

Local

New anti-concealment law to strengthen transparency, fair competition: Minister

Decree-law goes beyond addressing traditional forms of commercial concealment

KUWAIT: Minister of Commerce and Industry Osama Boodai said the newly issued decree-law on combating commercial concealment marks a significant step in strengthening Kuwait's economic and legislative framework by promoting transparency, protecting the national economy and ensuring fair competition. Speaking to KUNA on Monday, Boodai said the legislation reflects the state's commitment to creating a more transparent business environment while ensuring that government support and incentives are directed to those who genuinely qualify.

The minister said the decree-law goes beyond addressing traditional forms of commercial concealment by introducing the principle of disclosing the beneficial owner of commercial activities. He said the measure is designed to enhance equal opportunities and protect law-abiding businesses from unfair and illegal practices. Boodai noted that practical experience in recent years had revealed cases in which incentives and benefits intended to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and other commercial activities were exploited by concealing the identity of the actual business owner or using the names of others.

He said such practices deprived eligible entrepreneurs of opportunities and discouraged new entrants from participating in the market by creating the perception that competition favored non-compliant businesses, ultimately limiting economic diversification and innovation. "The primary beneficiary of this legislation is every individual who fulfills their obligations and bears the cost of complying with the law," Boodai said. He added that the legislation will create a fairer marketplace by ensuring that the true owners of businesses are clearly identified, benefiting entrepreneurs seeking legitimate opportunities as well as society by ensuring that public resources and incentives reach their intended recipients.

The minister also said consumers stand to benefit from the new framework, noting that transparency regarding business ownership strengthens trust in commercial transactions, facilitates the resolution of complaints and protects consumer rights by making it easier to identify the responsible party. Boodai stressed that the decree-law applies equally to

anyone found in violation of its provisions, regardless of nationality or status. He said the legislation clearly defines prohibited practices, outlines the responsibilities of all parties involved in facilitating or benefiting from commercial concealment and grants the relevant authorities the regulatory powers needed to enforce the law in accordance with established legal safeguards. He said the Ministry of Commerce and Industry will issue the executive regulations necessary to implement the decree-law, providing clear procedures, standardized enforcement mechanisms and measures that facilitate compliance while maintaining the stability of the business environment and supporting legitimate commercial activity.

Boodai encouraged businesses to review and regularize their legal status before the law is fully implemented, describing the transition period as an opportunity to resolve existing issues more easily than after enforcement begins. He added that continued development of digital systems, greater integration of government data and closer cooperation among relevant authorities would improve transparency and provide a

more comprehensive picture of commercial activity.

The minister said the ministry has made advisory services available to businesses and individuals seeking clarification on the decree-law and encouraged the public to submit inquiries and feedback through its official communication channels. Boodai stressed that promoting market integrity requires both effective regulation and public awareness, noting that allowing others to operate under one's name or commercial license is not a harmless practice but one that deprives deserving entrepreneurs of legitimate opportunities.

He said the legislation is not intended to restrict economic activity but to foster a business environment in which success is determined by competence, transparency and compliance with the law. The ministry, he added, will work closely with government agencies and the private sector to implement the decree-law in a manner that strengthens investor confidence, protects government support programs and ensures that new entrepreneurs can compete on a level playing field in an economy where achievement — not personal connections or concealed ownership — determines success. — KUNA

Higher Education Minister inspects new building

KUWAIT: Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr Nader Al-Jallal inspected the ministry's new building in the Kaifan area on Monday to review its facilities and follow up on preparations for the gradual relocation of ministry departments. Speaking to KUNA, Al-Jallal said the move to the new headquarters represents an important step toward improving the institutional work environment, enhancing operational efficiency and raising the quality of services provided to students and visitors.

He praised the efforts of the teams involved in preparing the building and completing its technical, administrative and organizational requirements to ensure it is fully ready for operation. Al-Jallal explained that the relocation process will be carried out gradually according to an organized schedule, beginning with the Department of Scholarship Affairs, followed by other departments in stages until the move is completed. He said the phased approach aims to ensure business continuity and prevent any disruption to services.

