

National Youth Council panel holds meet to choose youth counsellors



KUNA photo
Duke of Cambridge, Prince William being seen off at the airport by Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

Prince William concludes visit to Kuwait

Duke of Cambridge, Prince William left on Tuesday, concluding an official visit to the country. He was seen off by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs

Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah and Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs and Head of the Mission of Honor Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. (KUNA)

Kuwait continues backing IAEA leading role: Marafi

Bid to boost nuclear safety, security

VIENNA, Dec 3, (KUNA): Kuwait stressed on Monday its continued support to the leading role by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in building capabilities contributing to the achievement of sustainable development.

This came in a speech delivered by Kuwaiti Ambassador to Austria and Permanent Representative to International Organizations in Vienna Sadeq Marafi before the IAEA exceptional annual conference to inaugurate the agency's new Director General Argentina's Rafael Grossi.

Marafi stressed the agency's key role in boosting nuclear safety and security of all member states.

He expressed his sincere congratulations to Grossi on being elected the new chief of the agency.

He said Grossi's big experience would enable him lead the agency professionally and neutrally.

The Kuwaiti Ambassador



Kuwaiti Ambassador to Austria at the IAEA conference.

noted he is looking forward to working with the new chief and all concerned countries.

He affirmed Kuwait's full backing, and absolute preparation, to participate effectively in achieving the common goals.

He thanked the agency's acting chief Cornel Feruta for achieving the assigned duties while he was chairing the institution during the

transitional period.

The conference was held to approve the appointment of Grossi, who is the first Latin American to chair the IAEA. Grossi replaced Japan's Yukiyama who died last July.

Grossi was elected for the post by the Board of Governors with 24 votes out of 35, as one member abstained from voting.

Names of those selected to be announced later

By Chaitali B. Roy
Special to the Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 3: Last week, the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Kuwait held the first meeting of the committee of the National Youth Council at the Ministry of Youth Affairs office at the Al Hamra Tower. The meeting was held for the committee to choose the new Youth Counsellors based on terms and conditions and voting mechanisms in keeping with legal requirements. The Committee will set forth rules and regulations to select the youth members under the guidance of His Highness the Amir.

The committee is comprised of specialised and experienced members who have suggested instructions and standards, organised procedures and codified rules that will allow the selection of right candidates. The youth council will be made up of 26 members selected equally from different governorates, representing both genders and including special needs persons.

Dr Meshal Al-Rabiea Al-Shahin, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Youth Affairs, said that the names of selected individuals will be announced on media. The duration for the applicants to put forth their application is one month and, and the qualifications required will be announced once the application channel is open. "I am happy that the preparatory meeting of the committee has been held to prepare the way for the selection of the first Youth Council," said Dr Meshal Al Shahin. Speaking of the involvement of His Highness the Amir, Dr Meshal said, "His Highness has always referred to the youth as being the natural resource of Kuwait. The youth is our real oil and investing in youth, and their capability is what is going to provide sustainability. His Highness has always insisted on providing the youth with proper guidance to flourish, and it is this philosophy that guides us in this office."

Selection

The selection committee which has been formed under the aegis of the Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Mohammed Al-Jabri, is made up of experienced and significant individuals from different fields including academia, journalists and those with a special interest in youth and their future. The Ministry of Youth Affairs reassures that the council members will be chosen purely based on merit from members of the community. "There will be an equal representation of both genders, and we will also make special arrangements for people with special needs. We want the Youth Council to be representative and inclusive. Kuwait is committed to equality and diversity. The government is committed to meet the needs of the youth, and ensure their participation in the community, and we want the committee to reflect that." The Council will make decisions and recommendations based on the requirement of the youth, to strengthen their pride in their national identity and develop communication and connectivity between the youth, the government sector and private sector to develop strategy.

Speaking of the selection procedure for the Youth Council, the Deputy Minister said the applicants would have to pass through three stages. "We will advertise the criteria and requirements and whoever fulfils those criteria can apply online to the council. The applicants will have to go through three different stages of selection. The first one is fulfilling all the requirements of the criteria. The second is based on the assessment of the letter



Dr Al Shahin

of purpose and volunteer work and the third step will be the personal interview."

When asked about the role of the council in the Youth Policy that was framed a few years back, Dr Meshal said, "It is going to be a very helpful and supportive arm in terms of the implementation of the National Youth Policy, which is a major project supervised, funded and monitored by the Council of Ministers. It has major projects that have been proposed and got approved. There are projects like the Skilled Entrepreneur, another project under which young Kuwaitis learn science technology, art science and math. There is a sports programme that includes academies to teach football to special needs kids and young students. These are some major programmes that have been proposed which are in the process of implementation in the coming months." Dr Meshal went on to say that the youth policy is a five-year plan that discusses analyses and proposes a solution to major youth requirements, youth development and ensures sustainability, and works towards the 2035 Vision. "These projects will help youth development in terms of entrepreneurship, and in terms of being part of the fourth industrial revolution. The youth policy discusses SMEs project, education, latent unemployment, health and wellbeing. We have been able to come up with some major project in the last few months that encourage Kuwaiti youth to immerse themselves in the programmes to achieve sustainable development in the long run."

