technology, smart society and smart work environment. Heading Global 2016 Exhibition is a three-day exhibition that aims to identify emerging opportunities and help formulate and implement successful smart sustainable and inclusive growth strategies, policies and practices. — Agencies



KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa, PAAET Director General Dr Ahmad Al-Athari, PAAET Public Relations Director Dr Fatemah Al-Enezi, and Kuwait University Rector Dr Hussein Al-Ansari are pictured with KU's construction program members.



Professor of social work at Kuwait University (KU) Dr Hayfa Al-Kandari



Political science professor at KU Dr Hanan Al-Hajeri

KUWAITI WOMEN: A TALE OF ADVERSITY, TRIUMPH

KUWAIT: Utterly dedicated and laborious, Kuwaiti women have long sought to be on equal footing with men in efforts to establish a leveled playing field to help build a developed and prosperous nation. In the pre-oil era, women mainly handled household chores at a time where men usually went on sabbaticals due to the lengthy pearl diving season. However, in the post-oil era, women were able to ascend to administrative positions, where they occupied such lofty posts as ministers, directors, ambassadors and so forth. Moreover, in the political front, women had long been deprived of suffrage and to run for office, reducing them to mere spectators in a country with a dynamic political scene.

Ever steadfast and persevering, women were adamant to win full-fledged political rights in their quest to achieve gender parity. After an arduous struggle, the time to rejoice finally arrived when on May 16, 2005, parliament unanimously voted to grant women full political rights, which enabled Masouma Al-Mubarak to become the first female minister in the history of the nation. Furthermore, in another political milestone, Jenan Boushehri announced her candidacy for the 2006 municipal council elections. Even though she failed to win a seat, Boushehri garnered 1,800 votes in a harbinger of brighter times to come. In 2009, in a major political breakthrough for women, four female candidates won seats in parliament.

Short time

Speaking in statements yesterday, professor of social work at Kuwait University (KU) Dr Hayfa Al-Kandari said that, "Women were able to attain their political rights in a short time as a result of a groundswell of support from the government and the nation as a whole."

Kandari explained that women have always had an "imposing presence" in election seminars, noting that "political action is not dependent upon gender, as Kuwait's parliament has always been a male-dominated arena."

On the social front, the KU professor said that women make up half of society, being caretakers and guardians. She also spoke of how instrumental social media is to familiarize the electorate with the candidates' campaigns and ideologies. Similarly, political science professor at KU Dr Hanan Al-Hajeri said that it is difficult to overlook female contributions in a country with a highly patriarchal society. "According to national statistics, Kuwaiti women are in the forefront of GCC nations in terms of employment opportunities," she said. Kuwait remains the only GCC nation with an active female workforce, Hajeri noted, citing that around 47 percent of government employees are women. — KUNA

55,376 ELIGIBLE VOTERS IN 2ND CONSTITUENCY

KUWAIT: Total electorate for upcoming elections due on November 26 stands at 483,186, including 29,026 females in the second constituency. The number of franchised citizens in the constituency has risen to 5,621, by 1.16 percent of the overall electorate as compared to the figure of the July 2013 polls-with 2,870 men and 2,751 women. Total figure of the voters in the second constituency constitutes 11.46 percent of the total number of eligible voters; 5.45 percent men and six percent women.

The voters of this constituency are residents of 13 areas: Dahiat Abdullah Al-Salem 6,435 (including 3,323 women), Al-Gibla 34 (including 19 women), Al-Shuwaikh 1,327 (including 682 women), Al-Shamiah 5,237 (including 2,698 women). Number of franchised citizens in Al-Qadsiah stands at 7,200 (including 3,744 women), Al-Mansouriah 3,022 (including 1,489 women), Al-Faihaa 5,973 (including 3,313 women).

In Al-Nuzha, the electorate amounts to 4,327 (including 2,326 women), Al-Sulaibikhat 8,124 (including 4,151 women), Al-Doha 8,212 (including 4,393 women). Franchised nationals in Gharbata amounts to 2,240 (including 1,347 women), Al-Qairawan 3,209 (including 1,541 women), and none has been registered in Al-Murgab.

Education

Many of the candidates of the Second Constituency, vying for seats in the National Assembly for the 15th legislative term, slated for November 26, have high levels of education. More than 42 percent of them are 50 years, or over.

Thirty-seven candidates (60.65 percent) of the total 61 nominees, hold academic degree; ten candidates (16.39 percent) carry a diploma; seven (11.47 percent) are high school graduates, and seven (11.47 percent) studied till medium term.

Among the 37 candidates, seven carry PhDs in philosophy, private law, Tafseer (Interpretation) of the Holy Quran, fundamentals of the religion, programming engineering and political science. Five nominees have MAs in business administration, education management, criminal law, and pharmacology. Twenty-five BA holding candidates studied business administration, electrical engineering, civilian engineering, mechanical engineering, financing, economy,

statistics, law and maritime navigation. The ten nominees with diplomas studied mechanical engineering, business administration, technological studies, and at the Industrial College.

In the 2013 elections, twenty-three candidates (57.5 percent) of the total 40 nominees then, had academic degrees; six candidates (15 percent) carried diplomas and five (12.5 percent) were high school graduates and five (12.5 percent) studied till medium term.

Among the 23 candidates, five had PhDs in education, business administration, psychology, Sharia, and political geography. Three nominees had MAs in political science, mechanical engineering, and management of comprehensive research. Fifteen BA holding candidates studied computer science, statistics, mechanical engineering, psychology, history, aviation science electrical engineering, civilian engineering, social studies, statistics, Sharia, law, financing and marketing. The six nominees with diplomas were specialized in aviation engineering, or studied at the College of Education.