The minister stressed the importance of establishing a modern and integrated workplace that supports ministry employees, accelerates transactions and improves the overall quality of services. He also emphasized the need to closely monitor preparations and complete the relocation according to the approved timeline, while ensuring that procedures remain accessible for visitors and that all necessary



KUWAIT: Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr Nader Al-Jallal, inspects the new building, accompanied by the Undersecretary of the Ministry Dr Badr Al-Basiri. — KUNA

resources are available for the smooth operation of the new facility.

During the tour, Al-Jallal received a briefing on the operations of the Scholarship Affairs Department and its various sections. The department, which has already begun operating from the new building, is responsible for following up on scholarship students' affairs and coordinating directly with cultural offices abroad. In the next phase, the department will be developed into an integrated center for monitoring scholarship students, aimed at improving follow-up procedures, addressing their concerns more efficiently and providing the necessary support throughout their academic journeys. — KUNA

KASCO, Red Crescent discuss cooperation on humanitarian initiatives

KUWAIT: Kuwait Aviation Services Company (KASCO) Chairman of the Board of Directors Dr Abdulaziz Al-Shabib and Kuwait Red Crescent Society Director General Fawaz Al-Mazrouei discussed ways to enhance cooperation between the two organizations in support of humanitarian and community initiatives. Speaking to KUNA on Monday, Al-Shabib said the discussions took place during a visit by a Red Crescent delegation to KASCO, where both sides reviewed potential charitable projects aimed at serving the community and promoting social responsibility and humanitarian efforts in Kuwait.

Al-Shabib stressed KASCO's commitment to strengthening partnerships with national institutions, government bodies and public benefit organizations, emphasizing the importance of cooperation among different entities to serve society and contribute to sustainable development. He said KASCO is prepared to provide support and cooperation to the Kuwait Red Crescent Society and contribute to humanitarian and charitable initiatives, noting that the company's expertise and capabilities enable it to participate effectively in national and humanitarian projects.

Al-Shabib added that KASCO is currently implementing a comprehensive development and expansion strategy focused on upgrading services and improving operational efficiency to meet the aspirations of its board and executive management, enhance service quality and continue its social and humanitarian role. He highlighted the company's previous contributions to



Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Aviation Services Company (KASCO), Dr Abdulaziz Al-Shabib

charitable initiatives, including its ongoing cooperation with the Ni'mati Charity Foundation, and expressed KASCO's interest in expanding such efforts in partnership with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society. For his part, Al-Mazrouei praised KASCO's role and its support for humanitarian initiatives, saying the cooperation reflects the spirit of national responsibility demonstrated by Kuwait's institutions.

He said the coming period will see further meetings and workshops between the two sides to explore humanitarian and charitable projects that can contribute to developing quality initiatives carrying Kuwait's name and reflecting its leading position in humanitarian work regionally and internationally. The meeting was attended by KASCO Board Member Adel Al-Qattan, CEO Fawaz Al-Bader, Acting Director of Supply Projects Abdullah Al-Qallaf and Head of Public Relations Fahad Al-Kandari. Representing the Kuwait Red Crescent Society were Media Advisor Hamed Al-Omairi, Director of Administrative Affairs Asrar Hayat and Head of Media Ghanem Al-Damaj. — KUNA

At AIESEC in Kuwait, youth find growth and belonging

By Alina S Pasha

Seven months after joining AIESEC in Kuwait, Saleh Yaqoub was preparing to take on a leadership role. A student of English Education at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), Yaqoub joined the organization as a marketing member. During AIESEC's three-day Elevate conference, held from July 30 to August 1, he officially transitioned into his new role as Vice President of Human Resources.



The position is generally reserved for members with previous team leadership experience. But encouraged by AIESEC's culture of ambition and support, Yaqoub applied and earned the role after a series of interviews and assessments.

He said his interest in human resources grew from the freedom AIESEC gave him to invest in his own development and learn to look beyond his own team while working with different departments. Things clicked when he realized that "a good culture anywhere is based on support."

That idea was at the heart of Elevate, AIESEC in Kuwait's second annual conference, which brought together young members for 33 training sessions and one workshop designed to celebrate outgoing members and prepare current members for their upcoming leadership roles. The conference was held at the Kuwait Society for the Handicapped from July 30 to August 1. The three-day event brought together 17 delegates, nine internal facilitators and one external facilitator. Many of the delegates and internal facilitators were students from the American University of Kuwait (AUK),

Arab Open University (AOU), American University of the Middle East (AUM), and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), pursuing degrees in IT, marketing and business.

