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Participants in the forum titled Islamic Document on Morals of Workers Providing Health Services.

Egyptians were pampered the most 'Expatriates' between two eras ... the living turn over

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 15, (KUNA): Over the course of more than half a century of Kuwaiti democracy, MPs have used the important and widely practiced "proposals with desire" mechanism in terms of issuing laws and legislation in matters within the jurisdiction of the parliament, or those the lawmakers wish to direct to the government on matters within its competence, reports Al-Qabas daily.

For many considerations, parliamentarians change the presentation of their desires, based on local or foreign political variables or upon reaching certain goals that were not previously achieved; such that hanging the content of desire and its rhetorical significance is related to the degree to which society attained the ladders of modernity and development.

Al-Qabas examined the files of proposals with desired documents submitted by the deputies over a period of 56 years and the outcome shows the extent of differentiation and the different tone and change of mood, which signifies a remarkable shift in dealing with the file of expatriates between two eras - especially after the decline of oil prices in 2014.

One of the most striking remarks in the parliamentary documents on the "proposals with desire" presented by the deputies over more than half a century was the enjoyment and "pampering" of expatriates (Arabs and Muslims in particular) when their presence was "highly desirable". This was the situation during the establishment of Kuwaiti state with doctors, judges, teachers, engineers, etc. It was before Kuwaitis were qualified to handle the burdens of running the institutions and working hard for their development. The presence of majority of expatriates became a heavy burden disrupting the demographic makeup.

Examples of the "favor" of immigrants at that time, resulted in a proposal submitted by Representative Rashid Al-Farhan on February 29, 1964 with the desire to "mediate with officials in the Arab countries to extend the period of the assignment of the pseudo-judges to Kuwait. By the same token, representatives Faisal Al-Duwesh and Muhammad Al-Bader suggested on June 28, 1976 "treating Kuwaiti-born children as Kuwaitis with regard to the appointment to public office."

On March 9, 1971, deputies Abbas Habib Munawer, Ali Al-Habashi and Abdullah Al-Hashemi urged for "abolition of travel restrictions imposed on citizens of Arab countries wishing to enter Kuwait. Representatives Hammoud Al-Roumi, Faisal Al-Duwais and Mubarak Al-Dabbous on April 14, 1981 proposed "granting permanent residence to every Arab Muslim who has served the country sincerely for more than 20 years if he so desires." As for MP Khaled Al-Wasmi, he saw on December 4, 1983 granting permanent residence to "everyone who worked in Kuwait for 30 years or reached retirement age after serving 25 years."

Pampering the Egyptians

The Egyptian community in Kuwait had a lion's share, perhaps, from the evidence and affliction at the time, as MP Ali Al-Habashi proposed on January 12, 1976 "excluding the Egyptian nationals from obtaining visit visa and granted them work in advance." The Palestinian community also had a share, as deputies Jasim Al-Yassin, Khaled Al-Masoud, Abdullah Al-Nibari and Abdul-Muttalib Al-Kazemi suggested "support for schools supervised by the Palestinian Liberation Organization to guarantee all the necessary study expenses for it".

Further more, on 14 October 1971, Representative Issa Bahman proposed "allocating funds within the state's general budget to help the children of residents of Kuwait," while on April 17, 1972, Representative Yousef Al-Rifa'i called for "opening of door to register all children of expatriates in government schools." This was to complement the humanitarian message of Kuwait inside and outside the country to embody its civilized humanitarian role in the region and the world.

Kuwaitization Train

Years later, a lot of water ran under the bridge and the perception of expatriates changed, especially since the state began to rely on the arms of its people in many sectors where foreigners were the backbone, not to mention other considerations that can be summed up in the remarkable increase in the number of expatriates in the country until they cover about two-thirds of the population compared to one-third of citizens, which many deputies viewed as a major imbalance in the demographics; hence, "Kuwaitization" train began.

