



High-rise buildings adorn Kuwait City.

Photo by Mohammad Morsi



Acting Undersecretary Al-Maqsid meeting with the teachers' delegation.

Al-Maqsid meets teachers' delegation

Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Development and Activities Affairs at the ministry, Faisal Al-Maqsid met with the delegation from the Kuwait Teachers' Association to discuss developments in the educational field, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the meeting, Al-Maqsid

confirmed importance and concerted efforts exerted by ministry and the association in the area of education as preparations continue to work towards the new academic year.

Meanwhile, Head of Teachers Association Moteei Al-Ajmi said the delegation discussed all issues related to the educational process.

Specialized committee formed

Municipality eyes strict measures against violators of building rules

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: Head of the Building Violations Committee, Advisor Amsha Al-Waalan, affirmed that Kuwait Municipality in amendment to the previous municipality Law 5/2005 sought to put in place decisive legal texts to govern control of the phenomenon of building violations and limit them through issuing deterrent measures against those violating building regulations, especially as entering private residences to control violations needs special permission from the Public Prosecution, given that the constitution guarantees the sanctity of housing, reports Al-Anba daily.

Al-Waalan in a statement said the current municipality Law 33/2016 was issued with legal texts that do not allow the municipality to cut off electrical power to the violating property except a final warning is issued with enforceable judgment, and this matter may take several years in the courts until the final ruling is issued.

In light of the provisions of the current municipality law, building violation is sacrosanct, and during that period, the municipality cannot remove or address it except to make a report of the violation that ultimately reaches the judiciary, she said.

Decisions

This is in addition to decisions to stop the violating works issued by Director General of the Municipality or whoever is authorized by law. It does not have immediate executive power and the Ministry of Interior cannot implement it in the absence of a binding legislative text.

She pointed out that "in light of the current situation of the law, the executive body has taken another direction until the desired amendment to municipality law is fulfilled with

the establishment of a specialized committee of legal and technical engineers to follow up on the building violations and take necessary measures to reduce the phenomenon, in accordance with laws, rules and regulations currently in force.

She noted the Building Violations Follow-up Committee, based on the mandate issued by Director General of the Municipality Engineer Ahmed Al-Manfouhi counted and followed up all reports issued against the building violations until they reached the Public Prosecution and the judiciary, following up on measures taken regarding abuses in all types of housing.

Explained

She explained the formed committee has started its work in following up these records, especially those related to violations of the fourth floor in private residences. She confirmed taking all necessary measures in this regard but the situation takes several years with the judiciary, so the municipality can remove it according to its laws.

She pointed out that the electronic link between the Municipality and the Criminal Prosecution Office periodically provides the municipality with the final ruling to block the transactions of violators.

She stated these measures bore fruits, as the last period has been witness to cases of forcible removal of some building violations issued by final judgments, which amount to 10 removals in various types of housing.

The committee has coordinated with the General Department Sentences Enforcement to implement removals, and the removals will be implemented in famous buildings very soon.

KAC board admits violations, submission of incorrect info

Board to refer panel's report to Public Investment Authority

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: The Board of Directors of Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) acknowledged the existence of violations related to the expenses for the celebration of the 65th anniversary of the founding of the company, as well as the errors and incorrect information in the responses to the questions of lawmakers in this regard, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The board of directors decided to refer all the violations and observations highlighted in the Audit and Risks Committee's report received from the board chairman to the Public Investment Authority, in its capacity as the General Assembly, and to assign the executive management to investigate the matter and to summon whoever necessary from both inside and outside the company.

It requested correction of the information that is inaccurate or unavailable in the responses to the parliamentary questions from MPs Thamer Al-Dhafiri and Saleh Ashour, including the mention of an amount of \$800,000 collected as sponsorship fee from Airbus, as there is no evidence of this in the company's records or financial data. Also, there is a mistake in calculating the cost of the ceremony, which amounted to KD 433,000 but was mentioned in the report as KD 380,000. It has been proven that the sponsorships did not cover the value of the ceremony, and it is not as stated that there were surplus cash sums.

Violations

The report highlighted nine violations, including the letter directed by the board chairman to Airbus Company, which was not applied on the ground due to its explicit contradiction with the terms of the contract signed between the two sides. If applied, it would have constituted a waiver of the company's assets.