Native

Youth makes up more than thirty per cent of Kuwait's native population, and it has become imperative to meet the requirements of this important cross-section. "We do have a lot of problems that need solutions," admits the Deputy Minister of Ministry of Youth Affairs. To seek proper implementation of the project, the government has reached out to the UNDP for their expertise and knowledge. "We want to do more practical rather than theoretical projects. Conferences and meetings are good, but they are not immersive," he avers. "We want the youth active. We want to improve their skills and knowledge and whatever the economy needs in the fourth industrial revolution." The Deputy Minister went on to mention teamwork, self-confidence, problem-solving and adaptability as major skill sets required by the youth today, and he reaffirmed the government's intention to include the same in an improved curriculum. "These are the skills we need to teach our youth rather than a traditional kind of educa-

tion that we have been doing so far."

The need to include the youth in the decision-making process has become imperative. The road map for youth development in Kuwait has to be drawn by the youth, he affirmed. "It is easier for youth to communicate with each other and find a middle ground to solve their problems. We have to build this connection amongst the youth themselves in terms of problem-solving and finding a road map for youth development in Kuwait. I believe it is time for the youth to be responsible for their own future." The young population learn and take better directions from their peers, he said. "I see the youth council flourishing in this context. I see 26 young men and women with different sets of skill sets, different knowledge and expertise who will be able to communicate and represent youth collectively in Kuwait and try to find proper solutions to their own problems."

Advisory

"The Youth Council's role is consultation and advisory to the Ministry of Youth. It is from the youth and for the youth, and that is what's encouraging," he said. Admitting the difficulties that Kuwaiti youth are facing in terms of finding jobs that match their education he said, "Finding a job isn't always easy, and the skills that you learn in college will not always get you a job not only in Kuwait but all over the world. Getting a job depends on how innovative and creative you are and on your understanding of your country's economy. In Kuwait, we do have problems of latent unemployment, which is being in a job that doesn't suit your skills and expertise. And one solution for this is to help the youth find their own career and build their own small businesses. This is where the government comes in. We will train the youth in understanding the business structure of an SME or a small project. We have developed a project where we do the incubation and pre-incubation for entrepreneurs. We train them how to do a business plan, to understand appreciation depreciation, to do a market survey to having their own prototype where they can invest their own skills and their own business models where they can be creative and responsible for their own decisions." The government aims to teach young people to be responsible and creative and immerse themselves in a productive market. "There is a huge dependency on the government to provide. I think it is time young people started depending on themselves, but we need to guide them towards this. We can do this by understanding where we are going wrong and by providing them with the skills for them to be independent and successful."

Apart from the economic aspect, the Deputy Minister also emphasised on the ethical aspect that has to do with being a global citizen. "We need to teach our kids to accept the other and be part of a global community, accept differences, accept gender equality and be open to other cultures and religions," said Dr Meshal admitting that the Kuwaiti youth may be lacking in that aspect. "We need to help the youth to see the world differently in a collective sense. We need to adapt and treat people equally, and I think this has to do with the national identity of a Kuwaiti. We need to look at youth from different dimensions. Youth is not only about jobs, it is also about manners, ethics, education, knowledge and physical and mental health." Speaking about the need to encourage political participation in youth, Dr Meshal reiterated that the Youth Council would provide political participation in terms of discussion and deliberation.

News in Brief

KAC plane develops hitch: The Kuwait Airways Corporation has apologized to passengers who were delayed because the plane that was to take off to Kuwait developed a technical problem, reports Al-Rai daily.

Sources at the Egyptian Civil Aviation Authority said the flight was scheduled to take off at 3:55 pm, the day before yesterday, Cairo time, but the authorities had to call another plane from Sharm El Sheikh Airport.

MoE to inspect schools: Ministry of Education is planning to conduct inspection campaigns in school canteens with the cooperation of Public Authority for Food and Nutrition, reports Al-Anba daily quoting informed sources from the education sector.

They explained that the team, which consists of 600 inspectors affiliated to the authority, will conduct inspection tours of the canteens of schools affiliated to various educational zones to verify the quality and validity of the products offered to students based on applicable regulations.

The sources stressed that meetings will be held with officials of the authority to launch the campaigns and inspect the food items offered to students, affirming that the schools found in violation to the relevant regulations will face punishments.

Marathon held to support: Nearly 1,600 runners of various ages participated in a marathon themed "From Kuwait to Al-Quds" to represent Kuwait's solidarity with the people of Palestine and Al-Quds, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The marathon was organized by Social Reform Society on Sheikh Jaber Causeway covering a distance of six kilometers.

Director of Public Relations and Media Department of Social Reform Society Abdulrahman Al-Shatti affirmed that the aim of the event was to support the Palestinian cause and mark the occasion of National Day for Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

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