Before the emergence of MP Safaa Al-Hashim's star in the sky of the parliamentary work and considering her as the "loudest voice" on the issue of "fixing the imbalance of the structure," there were many deputies who aimed to "reconsider" the conditions of expa-

triate. On April 2, 1981, MP Muhammad Al-Rashid proposed "Kuwaitizing the judiciary" and "abolishing the system of allocating government housing to hired and contracted state employees".

MP Abdulaziz Al-Shayji proposed on December 25, 2008, "Kuwaitizing teachers in all government primary schools". This was the same proposal put forward on July 29, 2009 by MP Walid Al-Tabtabaei. He appended his previous proposal to another co-sponsor with MPs Jamaan Al-Harbash and Nasser Al-Sanea on March 11, 2009. They requested "the number of teachers of any nationality should not exceed 30 percent of the total number of non-Kuwaiti counterparts".

Proportion and Appropriateness

Al-Tabtabaei had his own vision to address "imbalance of the structure." He proposed on January 23, 2017 that the Council of Ministers establish a plan in which the maximum number of expatriate workers in the country be set, so that the percentage of nationalities does not exceed 30 percent of the total number of citizens. He stressed that Ministry of Social Affairs, the Secretariat of Supreme Council for Planning, Public Authority for Manpower, Ministry of Interior and relevant authorities should implement this plan within 10 years.

The proposal was adopted by MP Muhammad Haif after revoking the membership of Tabatabaei. While on the 11th of January 2015, MP Abdullah Al-Adwani saw the necessity of "stopping the appointment of expatriates in various jobs, except in the fields of medicine, education and engineering. He recommended replacement of Kuwaitis at 20 percent annually in the positions occupied by expatriates.

Safaa Al-Hashem seemed to be strict and clear when picking the phrases in any proposal related to expatriates, as she clearly called on March 19, 2017 that "fees collected from expatriates (two dinars for polyclinic and two dinars for hospital) are considered the detection and diagnosis fees provided that the expatriate buys medicine from pharmacies outside. She stressed that dispensing medicine in the clinics and hospitals should be restricted to citizens only. She also saw, on April 9, 2017, the need to "stop the issuance of driving licenses (the first time) for expatriates. She reiterated that license should not be issued to any expatriate unless he holds a driving license from his home country and called for preventing expatriates from owning more than one vehicle.

One of the solutions aimed at fixing the imbalance of the composition is what was proposed by MP Omar Al-Tabtabai on March 20, 2017 where he called for "taking measures that require government agencies to give priority to employment for Kuwaitis and that government agencies must not commit to appointing expatriates until they have submitted evidence that citizens did not fulfill the required conditions within a period of two months from the issuance of the employment announcement. MP Abdullah Fahad called for the appointment of Bedoun in vacancies at the cooperative societies and Ports Authority instead of expatriate workers.

Kuwaitization of Sermon

On December 6, 1993, former MP Talal Al-Saeed called for the Friday sermon broadcast live from Kuwait Radio and Television to be exclusive to Kuwaiti preachers.

Save Expenses

On November 24, 2010, former MP Mubarak Al-Khuraini requested that all convicted foreigners be expelled to their countries, except those convicted of homicides or financial crimes, so that they can execute jail terms in their countries in order to save expenses and financial rewards they receive for the handwork they make in prison.

Country Reputation

On 14 June 1967, former MP Abdullah Dashti proposed that cars bearing Kuwaiti numbers and owned by non-Kuwaitis should not be allowed to travel outside the country, because some of the owners of the cars carry out actions that harm the country's reputation.

Bearing Hardships

Former deputy Walid Al-Tabtabaei praised expatriate workers from Bangladesh, describing them as bearing the hardships of work. He requested in a proposal on February 3, 2010 to address the issue of bringing in agricultural labor and restricting the job to a specific nationality. He wanted this to be done by opening the way for farmers to recruit agricultural labor of various nationalities, including five workers for each farm that will be Bangladeshi nationals, as it's proven that they bear the hardships of agricultural work in Kuwait.

Kuwait health minister praises IOMS for innovations follow-up

Organization earns respect and membership of int'l agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 15, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Health Sheikh Dr Bassel Al-Sabah on Sunday lauded the Islamic Organization of Medical Sciences (IOMS) for its follow-up on global medical innovations and developments in the field.

