

Prime Minister receives disability authority's new director, deputy director

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Tuesday Minister of Social Affairs and Community Development, Minister of State for Women and Childhood Affairs Mai Jassem Al-Baghli, who presented to him the newly appointed Director General of the Public Authority for Disability Affairs Dr Bibi Hamad Al-Omairi and Deputy Director General of the Public Authority for Disability Affairs Dr Nahed Abdulrazzaq Al-Atiqi. His Highness the Prime Minister reiterated

the importance of providing all facilities for citizens with disabilities, including setting up designated offices for them at all state departments to solve any difficulties that they face. His Highness the Prime Minister also highlighted the importance of coordination between the Ministry of Social Affairs and state departments, so that cooperation can be established between them and the Public Authority for Disability Affairs to focus efforts on meeting the needs of citizens with disabilities.



KUWAIT: (From left) Dr Bibi Hamad Al-Omairi, Minister Mai Jassem Al-Baghli, HH Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Dr Nahed Abdulrazzaq Al-Atiqi are seen during their meeting Tuesday.

Women's society hosts introductory conference for female candidates

MP hopefuls talk political instability, women's rights



KUWAIT: Parliamentary candidates, seen in this photo, showcased their platforms at the introductory conference. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



People listen to the candidates speak during the conference.

By Majd Othman

KUWAIT: The Women's Cultural and Social Society held an introductory conference on Monday featuring a number of women candidates running in the coming National Assembly elections. The conference was titled "Women's Role in Changing the Political Scene", where the candidates reviewed their electoral programs and discussed the main causes, they are willing to adopt when they reach the Assembly.

Candidate from the third district and former representative in the annulled 2022 Assembly Jenan Bushehri said the country's political stability is the most important factor that should be taken into account to achieve a better future for Kuwait. She said with the current instability, it is impossible to resolve any problems or open files that are slowing the country's development and impeding reforms.

"The stage of political stability requires political reforms, the most important of which is our electoral law, which strengthens individual actions in the National Assembly, and this is one of the reasons for the deterioration of political work in Abdullah Al-Salem

Hall. The time has come for a review of the electoral system, in addition to setting up a supreme electoral commission. Everyone is talking about fraud and forgery, so it is time to set priorities for political reforms for the next stage," she added.

Bushehri explained that despite the short time representatives had in the scrapped Assembly, women's issues were and are still one of the most important causes she is working on with other women candidates. She mentioned that in the previous Assembly, she and representative Alia Al-Khaled succeeded in submitting a law on civil rights of children of Kuwaiti women, as the women's society had a big role in it. "Women's issues are numerous, and all of them should be on the table in the coming Assembly," she said.

On the other hand, Bushehri pointed out the government is responsible for submitting its program, while Assembly representatives are responsible to help the government in setting laws and legislations or at least amend the current ones to be able to implement its program. She added the government should be held accountable if it shirks its responsibilities.

"The current political scene shows all existing women's laws are due to the efforts of Kuwaiti women and not Assembly members, as they deserved it and changed the political scene in Kuwait. Therefore, we hope for more women to reach the Assembly," Bushehri said. Speaking to Kuwait Times, Bushehri urged Kuwaiti youth to vote in the elections. "Whatever the country is suffering from, the Kuwaiti people can rise and achieve development on June 6."

Candidate Alia Al-Khaled stressed the main issues the government should focus on are education and the economy. "These are two sides of the same coin. There will be no economy without education, and no education without a real and successful economy," she said. Khaled said the current generation suffers from old laws and legislations that are away from their efficiency, as the world today is in the middle of the great industrial revolution, and the country is late in reaching it.

The conference included a number of new women hopefuls — first district candidates Aziza Al-Bannai and Anood Al-Enezi, fourth district candidates Anwar Al-Qahtani, Fahima Al-Rashidi and Noor Al-Mutairi, second district candidate



Jenan Bushehri speaks at the event.

