

## LOCAL

# Kuwait voices regret at very 'critical' conditions in CAR

Number of people need assistance and protection

**NEW YORK, Feb 23, (KUNA):** Kuwait has voiced regret at very critical conditions in Central African Republic where half of the population are in dire and urgent need for humanitarian aid – a country where security has remained largely fragile despite noticeable conciliation efforts among warring parties.

Number of people, half of whom children, who need assistance and protection in the CAR, has recently climbed from 2.5 million to 2.9 million, 16 per cent higher as compared to figures of the same period in 2017, said Kuwait's Permanent Representative at the United Nations, Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi, during a session of the UN Security Council (UNSC) on the African

country, held late on Thursday.

"Considering the fact that the most significant development in the CAR since last UNSC session to debate conditions in that country, on Feb 7, 2019, was the inking of the conciliation agreement by the CAR Government with the 14 armed groups and representatives of the civil society, I join those (states) that have expressed satisfaction for inking this accord officially on February 6, 2019, under umbrella of the African Union, according to the African initiative for peace and reconciliation, with backing and facilities from the United Nations," said Al-Otaibi.

Ambassador Al-Otaibi expressed gratitude to the Sudanese Government for hosting negotiations in Khartoum on Jan 24-Feb 5, 2019, and expressed hope that the deal would end armed strifes that have been witnessed in the republic since 2012.

He lauded the stakeholders' decision to establish a follow-up mechanism to oversee effective implementation of the political concord.

There have been positive developments with respect of some African strifes, he said, singling out the conciliation efforts between Ethiopia and Eritrea, also observing that there has been noticeable stability in Somalia, a concord worked out for South Sudan, security improvement in Darfur, first peaceful power transition in the Democratic Republic of Congo, along with emerging chances to establish peace in North Libya.

"These positive winds that constitute a glimmer of hope in the African continent could not have been available without efforts by the African Union, regional organizations, desire of the African states' governments to attain development and enforce tangible security, with UN support, and undoubtedly due to the cooperation by the regional states among themselves," Al-Otaibi continued.



Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi, addresses the Security Council meeting on the Central African Republic.



Kuwait Consulate in Erbil launched an expanded campaign to aid displaced Iraqis in the Kurdistan region provided by the Kuwait Relief Society.



Photo from the event

## Kuwait ambassador predicts fresh 'investments' in Brazil

**KUWAIT CITY, Feb 23:** Nearly two months after the inauguration of President Jair Bolsonaro, Kuwait's Ambassador to Brazil Nasser Riden Almotairi, predicts a new phase in the economic relations between the two countries, with higher direct investment in privatization and concession initiatives, which will be implemented in the coming months by the Brazilian government, as well as closer commercial ties on both sides.

"Brazil is a country brimming with opportunities," the ambassador said, noting that his country has enjoyed excellent ties with Brazil for over five decades. Almotairi, in the post since December, is tasked with encouraging the exchange between Brazilian and Kuwaiti companies, as the trade between the two nations is far from being in line with the magnitude of the economic and financial activities of the two countries on the global stage.

In 2018, Brazil exported \$227.28 million to Kuwait and imported from \$212.94 million the Arab country—a \$14.34 million surplus for the South American country. The main goods exported by Brazil to Kuwait is chicken. But the country also exports corn, timber, juice, and shoes to the region, and buys fuels and lubricants.

The diplomat said that his country cherishes its ties with Brazil. "We want Brazil and Kuwait to benefit from the experiences and aspirations of their governments and reach higher and higher horizons," he added.

In a bid to deepen economic and political ties with Brazil, Almotairi has held a large number of events. A week ago, he paid a visit to Brazilian Vice-President Hamilton Mourão. On Thursday (21st), the ambassador met in Brasilia with senators, members of the diplomatic community, and officials from the Brazilian Foreign Ministry and the government to celebrate the 28th anniversary of the



Almotairi

Liberation of Kuwait. The date marks the expulsion of Iraqis from the country in 1991.

