

'All articles approved and all the profits ... preserved without change'

Labor union elated over non-tampering of private oil sector law

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff
KUWAIT CITY, Jan 11: Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Private Oil Sector Labor Union Saud Al-Enezi revealed to Al-Seyassah the scenario prior to the adoption of the private oil sector law.

He explained that the law consists of 17 articles. There was an intention by some parties to cancel and amend seven articles related to fundamental gains for the benefit of national cadres working in the private oil sector, numbering a total of 14,000 Kuwaitis as per the latest census.

With the insistence, efforts and co-

operation of the members of the Human Resources Committee in the National Assembly and the Private Oil Sector Labor Union, the opportunity was missed for tampering with any article.

Accordingly, all 17 articles were approved and all the profits of private oil sector workers were preserved without

change until this insistence bore fruit on approving the adoption of the private oil sector law by the relevant parliamentary committee and referring it to a vote.

Al-Enezi said he hopes it will be voted on by the National Assembly as soon as possible.

He stressed that the adoption of such

laws is a positive step that benefits Kuwaiti youth working in the private sector, particularly those working in the private oil sector.

Al-Enezi expressed his surprise that the private oil companies that implement projects for government oil companies have not met the requirement of 30-percent Kuwaitiza-

tion.

He expressed gratitude to the representatives of the Human Resources Committee in the National Assembly - Faris Al-Otaibi, Bader Nashmi, Jarrah Al-Fawzan, and Abdullah Al-Anbai - as well as the representatives of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and the Ministry of Oil.

KPA triumphs as violating firms ordered to pay over KD22 mln

'Decrease seen in 2023 appointment rate in MEW'

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff
and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 11: Informed sources revealed a decrease in the rate of appointments in the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy in the year 2023 compared to those scheduled to be appointed by about 1,612 employees, which is 63 percent compared to the year 2022.

They explained that the number of employees appointed in 2023 reached 2,729, compared to 4,341 employees in the year 2022.

The total number of employees in the ministry was 34,511 in the past year, including 33,640 Kuwaitis, which is 97.5 percent, while the number of non-Kuwaitis was 871.

The sources attributed the decline

in the number of appointees in the ministry to the lack of job vacancies and the large numbers that were appointed in the last three years, which reached approximately 13,000.

Meanwhile, the ministry intends to register 159,000 items (cables, bulbs, water pipes, meters and other materials in its stores on the Oracle inventory management system in the government finance department. The total financial value of these materials amounts to KD 58,558 million.

Audit

The sources explained that the data for these materials will be recorded on the aforementioned system through a detailed audit of each item separately, in accordance with the provisions of control over the mechanism for disbursing and following up these materials, as they are public funds that must be preserved and in implementation of article 1 of the general provisions of circular No. 10/2016.

The registration of these materials in the ministry's warehouses was supposed to be registered in 2016 in all the ministry's warehouses, but

the slow documentary cycle and correspondence between the ministry and the Ministry of Finance and the large number of these materials prevented the implementation of this registration procedure.

The implementation of this procedure will remove an important observation from the State Audit Bureau's observations that are taken to the ministry annually and recorded in the annual performance evaluation report, especially since the current status of these materials means that there is a mismatch between all the materials present in the ministry's stores and their number in the annual inventory committee report, which prevents tight control over them.

In another development, Kuwait Ports Authority (KPA) has confirmed the issuance of final court rulings obliging companies to pay compensation amounting to more than KD22 million and to put the violating companies on the black-list; such that they will no longer be allowed to register to operate at Shuaiba Port and Shuaiba Port, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a press statement, the authority revealed this is the result of its serious follow-up on the necessity of confronting all forms of infringement on public funds and preventing the illegal practices of any company, with emphasis on the provision of an attractive environment for investment and improving maritime logistics services in the country.

It also stressed the importance of taking the necessary legal measures to ensure that the State's capabilities are not violated, removing the violating parties through proper lawsuits, and providing the Legal Advice and Legislation Department with all the evidence and documents necessary to file these lawsuits.

It then expressed pride in the Kuwaiti judiciary's announcement of a ruling obliging one of the companies to pay KD20 million compensation to the authority with the 'res judicata' issued by the Court of Cassation; in addition to two companies ordered to pay KD2.7 million -- their registration fees for operating as a container handling contractor in Shuaiba Port from July 2002 to December 2015.



Ms. Mayce El Mostafa during the panel discussion.



Ms. Mayce El Mostafa and Dr. Shihanah AlMutairi.



Dr. Shihanah AlMutairi during the panel discussion.

'Commitment unwavering'

AUK's faculty and staff members lead Climate Action at the COP 28

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 11: The American University of Kuwait (AUK) distinguished itself at the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP 28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Dubai, showcasing the unwavering commitment of its staff and faculty to climate leadership.

