

Local

Nearly 23 workers per each registered SME in Kuwait; authority fights 'manipulations'

Public life expectancy increased from 50 to 78 years, report shows

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: There are 78,858 workers registered on 3,465 small and medium licensed enterprises in Kuwait, with an average of nearly 23 workers per company, a government official said yesterday. Meanwhile, the number of licenses for entrepreneurs registered with the Public Institution for Social Security reaches 7,734, said Fahd Murad, manager of small and medium enterprises at the Public Authority for Manpower. Meanwhile, he admitted that some entrepreneurs attempt to manipulate the privileges they are given and illegally utilize them, which he said calls for strict control from his department jointly with the inspection and the manpower assessment departments to examine companies' files periodically and make sure they respect the law.

On rumors that some small and medium enterprise licenses were for visa trafficking, Murad said files of companies or employers allowing their workers to work in locations other than the designated ones or sponsor workers they do not actually employ had been frozen and referred to the Ministry of Interior for further investigations pending taking legal actions against them. "The authority will not allow SMEs to become backdoors for visa trafficking," he stressed.

Improved health

The 2018-2019 annual report issued by the Faculty of Public Health at Kuwait University showed that public health has greatly improved over the past two generations, with a rise of life expectancy from 50 to 78 years. However, the report also showed that non-infectious diseases, namely cardiac diseases, diabetes and cancer, in addition to injuries caused by traffic accidents, had increased over the past decades. It also showed that despite the progress made in hospitalization and medical treatment, public awareness remains significant to limit injuries and enhance public health.

In this regard, Kuwait University's deputy rector for the medical sciences' affairs center Adel Al-Henayyan said despite its recent establishment, the faculty managed to achieve a lot and stand side by side with other outstanding public health faculties. Henayyan elaborated that the achievements include launching two public health master programs in vocational and environmental health and health policies and management. He added that teaching staff members published 47 scientific papers in accredited international magazines and took part in 40 local, regional and international conferences and symposiums. "In addition to its dean, Harry Vanue, this recently-established faculty recently added 10 new members to its teaching staff," Henayyan added, noting that the faculty will continue to enhance its academic staff's potentials.



New procedures for bedoons' passports

The citizenship department finalized a number of procedures to issue article 17 passports to bedoons (stateless residents), said informed sources, noting that the new measures include prioritizing those travelling for medical treatment and students. The sources added that the regulations also include allocating Sundays to receive applications from children of Kuwaiti women and those who already have Kuwaiti relatives, Mondays to follow up, scrutinize and do the transactions, Tuesdays for students and treatment abroad patients and Wednesdays

Bedoons' passports

for those included in the 1965 census and military personnel. The sources said the conditions also include holding valid security cards issued by the central apparatus for illegal residents' affairs and having recent security reports.

60 million gallons

The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) is scheduled to launch today the first phase of using reverse osmosis for water desalination at Doha plant, which is expected to add 60 million gallons of water to the national grid on a daily basis. Informed sources said MEW had recently completed the project's trial operation and that it will today start by initially pumping 15 million gallons into the national grid until it reaches the full capacity of 60 million gallons.

Health insurance

The Central Agency for Public Tenders notified Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) that it was not within its liabilities to demand extending the collective health insurance contract for KPC employees for three more months, said informed sources. The sources added that two thirds of the bureau's members approved a request made by Kuwait Oil Company to make direct contracts to provide data system services at Ahmadi Hospital.

Ports profits

Kuwait Ports Authority's (KPA) profits increased by 57 percent during the fiscal year 2018-2019, said informed sources. The sources added that after studying the authority's final statement, the finance ministry urged the authority not to keep the net profits and deposit them to the state budget because of the financial circumstances the state budget suffers from due to fluctuating oil prices. The ministry also urged KPA to fill the 114 job vacancies it has, be more accurate in setting its budget, conduct enough studies and be more accurate in setting timetables.

Deaths reported in two separate road accidents

KUWAIT: An Iranian woman was detained as she ran over an Asian man on Gulf Road, leading to his death. Policemen and paramedics rushed to the scene and discovered the man was dead. The woman was arrested and taken to Dasma police station for questioning. Meanwhile, a juvenile was killed and two others were injured when the car they were in flipped over on Seventh Ring Road. The two injured juveniles were taken to hospital as the deceased youth's body was recovered by forensics.

Doctor insulted

A doctor in Sabah Hospital said a Kuwaiti man insulted her, as she lodged a complaint at Shuwaikh police station. The doctor was surprised by the citizen - who was with his wife at the maternity department - abusing her verbally, so she called Public Relations, who brought the situation under control. The doctor then went to the station and lodged a complaint. Detectives are investigating.

Policemen offended

A Kuwaiti man escaped from a police station after insulting the head of the station while waiting for a traffic accident report. A police source said the citizen went to the station to get the report, then when he was informed the report was not ready, he caused chaos and insulted a lieutenant colonel who asked him for his ID, but refused and left. A police officer stopped him and asked for his ID again, so he pushed him aside and ran out saying "I must go to a doctor...my blood pressure is high." Investigations are underway.

Filipina beaten badly


An alleged thief forced a Filipina who was in a car he stole to get out after beating her badly. Police went to the scene and learned that the engine was running when it was stolen, and the thief was surprised the woman was in it. The Filipina who was later found said the suspect beat her and forced her out of the car. Detectives are working on the case.

Search for car thief

Police issued a travel ban and arrest warrant against an Egyptian man accused by a Kuwaiti national of stealing his car in Salva, but he refused to go to the police station. The citizen told Salva police that his car was stolen by a man he identified, and who he said had a spare key with him. Policemen spent two days calling the suspect but he ignored all calls. Detectives went to the suspect's house, but were told that he did not come to his apartment for days.

Harasser at large

Criminal detectives are looking for a Kuwaiti who blocked two girls in Sharq and deliberately hit their car, then beat them after they ignored his harassment. The girls went to the police station and filed a complaint. A police source said the girls presented medical reports and gave them the license plate number of the suspect's car. — *Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Rai*


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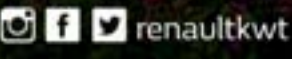
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