The report indicated that the supreme committee had gone beyond the preparation of the ceremony that included the approval of the budget and disbursement of bonuses without referring to the Nomination and Remuneration Committee. The board chairman violated the applicable regulations and decisions by not submitting letters received from the CEO to the board of directors regarding the supreme committee's move to override the preparations and organize the approved budget for the celebration.

The board decided to assign the CEO with the task of preparing the



Saleh Ashour



A group of small business owners present their shop keys to government to express their discontent.

Owners demand help from govt

Corona pandemic throws SMEs in dire straits

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: The ongoing 'corona pandemic' has not only destroyed the SMEs (small enterprises) but the dreams of many SMEs owners have vanished in thin air – the SMEs such as the restaurants and small companies who suffered huge losses, and now find themselves knocking at the government door under the campaign themselves 'Take the keys to our stores' to help them overcome their losses, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The SMEs have collapsed on the heads of the initiators and their owners, and to make matter worse the government agencies does not seem to help them in any way.

To the contrary the government agencies appear to be placing all sorts of obstacles in their path and even have sought the help of the Kuwait Municipality for assistance.

Now the SMEs owners, finding no way out of their ordeal, are demanding help from the government to overcome

heavy losses caused by the coronavirus when the government took the decision to impose total lockdown on businesses – big and small. The owners of these SMEs marched from the Souq Sharq all the way to Seif Palace, demanding government action.

All those who spoke to the daily complained of cases that have been filed against them and government's failure to respond to their demands to find appropriate solutions for the continuity of their projects and work.

response to parliamentary questions. The Public Relations Department was transferred to him instead of the board chairman, and the executive management was tasked with creating a bylaw that organizes sponsorship procedures in the company.

The board asked the executive management to study a financial provision of \$200,000 in the event of receiving from Airbus, which is related to the commercial exchange of the ceremony conditional on receiving all aircraft from the Airbus Company, and determine whether there is a need to make a provision or not in accordance with the terms of the contract.

Meanwhile, the executive management was assigned to follow up with the Boeing Company regarding the possibility of KAC claiming the amount of \$265,000, which was presented as a sponsorship amount for the AACO ceremony.

It was also assigned to demand the recovery of KD 35,000 that was unlawfully disbursed to company, as well as KD 9,000 spent on a contract with an advertising agent.

The board confirmed the review of all signed and unsigned contracts for trade exchange granted by KAC, the slogan of a sponsor on a plane, and the advertisements on the aircraft screens for a period of not less than a minute, as well as in the company's Al-Buraq magazine, in addition to an advertisement in the airport and the waiting hall for a period of 12 months and others at

a fee that the board considers as minimal.

Report

The report submitted to the Public Investment Authority had highlighted nine violations, including the letter directed by the board chairman to Airbus Company, which was not implemented on the ground because of its clear contradiction with the terms of the contract signed between the two sides, which, if applied, would have constituted a waiver of the company's assets.

These violations include bypassing the supreme committee formed to prepare the approved budget for the celebration, and paying remuneration without referring to the Nominations and Remuneration Committee, which is considered a violation of the decisions and regulations of the board of directors.

It also recorded the existence of unusual procedures that marred the awarding procedures for the documentary tender, for example, awarding the bid at the highest prices. This is in addition to the fact that the Tenders and Auctions Committee summoned the members at a short notice, due to which the vice chairman and members of the Financial and Legal departments or their representatives did not attend.

The report stated that the board chairman violated the regulations and decisions in force not to display letters received from the CEO to the board of

directors regarding violation of the supreme committee in terms of preparation and organization of the approved budget for the celebration.

An informed source said, "The report of the board of directors affirms solidarity of KAC board members, with the exception of one member. The evidence of this is that the board was the one that addressed the violations and referred them to the Ministry of Finance, Public Investment Authority, Nazaha and the State Audit Bureau. By this, the board will have cleared its liability for all these violations, and the concerned authorities have to assume their responsibilities towards the company and the public money."

Irregularities

The report revealed a set of financial irregularities such as:

1- The company bore additional financial burdens for the implementation contract of "Operetta" on the occasion of the passing of 65 years.

2- It unlawfully disbursed sums to one of the suppliers for assigning a direct order to print and install stickers for 15 aircraft.

3- It paid an amount to a company in exchange for producing a song on an official occasion without providing supporting documents for the disbursement.

4- It bought gifts by direct order from a company in violation of the financial decisions regulating the purchase.