Dr. Shihanah AlMutairi, vice chair of PRME Middle East and assistant dean of the College of Business and Economics (CBE) at AUK, highlighted AUK's commitment to sustainability. This is through the institution's involvement in the MENA Business Schools Alliance for Sustainability (MEBAS) and the integration of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) into program learning goals. Through open-source collaboration and initiatives like PRME and MEBAS, AUK aims to nurture a generation that is knowledgeable and proactive in making a sustainable and meaningful difference.

Ms. Mayce El Mostafa, director of campus services at AUK, also played a pivotal role as a panelist and attended at COP 28.

Alongside influential figures in the industry and academia, Ms. Mayce participated in a panel titled "Climate Leadership & ESG Governance as an enabler of Sustainable Growth." This platform facilitated a rich discussion on the changing business scene, sustainability challenges, and the crucial role of educational institutions in shaping climate-literate leaders.

She also shared insights into AUK's journey towards sustainability, highlighting the University's commitment to implementing sustainability across teaching, research, operations, and community outreach. She further detailed AUK's initiatives, including a focus on urban farming, and reducing food-to-table life cycle effects.

As COP 28 concluded, Ms. Mayce El Mostafa and Dr. Shihanah AlMutairi stood as beacons of change, emphasizing that education and leadership play a critical role in addressing climate challenges. Their contributions at COP 28 reflect AUK's commitment to not only educate but to actively lead the way towards a more sustainable and resilient future.

UCCS vows to confront any attempt to create food shortage in country

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 11: Head of the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies (UCCS) Musab Al-Mulla affirmed that the union will confront any attempt to create a shortage crisis of some consumer goods.

He said this in a statement to Al-Seyassah during a dinner party he held on the occasion of his victory of the presidency of the Union of Cooperative Societies the day before yesterday evening.

Al-Mulla explained that the egg crisis was addressed through two approaches, the first through coordination and direct communication with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which resulted in the issuance of a decision to ban export, which is a first step that addressed part of the problem. The second approach to resolve the crisis was to meet with egg producing companies and discuss the problems they face.

The meeting was positive, and it ended with a consensus on many demands so that what happened in the egg crisis would not reoccur. He stressed that the union will face a shortage of any commodity in the cooperative societies in accordance with the legal frameworks.

Al-Mulla said, "As we can provide any

commodity that citizens need, we do not want there to be any shortage of any commodity. The union's doors are open to all, either companies or suppliers.

"Our concern in the union is to serve citizens and consumers, which is our work motto. There will not be any price increases, as the decision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is clear in this regard. If there is an amendment or mechanism, we will follow this same mechanism. What matters to us is quality and price for the consumer, and we will not give up on that."

He revealed a new direction for developing cooperation products by increasing and developing cooperation products and making sure to provide them in all cooperative societies in a way that is in the interest of the consumer.

Al-Mulla indicated that there will be continuous coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs to discuss amending a number of decisions to reduce the financial burdens on cooperative societies, discuss their demands, and reduce pressure on companies through some decisions so that companies can work without pressure and do not have an excuse to demand a rise in their prices.

He thanked everyone who attended the dinner party on the occasion of his victory as president of the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies.

Major events in Kuwait for 2023

Kuwaiti figures who passed away:

Jan 31: Renowned Kuwaiti author Fahdel Al-Tailly passed away after a rich career in poetry writing, storytelling and literary criticism.

April 8: Actor Faisal Al-Bleyyes passed away following a long struggle with the disease.

May 6: TV presenter Obaid Al-Otaibi passed away at age of 59.

May 12: Singer Abdulkareem Abdulqader passed away at 81. His artistic journey lasted more than six decades.

May 13: Redha Marafi, former player Qadsia SC and National football teams, passed away.

May 25: Actor Ahmad Johar passed away at 65.

July 16: The former Assistant Secretary-General of the Islamic Antiquities Sector at the National Council for Culture, Arts and Litera-

ture (NCCAL) Abdulkareem Al-Ghadban, passed away after a journey full of achievements.

Aug 21: Actor Bader Al-Tayyar passed away after a long journey of contributions to Kuwaiti theater and TV.

Aug 27: The imam and preacher of the Abu Baker Al-Siddiq Mosque and the imam of the Grand Mosque, Sheikh Khaled Al-Saeedi, passed away.

Aug 27: Lyricist Yousef Nasser passed away after a life full of giving to the modern Kuwaiti song.

Sept 25: Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, former minister of mail and telephone and minister of news and guidance passed away.

Dec 15: Prominent Kuwaiti writer and poet, Abdulkazim Saud Al-Babtain, passed away.

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