



Citizens join EPA officials in lighting candles outside EPA building to mark the Earth Hour.

KUWAIT KEEN ON EARTH HOUR TO SAVE POWER, PRESERVE RESOURCES: EPA DIRECTOR

KUWAIT: Kuwait is eager to share the world the observation of the Earth Hour, Director of the Environmental Public Authority (EPA) Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said on Saturday. Through applying the law on protection of the environment, EPA has assumed the responsibility of preserving natural resources and rationalization of consumption of power, as well as boosting awareness on the hazards of climate change on Kuwait and the globe, Sheikh Abdullah said in a press statement on the sidelines of the authority's marking of the Earth Hour.

Just like every year, Kuwait marks the occasion by

switching lights off for a whole hour, in line with the country's commitment to the relevant international conventions on maintaining resources and curbing emissions, as a national duty, he added. Referring to the oil spot seen off the Shuaiba port this dawn, the EPA director said it was contained. Initial reports have shown that the spot was caused by a leak from a container at the site. After the spot is removed by the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) over the coming two days, it will be fully investigated, he noted.

Meanwhile, the EPA's deputy director for technical affairs Mohammad Al-Enezi, said that the Earth Hour is to convey an expressive message to the

world that the rationalization of power consumption is of prior importance to curb emissions. Enezi added that the EPA is working on Kuwait's second national report on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in cooperation with the West Asia United Nations Environment Program, and other relevant state bodies.

In addition, the authority is surveying the impact of climate change on the state's major sectors; water resources, fish wealth, and public health and the future outlook of temperature, rainfall and sandstorms, he noted. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Lights are switched off at the Environmental Public Authority to mark the Earth Hour. — KUNA



Candles lit to mark the Earth Hour.

In my view

ONLY IN KUWAIT - PART 11

By Talal Al-Ghannam



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Good morning my dear and honorable brothers and sisters. Today, I continue with a new edition of my 'Only in Kuwait' series, in which I pinpoint faults and wrongdoings that people see taking place in Kuwait, with hopes that it reaches concerned authorities so that they can find a solution for those problems.

Only in Kuwait you would be diagnosed at the doctor's office, when suddenly a patient storms in without knocking on the door and complains that the physician is 'taking so much time' while examining each patient.

Only in Kuwait that doctors do not have time to thoroughly examine a patient, since those waiting in line would have no patience to wait.

Only in Kuwait that some doctors are beaten by patients for applying order at the clinic or hospital.

Only in Kuwait that some doctors have pre-written prescription of pain killers and gargle for almost all sore throat cases.

Only in Kuwait that a hospital can make you feel as if you are in a shopping mall.

Only in Kuwait that some doctors examine many cases without even checking the nature of the disease that they might have. And the prescription is always pre-arranged.

Only in Kuwait you see hospitals guarded by policemen.

Only in Kuwait that a bridge which cost KD 23 million to build cannot tolerate an hour of downpour, similar to what happened recently in Mangaf and Sabahiya.

Only in Kuwait people become alarmed whenever it rains, because they fear of the damages that will hit their cars from the 'flying gravel'.

Only in Kuwait that a person can fix his or her vehicle's windshield and struts twice a month because of the flying gravel and the deep manholes in the roads.

Only in Kuwait that driving on the pavement can become a source of joy for many.

Only in Kuwait a 'Slow Down' sign can be read as 'Drive Recklessly'.

Only in Kuwait that many police cars cannot chase those insane drivers who burn their cars' tires when a few drops of rain fall, and end up just watching from afar.

Only in Kuwait that the paperwork needed for a visa transfer transaction from article 20 to 18 can be a nightmare.

Only in Kuwait that having breakfast at work while tens of people are waiting can be a joyful experience.

Only in Kuwait that irresponsible drivers during weddings can gang up against any vehicle whose driver honks at them or tries to zigzag through them.

Only in Kuwait you see many public transportation buses generate dangerous black smoke while police do nothing about it.

Only in Kuwait you see a co-operative society sells a commodity for 500 fils whereas another sells the same item for 750 fils.

Only in Kuwait you find many people bringing in expatriates to work for them, and then complain about their rising numbers in the country.

Only in Kuwait a taxi has no right to pick up or drop off customers because police believes that the taxi has no right to do so, and should keep driving without stoppage.

Till the next article insha Allah

HOUSING MINISTER, CHINESE COMPANY INK INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACT FOR SOUTH MUTLAA

KUWAIT: Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Minister of State for Utilities Yasser Abul signed yesterday a contract with a Chinese company for constructing the infrastructure for 18,519 lots of land in South Al-Mutlaa City project.

The contract, worth KD 215.8 million (about \$712.14 million), also covers the sub-power plants for eight neighborhoods in Al-Mutlaa. The ministry will soon sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with China to open up fresh prospects for further cooperation in housing and infrastructure projects, the minister said on the sidelines of the ceremony held at the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW).

Eleven companies from several countries bid for the project, Abul said, noting that the Chinese winner is among the leading globally in the field. According to the minister, owners of the land will be handed over the building licenses with the beginning of 2019, then the third contract for the rest of land in the



KUWAIT: Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Minister of State for Utilities Yasser Abul (left) is seen during the signing ceremony. — KUNA

city will be offered for bid.

Meanwhile, PAHW Director General Bader Al-Wugayyan said that work in the eight areas will be carried out over two phases; the first, two years, includes 12,177 lots of land, and the second 6,342, to be

implemented in 30 months once work kicks off. Wugayyan added that the South Al-Mutlaa City project includes 28,288 homes, and public buildings, as well as recreational, educational, sports and service facilities. — KUNA

KFAED LAYS FOUNDATION STONE OF SEWAGE PROJECT IN SOUTH LEBANON

KHIAM: Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development's (KFAED) Director General Abdulwahab Al-Bader, has taken part in a ceremony held to lay the foundation stone for the construction of sewage networks and wastewater treatment plant in Marjeyoun - Khiam southern Lebanon with an estimated cost of \$47.562 million.

The ceremony was attended by Lebanese Finance Minister Ali Hassan Khalil on behalf of Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament Nabih Berri,

Minister of Energy Cesar Abi Khalil, President of the Council for Development and Reconstruction Nabil El-Jisr, KFAED's Regional Director Abdullah Al-Sager as well as Lebanese officials. In a speech, Minister Khalil expressed thanks and appreciation to Kuwait which has always pay attention to this project which will help people of southern Lebanon so they could remain in their lands despite various challenges. For his part, Minister Cesar Abi Khalil expressed his happiness with

the implementation of projects in line with the national strategy for sanitation established by the ministry in 2012, adding that since 1990 to 2009, the ministry has spent about \$1,450 billion on the sewage sector.

Meanwhile, Bader said Kuwait Fund has completed 50 years of work in the implementation of projects in Lebanon last year, pointing to Kuwait's continued support for development efforts in Lebanon. The fund has implemented several projects in the region and this project mainly serves the major project of irrigation of the Litani river and assist the sewage project in Khiam, he added.

Lots of towns will benefit from the project, which will contribute to the protection of water sources from pollution. The project is 80 percent funded by the Kuwait Fund where its implementation will take about three years.

Kuwait Fund is implementing in South Lebanon the largest socio-economic development project in Lebanon, namely the Litani water project in the southern provinces of Nabatieh, which provides irrigation of about 15,000 hectares of agricultural land and provide drinking water to 100 towns. — KUNA



KHIAM: Officials pose for a group photo during the ceremony.



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