The organization ranks among the leading ones for staying abreast of "all innovations that have emerged worldwide and studying them in a realistic and scientific method that conforms with realities in the Arab and Islamic States," said the minister.

Sheikh Dr Bassel was addressing a statement on behalf of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at inaugural session of a conference themed "the Islamic document for ethics of workers in the medical services."

The IOMS has presented a "wonderful image to the world on Islam's capacity to absorb all innovations and resolve problems that cannot be solved by the West due to lack of references," said the minister at the convention - organized by the IOMS in cooperation with Jeddah-based International Islamic Fiqh Academy, the regional office of the World Health Organization (WHO) and Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Award.

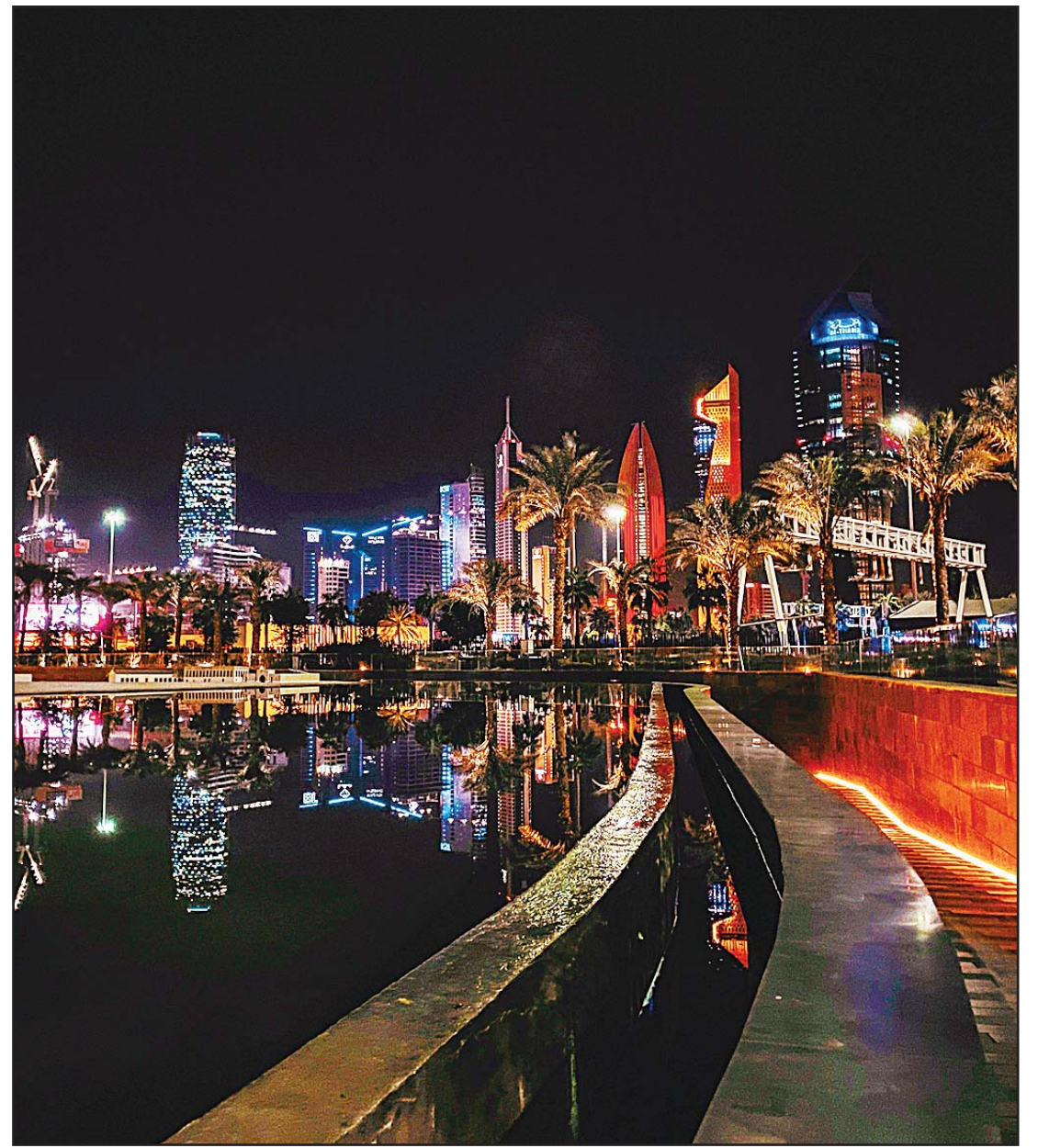
The organization has earned respect and membership of international agencies for proving that Islam is applicable at all times and has turned into a reference for medical ethics, he added.