2012 elections

In the 2012 parliamentary elections, 41 candidates (61.19 percent) of the total 67 nominees at the time, held academic degrees; seven (10.44 percent) carried a diploma; fourteen (20.89 percent) were high school graduates and five (7.46 percent) studied till medium term.

Out of the 41 candidates, five had

PhDs in economy, faith, philosophy, construction engineering and physical philosophy law. Three had MAs in engineering, organ transplantation and business administration.

Thirty-three BA holding candidates studied economy, political science, industrial engineering, computer science, civilian engineering, law, mechanical engineering, business administration, police science, psychology, accounting, media, statistics information systems. The seven nominees with diplomas were qualified in banking, business administration, accounting, communications, commercial studies, mechanical engineering and electricity.

Age

In terms of age, most candidates of the Second Constituency standing for the 2016 elections are 50 years old, or over. These are 26 (42.62 percent) of the total figure. Twenty-one nominees (34.42 percent) are 40-49 years old, and 14 ones (22.95 percent) are 30-39 years. In the 2013 elections, 18 candidates were 50 years old or over, 45 percent of the total number. Fifteen nominees (37.5 percent) were 40-49 years old, and seven ones (17.5 percent) 30-39 years old.

Candidates for the 2012 elections included 32 candidates of 50 years old and above, about 47.76 percent of the total number. Twenty-four nominees were 40-49 years old, 35.82 percent, and 11 ones 30-39 years old, about 16.41 percent. — KUNA



Local Spotlight

LETTERS TO MUNA AL-FUZAI

Dear Muna,
I am writing you as you have highlighted an important subject matter for respecting people with disabilities. I agree that it is our prime duty to respect disabled people. I have lived in the UAE for a few years and it is far away from Kuwait in terms of many things.

Thanks Anis

Dear Muna,
Your words in the article "Disabled in Kuwait" touched me deeply, I could certainly relate to your words, not because I'm disabled but I'm afraid, for 4 years I've been part of a team who were devoted to socially and economically empowering this sector, whether they were physically impaired or they had hearing impairments.

I was a project manager at enactus for 4 years - I'm sure you will be impressed by the work done by the enactus teams worldwide if you look it up. However, the reason I'm sending you this email isn't just to convey my ultimate respect and support to your words, but rather a call if you're willing to help me to actually make a difference and change the "dark" situation this community is currently facing here in Kuwait.

I've read plenty of articles in both Arabic and English, and I realized the situation is no different than that in Egypt. The public and the government authorities specifically need to hear them out, to be aware of the fact that there's an entire community full of potential and brilliant skills that is being wasted and underutilized due to lack of awareness. These people need to personally send a shout-out to the whole world and make them listen to their needs! Therefore, I was hoping you can help me achieve that.

I know I tend to come on too strong when it comes to this subject, but I'm very delighted to finally find someone who wants to see an actual difference happening. Finally, I know that you don't know me and I really don't want to sound cliché by quoting Ghandi and tell you "Be the change you want to see in the world!", but I know that if a group of people gathered together with their mind set on one goal, believing that they can achieve it, trust me, there's no force on Earth could make them stop!

Warm Regards. Radwa

Dear Al-Fuzai,
"It is normal that children who grow up with the maid's habits and values will end up with psychological problems. I always wonder why many Kuwaiti families have a lot of domestic workers - even young, newly-married couples. They show the world how wealthy they are, but this is wrong."

Are these maids' habits and values due to their social status as maids or because they are non-Kuwaiti?

Maids are people with values, morals and ethics and to demonize a group of people based on their social status or ethnicity.

Can you substantiate your claim of psychological problems attributed to maids' values and habits?

Any child having to substitute a parent's love with that of another regardless of social status or ethnicity will be affected.

If a maid's value is to respect all people as equals, I am sure that would a hundredfold better than the values you would teach to your children.

**Yours sincerely
A reader
Muna@kuwaittimes.net**

KUNA ISSUES BOOK ON CANDIDATES' BIOS

KUWAIT: Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) issued yesterday through its research and information center a new book biography of candidates for the 2016 parliamentary elections, coinciding with the National Assembly elections, 15th legislative term, scheduled for November 26.

Introducing the new book, Chairman of the Board and Director General of KUNA, Sheikh Mubarak Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah said that Kuwait awaits on this historic day an active participation on polling day

to choose representatives for the parliamentary term and to continue the wheels of development and prosperity.

Sheikh Mubarak said that as per Amiri decree No 276/16 and on polling day, some 483,186 voters will go to the polls to elect members of the National Assembly according to the single vote system, stating that the number of male voters stand at 230,430 voters, whereas the number of women stand at 252,756 voters. He explained that Kuwaiti women

will participate as candidates and voters in these elections, the seventh since they gained their political rights in May 2005 and have made remarkable achievements by winning four seats in the Parliament of 2009 and three seats in the December 2012 parliament, which was invalidated by the Constitutional Court, and one seat in the 2013 parliament.

Sheikh Mubarak wished that this book would help voters identify their candidates before polling day and a documentation of the march of

democracy under gains guaranteed by the Constitution. He also hoped this book would simplify for the voters their roles in positive participation.

Meanwhile, in addition to the documented information about biographies of candidates, the book contains the full text of the Constitution of the State of Kuwait and the electoral law along with amendments made, besides tables of polling places and committees of all constituencies.—KUNA