Organized entirely by young members, the conference had been in preparation since February. Behind the scenes, members worked through long nights and unexpected challenges to create an event they felt belonged to them. "We are really trying to send a message of we are building the future. We're building you," said Samira Hallal, AIESEC in Kuwait's previous Country President.

Maham Abbas, an IT student at AOU and the Organizing Committee President, said the conference focused on practical workshops, educational sessions, interactive activities, real-life scenarios and opportunities for members to connect. The sessions also created space for members to reflect on mistakes, discuss what went wrong and consider how they could approach similar situations differently.

By the end of Elevate, Tala Alkhateeb, AIESEC in Kuwait's new Country President, said she could already observe a shift in their mindsets, reflected in the way they communicated with her and the greater sense of responsibility they carried.

Culture of support

In AIESEC, support does not mean the absence of challenges; rather, challenges are intentionally made part of the growth process. This was reflected in the training sessions at Elevate, which went beyond developing technical skills by creating spaces where members could discuss past mistakes and learn from them.

Alkhateeb emphasized that the organization's mission to challenge its members, describing the opportunity to be challenged as a privilege. Through AIESEC's culture of continuous feedback, she said her own journey has become an ongoing process of self-reflection. "We are a youth organization; the whole point is for us to make mistakes," Alkhateeb said.

She notes that while designing Elevate's sessions, it was important to provide members with actionable steps to



overcome their mistakes. This philosophy was also reflected in Hallal's experience as a leader during the planning stages of Elevate, when she noticed the common habit of procrastination among youth. She noted that, as students and young adults, many become accustomed to waiting until deadlines approach and relying on the pressure of the final moments to complete tasks. She was able to help her members by asking guiding questions about how long each step would take. During these discussions, members were able to visualize their time and goals, allowing them to unite and take the required steps.

'Living diversity'

On her personal journey, Hallal highlighted growing up with both Gabonese and Lebanese heritage, she felt like she never fully belonged to one place. "Joining AIESEC for me was joining a place where for the first time I felt welcomed. Because despite my differences it wasn't pointed out," she said. "It was something that

was celebrated because one of the values in AIESEC is living diversity." AIESEC grew to be her home, a place where her "uniqueness contributed to [her] team and was valued for [her] differences."

That sense of belonging was also experienced by Ayesha Khan, a psychology student at the University of Debrecen and a member of the Debrecen local chapter of AIESEC in Hungary. Khan, who grew up in Kuwait, was happy to return and visit AIESEC in Kuwait. She described attending the event as stepping outside her comfort zone while still feeling supported within the community. One moment she particularly enjoyed was the T-shirt activity, where everyone was encouraged to write positive comments on each other's shirts.

Naser Ahmed Rashed, from AIESEC's Tylos chapter in Bahrain, also traveled to Kuwait for the conference. With his upcoming position as Marketing manager at AIESEC in Bahrain, Rashed attended sessions focusing on marketing, outgo-

ing global volunteering and team leadership development. Rashed mentions learning about different marketing strategies, tools, crisis management and how to avoid possible future disagreements between team leaders. When asked what he would miss, he replied: "The people, they are so kind. I want to be a member of AIESEC in Kuwait."

AIESEC in Kuwait was re-established in 2022 by Maysoon Al-Attar, who first experienced AIESEC's mission during her university years in Malta. Inspired by the organization's commitment to developing young leaders through cross-cultural understanding and international volunteer opportunities, she brought the initiative to Kuwait. The aim is to give young people greater choice in how they challenged themselves and discovered their potential. The organization now has more than 40 active members.

From the beginning, Al-Attar said one of her priorities was ensuring the organization could continue beyond the people who built it. "From the very beginning, one of my biggest concerns was ensuring that AIESEC in Kuwait would never depend on a single individual," she said. Dr Kameledine Benameur and Amal Abdelhaleem serve on AIESEC in Kuwait's Board of Directors. This vision of long-term support is also reflected in Dr Benameur's goals for the organization. Dr Benameur strives for AIESEC to grow more to better support the youth's academic commitments. He hopes that having more members will enable responsibilities to be distributed more effectively, reducing the pressure that youth may face.

Abdelhaleem, the Impact Director, emphasized that growth also involves strengthening AIESEC's internal community. She said she hopes for "growth within [and] growth in Kuwait as a country."

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