



Some of the 28 MoH staff as they arrive in Kuwait.

Group of stranded Filipino MoH staff reaches Kuwait

Direct flight brings back medical workers

By Michelle Fe Santiago
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27: A group of stranded Filipino staff at the Kuwait Ministry of Health (MoH) arrived in Kuwait on Monday night on board a Kuwait Airways chartered flight from Manila organized by Al Tayer Travels in coordination with the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait.

After obtaining all the needed travel clearance from concerned Kuwaiti authorities, the group composed of 28 MoH staff flew to Kuwait together with Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait Mohd Noordin Penosina Lomondot and Kuwait Ambassador to the Philippines Musaed Saleh Ahmad Al-Thwaikh.

"We would like to thank Al Tayer Travels led by its Chairman Mr Fahad Al Baker for taking this initiative to help our stranded MoH staff. We hope to bring all the stranded MoH staff back soon," stated Lomondot.

There are 30 more MoH staff and nine of their dependents who are still stranded in the Philippines and waiting for their travel clearance to fly to Kuwait directly. The Kuwait government earlier banned residents coming from 34 countries with high cases of COVID-19 from flying directly to Kuwait but they can travel and stay in a country not in the ban list and stay there 14 days after which they can fly to Kuwait with the required PCR test.

A few of the stranded Filipino MoH staff opted to fly via Dubai but majority have been waiting for the travel clearance from the MoH.

The group of stranded Filipino MoH staff, mostly nurses have earlier sought the help of the Philippine Embassy in July. According to them, the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait sent a letter to the MoH in July with the list of stranded MoH staff in the Philippines. The first group of 23 MoH staff flew via chartered flight organised by Al Tayer Travels in July and the second batch last Monday night.

"We are happy to be of service and to help the Filipino MoH staff. We have done all our best to bring them back to Kuwait despite the pandemic and all the travel restrictions. We thank the Kuwaiti authorities for allowing us to fly back the 28. We hope the remaining 30 and their dependents will be given approval too," stated Al Baker.

Nine out of the 28 MoH staff who arrived had expired



Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait Mohd Noordin Penosina Lomondot and Al Tayer Travels Chairman Fahad Al Baker.

residence visas but were allowed entry per DGCA Circular No 2020/69.

"We would like to thank the Kuwait government and the Kuwait Immigration authorities for welcoming us warmly to Kuwait. Thank you also to Al Tayer Travels to Mr Fahad, Mr Bobby, Ms Marlyn, Ms Melanie. Special thanks also to Vice-Consul Adrian Baccay, as well as to Ambassador Lomondot and Ambassador Al Thwaikh for accompanying us back to Kuwait. We hope and pray that our remaining colleagues in the Philippines can fly back soon too," stated one of the nurses who was stranded for more than 7 months in the Philippines.

Meanwhile, Al Tayer Travels vowed to help the remaining stranded MoH staff to return to Kuwait.

"We will start again with all the paper works and hopefully, they can fly back soon," stated Bobby Thomas, Al Tayer Travels Operations Manager. Lomondot and Al Thwaikh also promised to help secure the travel clearance from concerned Kuwaiti authorities.

Difficulty faced in renewing driving licenses

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27: Citizens and expatriates are facing difficulties in renewing their driving licences and more often than not there is always a big crowd at the designated complexes to collect these licences, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily added renewing the driving licence online has not been helpful for them because when they go to collect their licences they don't find them in the machines at the designated places and the reason being, according to reliable sources the ministry is running

short of the material to print these licences.

Citizens and expatriates hope the concerned authorities will soon find a solution to this problem since they fear if they are caught driving without a valid driving licence they may end up in jail or paying fines.

In this context, security sources admitted the ministry is facing a problem because of shortage of raw material. The sources added, the General Traffic Departments are distributing material enough for 700 licences per week.

In the meantime, the General Traffic Department has entered the second stage of issuing smart licenses, as expatriates who are issued driving licenses for the first time can obtain smart licenses which have modern security and formal features and keeps pace with global developments and specifications.

The source indicated that the third phase will include all expatriates who renew their licences or those whose licences are lost and need to be replaced.

Other Voices

'Common Arab market crucial'

"ALL gatherings and unions in the world bring together some countries of the world, including the European Union which are bound by common interests where all countries are equal irrespective of their size, but can we say the same thing of the countries which make the Arab League?" columnist *Mishref Eqab* wrote for *Al-Shahed* daily.

