



**KUWAIT:** A Kuwaiti woman casts her vote in front of a picture of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at a polling station yesterday. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



**This photo released by the Interior Ministry shows Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah touring a polling station yesterday.**



**Children greet Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah as he arrives at a polling station yesterday.**



**Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah greets a voter.**



**A senior Kuwaiti citizen casts his vote in at polling station yesterday.**

# SUPREME LEADERSHIP KEEN ON SMOOTH POLLING PROCESS: INTERIOR MINISTER

## MINISTRY WARNS AGAINST TAKING PHOTOS OF VOTING PAPERS

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah asserted yesterday that the supreme leadership represented by His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Premier are very keen to have the ongoing parliamentary elections 2016 go in harmony with the civilized image and high status of the State of Kuwait regionally and internationally.

The parliamentary elections depict the positive interaction between the leadership and people and a live expression of the active participation of the people in shaping present and future of the country. This came in a statement by the minister while touring a number of polling stations along with Interior Undersecretary, special adviser of the deputy premier and interior minister and a number of senior interior ministry officials.

He said that the interior ministry has harnessed all its potentials to ensure that the elections proceed smoothly and at ease, saying that His Highness the Amir has directed that all facilities be furnished in order to facilitate transparent, secured and free elections.

The minister was briefed about the progress of voting and exchanged cordial talks with a number of voters in various polling stations. The voters expressed their satisfaction for the smooth polling process and the facilities rendered by the security authorities on the polling day.

**No photos** Meanwhile, Ministry of Interior warned voters not to take photos of the ballots after casting their votes, saying this is prohibited by the election law. According to the law, a violator can spend five years behind bars, and pay a fine of KD 5,000, the ministry's statement added.

Article 44 of Kuwait's Election Law provides for punishing violators in the case of using force or threatening to prevent voters from practicing their rights, or to vote for certain candidates, or refraining from balloting.

The same article provides for a penalty in case of vote buying, promoting false news about a candidate's behavior among voters, or going to the polling station with a device with the intention of taking photos of ballots to prove one has voted for a certain nominee. Also, one will be punished if he goes to the polling centers carrying a fire arm, according to Article 30 of the law. —KUNA

## TWENTY-TWO FEMALE PROSECUTORS SUPERVISE ELECTIONS FOR 1ST TIME



**KUWAIT:** Some 22 female prosecutors took their seats yesterday at the main and sub-committees overseeing the 2016 parliamentary elections for the first time in the history of Kuwait. The female prosecutors shared the responsibilities along with their male peers to chair the electoral



committees for the parliamentary elections and supervise the process following the decision of the supreme judicial council which appointed the 22 female prosecutors, a step meant to indulge women in various spheres and highlight their status in the decision making. —KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah arrives at a polling station to inspect preparations to maintain a smooth election process. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## ALL CAPABILITIES HARNESSSED FOR ELECTIONS: INFO MINISTER

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said yesterday that the state's concerned bodies have taken all measures and plans to facilitate the electoral process for the National Assembly 2016, stressing that all facilities have been provided for voters in all constituencies.

Sheikh Salman stressed, in a statement to reporters on the sidelines of his inspection tour of Sayyid Mohammed Hassan Al-Moussawi school, keenness of the Ministry of Interior represented by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah for providing all the services and facilitating all procedures for all voters to enable them to exercise their electoral right easily. He added that the electoral process is considered a 'democratic ceremony' and to show the world richness of the democratic process in Kuwait, stressing the keenness of the state to make this process a success.

He pointed to the role of the Information Ministry in providing all the technical and logistics services through the media campaign 'My Vote Is For My Country' as an expression of national values and disseminate the democratic awareness among young people. He explained that his ministry was transmitting the electoral process from the start of polling till results are out. He said the real turnout will be decided by the voters. —KUNA



**A senior citizen holds up his passport as he arrives to cast his vote at a polling station yesterday.**

## ELDERLY VOTERS EARLY BIRDS AT POLLING STATIONS

**KUWAIT:** Various polling stations across the country yesterday witnessed an influx of senior citizens since opening of polls at 8:00 am local time. The senior citizens were very eager to come to the polling centers early compared with young voters. The senior citizens were assisted by various

transportation means and wheelchairs which were available at the polling centers. The election process began quiet at early hours of the day as delegates of the candidates outside the schools were eagerly receiving and distributing identification cards of their candidates to lure voters. —KUNA