During the event, Almotairi delivered an optimistic speech about the future of Brazil-Kuwait relations. He described the South American country as "a country with enormous economic potential." Kuwait has a great source of financial resources named Arab Fund for Economic Development, which provides subsidies, loans, and assistance to over a hundred countries, he pointed out. This investment has investments adding up to \$21.5 billion across the world.

The ambassador also mentioned the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), which administers assets amounting to \$592 billion in several countries around the globe, as well as other sovereign funds. These institutions have the potential not only to boost investment in privatization and concession efforts in Brazil, but also in initiatives in energy and agribusiness.

As a result of its desert climate, Kuwait and the other countries bordering the Arabian Gulf are low in food production. Investment in projects for agribusiness and husbandry in Brazil helps meet market demands in the region.

### Notably Kuwait Vision 2035 program

## Entertainment projects developed in Gulf over past decade worth blns

**KUWAIT CITY, Feb 23:** Constructionweekonline.com says that the most important creatively designed entertainment projects in 2019 which were developed in the Gulf steadily over the past decade are worth billions of dollars, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The region's appetite for entertainment has opened investor appetite, with the region focusing on economic diversification and targeting young people, who make up a large proportion of the region's people, the website said.

With the increasing economic diversification targets in the Gulf, entertainment projects are paying great attention to supporting long-term growth plans in the region, most notably the Kuwait Vision 2035 program.

The website added, billions of dollars have been pumped into creative tailor-made leisure plans across the Gulf over the past few years, as evidenced by the launch of the Warner Brothers amusement park in Abu Dhabi in July 2018 and the Dubai lobby in January last year.

The website said the construction of the Olympic village in the city of

Jaber Al-Ahmad, which cost about one billion dinars, which began in December 2018 is due to be completed in 2020 and will host international sporting events.

The report said the city is one of the largest economic diversification projects expected to help Kuwait achieve its goal of sustainable development in the future.

The sources pointed out the project is built over 25,000 sqm area and includes a 25,000 seat stadium, as well as playgrounds and facilities for individual and collective games and buildings that provide logistics services.

The Kuwaiti Olympic City project will also include a swimming pool, accommodation buildings for delegations participating in the Games, as well as the Olympic torch and a mosque.

The report pointed to nine other Gulf entertainment projects: Sour Gate, (Amman); Yas Arena, (Abu Dhabi); Reem Mall, Al Wasl Plaza, (Dubai); Sheikh Fatima Park (Abu Dhabi); Cinema and Al Qadiya (Saudi Arabia) and Underwater Theme Park (Bahrain).



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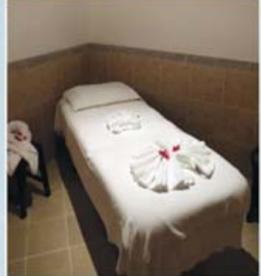
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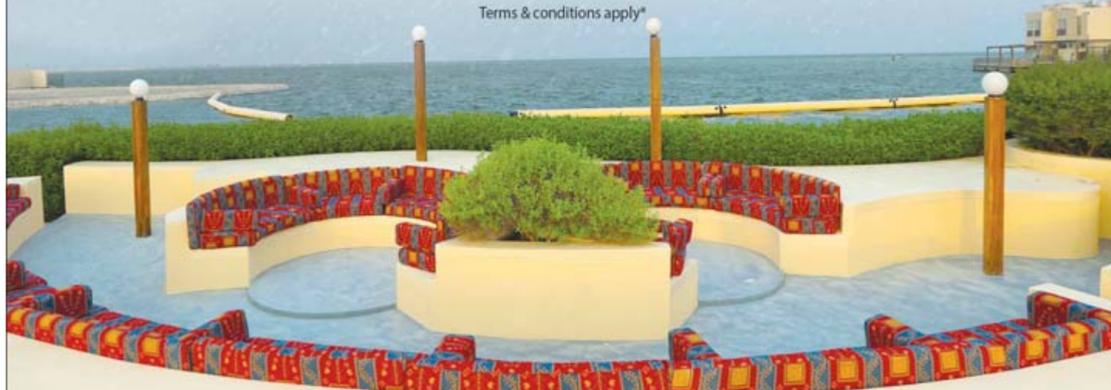
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