Wedad Al-Habib and third district candidate Salwa Al-Saeed. The new candidates are adopting most Kuwaiti women's issues, whether women's political rights and rights of children of Kuwaiti citizens, in addition to their claims for better equal opportunities for women in Kuwait to reach the parliament and hold senior positions.



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti and ASEAN delegates are seen during their meeting Tuesday. —KUNA

Kuwait, ASEAN discuss enhancing cooperation

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Al-Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah met on Tuesday with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) officials to discuss various

topics of common interest. During the meeting, the foreign minister expressed Kuwait's interest in enhancing cooperation with ASEAN in various fields, including economic development. Both sides also exchanged experiences in the fields of security, culture, education, health, employment and many issues of common interest, as well as the latest regional and international developments. — KUNA

Candidates urged to highlight rights, needs of disabled

KUWAIT: Experts concerned with disability affairs urged members of the upcoming National Assembly to fulfill the hopes of people with disabilities and meet their needs to overcome the obstacles they face. In separate statements, the experts told KUNA that people with disabilities place a lot of hope on the parliament to enact leg-

islations concerning their vital needs.

In this regard, Director of the Legal Affairs Department and Spokesperson of the Public Authority for Disability Affairs Mubarak Al-Badah said the authority guarantees the rights of people with disabilities to participate in politics equally as others, through candidacy or choosing their representatives. The authority is keen to improve their participation in the elections and make it easier for them to enter polling centers in partnership with civil society institutions, noted Badah, adding the authority seeks to amend laws concerning people with disabilities.

Sign language interpreter Bader Karam called

Media training helps election candidates influence voters

KUWAIT: Media figures and academics affirmed on Sunday National Assembly candidates should be trained in media to influence voters with their ideas. In a statement to KUNA, multiple media academics said that certain media skills acquired through training courses help candidates attract public attention and the acceptance of voters. Professor of Media at Kuwait University Dr Khaled Al-Qahs said that each candidate needs a media personality to convince voters with their ideas, as well as intellectual and cultural characteristics especially in the legislative and constitutional aspects and public affairs issues.

Qahs added that candidates must acquire the ability to deal with various media platforms, appear in media conferences and interviews and speak about public issues. Journalist Bassam Al-Jazzaf said that candidates' most important characteristic is to maintain a positive and honest image in the voter's head. The ability to converse, negotiate, persuade, respond to arguments and confront the media and the public is achieved by intensive training sessions.

Media figure Eid Al-Rashidi said media training gives candidates the ability to influence others and evoke their feelings as well as have confidence



Khaled Al-Qahs



Eid Al-Rashidi



Bassam Al-Jazzaf

in what they say. He also emphasized the need to develop training programs for candidates that are exposed to pressure and contribute to their media success and confidence in what they present and discuss.

Rashidi stated that the best advice to give any candidate was to provide good content for the issues raised, choosing

a good media platform to convey ideas and having alternative plans to deal with any issue in addition to clarifying the electoral message. — KUNA

on the candidates to have an interpreter in their election campaigns for people with disabilities to better communicate with them. Karam pointed to the necessity of providing service offices for people with disabilities at all state institutions to guarantee their rights as equals.

Vice President of the Board of Directors of Harek Association Eman Al-Khalidi said the association is interested in delivering the demands of people with disabilities to parliamentary candidates. Khalidi expressed Harek's hope, the first public benefit association concerned with the affairs of people with mobility disabilities, that the next parliament raises the issues of people with

disabilities and their demands. Vice President of the Kuwaiti Association for Follow-up of Disabled Issues Kholoud Al-Ali said the association seeks to amend the law for people with disabilities as well as the law for Kuwaiti women who take care of disabled persons from non-Kuwaiti husbands, in addition to seeking to achieve their demands as well as that of their parents. Ali pointed out the necessity for the association to communicate with state institutions and decision-makers in explaining the rights of people with disabilities and integrating them with society in schools and government jobs, especially since they are capable of creativity and success. — KUNA