He eulogized the late Dr Abdulrahman Al-Awadhi, the IOMS founder, who had launched many initiatives that impacted positively on image of Kuwait and other Islamic States.

Meanwhile, Dr Mohammad Al-Jarallah, the IOMS President, noted that the organization had worked out a document on ethical rules of the profession; such as medical confidentiality and privacy. "We have examined a lot of references from most of the world States and selected what suits us and what is compatible with our religion," he said.

For his part, Dr Ahmad Al-Hashemi, addressing a statement on behalf of Dubai Deputy Ruler and President of Sheikh Hamdan award, indicated at Al-Awadhi's role in tackling diverse issues namely prohibited and non-prohibited medical practices in Islam.

"Our religion calls for good ethics in all activities," he said, also noting that Islam calls for respecting peoples' dignity and privacy regardless of all kinds of affiliations, stressing that patients' rights must be respected.



Downtown Kuwait City seen from Al Shaheed Park at night. (Hajar Alofaian) - KUNA

No Internet in an MPW dept for past 15 months

Ministry of Finance dismisses request

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 15: Ministry of Finance dismissed the repeated requests of several ministries to increase their budgets since the proposal will put more burden on the public budget, reports Annahar daily.

The daily quoting a reliable source added the ministry obtained official documents containing requests of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to allocate KD1.2 million of the budget to cover rent allowance paid to Imams and Muezzins.

The ministry justified its request, saying it depends on the net annual revenue of the ministry. He explained that the housing allowance of KD100 was reduced due to the deficit in the budget while it was suspended for specific employees.

Meanwhile, official reports said the sum spent for advertisements by different official bodies during the first 8 months of this fiscal year reached KD 452.3 million while KD 3.3 billion was spent in grants, indicating the total value of State property is KD 13.7 billion.

One of the sectors in Ministry of Public Works has been without Internet service for the

past 15 months due to lack of coordination between the ministry and Ministry of Communications in this regard in the last phase, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting reliable sources.

They explained that the Government Center for Quality Control and Inspection did not have Internet service from the time the employees were transferred to the new building in Sabhan area in September 2018 from the old building in Khaifan area.

The employees of the center have been using their own laptops and routers to complete their tasks.

The sources highlighted the lack of any governmental correspondences or emails via the devices in the building even though its establishment and operation cost more than KD 13 million.

They revealed that the necessary correspondences are being made from the office of the Undersecretary of Ministry of Public Works in the head office of the ministry in South Surra.

Kuwaiti lawmakers have highlighted the need to bolster

collaboration between Asian Parliamentary Assembly member countries amid talks at Turkey's resort of Antalya on Saturday.

The meeting was "very important," MP Mohammad Al-Dallal told both KTV and KUNA, as it aimed to discuss transforming the assembly into a union.

"Through its participation, Kuwait has had a major role in leading such a practical approach," he added.

The talks also focused on poverty alleviation, famine, efforts to create economic, commercial and scientific opportunities, mechanisms in the field of sustainable security and overcoming challenges that hinder development and peace programmes in the continent.

Furthermore, attendees discussed the assembly's budgetary and planning matters.

Representing Kuwait, Amiri Diwan's Advisor Dr Youssef Hamad Al-Ibrahim has attended the third edition of the World Youth Forum which kicked off Saturday at Egypt's Red Sea resort city of Sharm El-Sheikh.