"The formation of the league of the Arab states is similar to that of the European Union. We talk much about common trade, and here we ask: 'Where is the economic and commercial cooperation between the Arab countries?'"

"We talk a lot about Arab unity, Arab solidarity, unity in ranks and destiny, and the common Arab market, but until now this has remained ink on paper although we aspire much."

"Where are the Arab League and the Arab Parliament and their role in expanding the scope of joint Arab action, and where are the Arab officials and economists who are tasked with activating the common Arab market?"

"Whoever sees what the Arab world enjoys in terms of natural and financial wealth, whether in size or diversity, and the boundaries of connecting the Arab countries, sharing a common history and one language, finds that the common Arab market system not only provide the Arabs with economic, social and political conditions, but also negotiating terms that are difficult to ignore."

"We must expedite the activation of the Arab common market in total frankness and transparency without any sensitivity, and let the beginning be just a sign based on the language of figures and statistics at a time when the world's population is increasing and will cross several billions within a few years. The share of the Arab world from this population increase will be big."

"It is but natural that the population will increase in the Arab world and the Arab land is abundant with natural resources – oil, minerals and ores in some countries and rivers and fertile lands in others – to such an extent others envy us."

"The failure in exploiting and employing the huge Arab resources is because the Arab world, despite all its available elements of unity and integration, is still divided and fragmented and unfortunately reflects the deterioration and the absence of democracy and vitality in the interaction between our countries and the political and strategic perception."

"Any Arab country, no matter how great its capabilities, cannot face the challenges, therefore the Arab world is fully convinced of the importance of establishing a common Arab market on the basis that economic integration is not only an inevitable necessity but rather the only option, and I think the need for the Arab market has become more urgent than ever before."

"This market is an indication that this nation still possesses the vitality of proving its existence and the ability to ward off any potential future attempts to defame or blackmail these countries in light of the commercial and economic globalization or under the weight of technological and scientific globalization."

"All the motives calling for the establishment of the common Arab market are not merely an expression of urgent political feelings, but most of them reflect a sense of urgency to secure the needs of the present and prepare for any unknown circumstances in future."

"We have experiences in peoples, including the people of Europe and America. The successful European Common Market experience is based on economic integration between countries on equal footing."

Also:

"The development has basic rules for comprehensive change to achieve it. It does not exist on the ground and is far from being called developed. With regret and sadness, we neither think nor are on the right track to real development, as is the case in many countries even those surrounding us," columnist *Hamad Al-Seif* wrote for *Annahar* daily.

"Although we have all the necessary potentials to start with, we waste time and capabilities without government interaction with the rest of the institutions including the private sector and community institutions."

"The government wants to own and manage the country in an expensive and unscientific manner for the benefit of a few influential contractors. It is a non-development and unproductive method that does not benefit the country from an economic point of view, but drains public finances and increases the volume of disguised unemployment because the state is implementing unproductive projects. It should not be called development, but rather a random method by all means and known standards."

"The real development has its pre-requisites that the government does not want to implement. Therefore, it should not delude society that it is implementing a real development plan, but rather unproductive projects that are managed by flabby administrative apparatuses which depend on help from some beneficiaries including the influential people who are not serious about development."

"Therefore, the government must wake up and make it clear to the society that it has failed to achieve the desired development unlike the rest of the world."

"The government and the National Assembly are responsible for the lack of seriousness in going after real productive development of the national economy, strengthening public finances, and finding alternatives to the state budget instead of solely depending on the

oil revenues, and this requires serious and practical intentions to achieve it.

"The continuation of the general negative trend must end and instead the government and the National Assembly must work hand in hand to get rid of weak administrative apparatuses if we want to see our country developing and catching up with the rest of the world."

"The society wants real change to implement real development. We all hope in the new era to put the country on the desired path of real development for the sake of its citizens."



"If we look into the achievements of the 2016 National Assembly, we will find very few positive achievements compared to previous parliaments. In fact, this parliament became more active during its last parliamentary term and after the pledge of allegiance to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and the Crown Prince His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah", columnist *Mubarak Mezyad Al-Maousharji* wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

"These shortcomings call for a change in the current electoral system process through redistribution of the current electoral constituencies and inclusion of new residential areas in a manner that is fair and serves justice to the electoral votes in terms of representation."

"The matter requires real and serious governmental and parliamentary cooperation in order to try in fixing this defect, then reviewing and scrutinizing the electoral rolls and ensuring that the individual (voter) registers in the constituency where he resides by matching the civil ID and address. If the voter has rented in that area, there must be a rental contract attested by the district mayor."

"The second condition is the elimination of by-elections in all forms - tribal, sectarian, and clan - by assigning governors, police officers, and district mayors to inform the concerned authorities of any by-elections, and depriving everyone who participates in them from running for elections or voting in them."

"An MP represents the nation, and not only the group to which he or she belongs. It is unreasonable to raise a flag other than the flag of Kuwait or pledge the interest of its class only, or to return its class as it was. Note that his class was, is, and will remain proud without their need for him, as these only represent their classes."

"We want a nation in the full sense of the word, with pride for each of us for his origin, family and sect, and for Kuwait to be first and foremost. The homeland is the one that brought us together, so do not divide us into competing groups."



"I hope that the special proposals for dealing with the situation of the so-called 'illegal residents', or who we refer to as 'Bedoun', will not be discussed in the next session", *Mubarak Fahad Al-Duwailah* wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"This issue is pivotal, and should be discussed widely by all groups in society. It cannot be reduced to a committee that we have not heard of discussing this issue before. This is because this issue is a societal one, so we believe that putting it up for public discussion and studying different opinions is necessary for the success of the treatment that you will adopt."

"I hope that our brothers, the MPs, will pay attention to the urgent adoption of proposals and will not avoid carrying out a thorough study of the consequences of matters, as it could lead to catastrophic humanitarian, security and moral impacts! I also hope that electoral interests do not precede the general interest of the nation, its reputation and stability!"

"Those who believe that the solution to the Bedoun problem lies in obliging them to obtain passports of countries to which they do not belong, is doing nothing but swimming in a sea of imagination without a beach. And those who believe that the solution is limited to forcing them into making confessions in which they do not believe is acting contrary to Sharia, constitution, principle, disclaimer and fortune!"

"The Bedoun problem is an issue of the homeland, so we should not reduce the interest of the homeland in this regard in such a hurry".



"The school's role in molding the human personality, human knowledge and national identity and its practice is crystallized through the continuous interactions established through its programs and policies," columnist *Dr Nasser Al-Awan* wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

"The school offers human knowledge more than teaching and learning, as it is the space in which a wide range of social interactions take place with different visions, aspirations, goals, environments and individuals."

"It is the first institution which the child and adolescent come into contact with to learn about the structural formation of the State, demographic and cultural formation of society, and legal formation in the politics of reward and punishment. It is the first contact of the child and adolescent with the observer, supervisor, director and official."

"Although each school is a separate geographical unit, they are all together. It is a moment for the State educational institution to develop its vision ... just as every clinic, hospital and field unit in the country function during the corona pandemic - a moment of developing the health institution's vision on disasters, epidemics and crises."

"The school operates without satellites, Internet subscriptions, connection meter or laptop. Its fences are impregnable and not affected by storms, sunlight or heavy rain."

— Compiled by Ahmad Al-Shazli

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الإعلام الصحي

خلها في بالك

تطورات مرض فيروس كورونا COVID-19

Tuesday 2020/10/27 الثلاثاء

775

إصابة جديدة
NEW CASES
:Total الإجمالي
123,092

7

حالة وفاة جديدة
NEW DEATHS
:Total الإجمالي
756

725

حالة تعافي جديدة
NEW RECOVERIES
:Total الإجمالي
114,116

116

إجمالي الحالات
في العناية المركزة
TOTAL SERIOUS CASES

8,220

إجمالي الحالات
التي تتلقى العلاج
TOTAL ACTIVE CASES

7,874

مسحة جديدة
NEW TESTS
:Total الإجمالي
889,555

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'MoSA must back Union'

'Shareholders funds priority'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27: Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies Chairman Fahad Al-Kishti has emphasized that the role of the Ministry of Social Affairs is to protect the shareholders' funds, hoping the ministry will stand with the union in serving the interests of the shareholders and cooperative societies, reports *Al-Rai* daily.

In a press statement, Al-Kishti clarified the union is the sole representative of cooperative societies and it deals with their concerns and problems; so the ministry must stop taking individual decisions and start involving stakeholders in making decisions concerning them.

He said the ministry should wait before issuing any decision which serves traders and investors, while neglecting the shareholders.

He pointed out the decision to exempt investors in cooperative societies from paying rent will put question marks in front of the ministry as it seems to be working for the benefit of merchants without legal basis.

He stressed that if any decision taken serves merchants and reduce rents by a large percentage which is not specified in the Cabinet's decision, the union will go to the court to cancel this decision in accordance with the legal procedures.

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