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**The Amiri address delivered by His Highness the Prime Minister  
on the opening of the first session of the twelfth legislative term  
of the National Assembly**

**June 1<sup>st</sup> 2008**

**In the Holy name of Allah Most Gracious, Most Merciful.**

**“O you who believe, you shall reverence Allah, and let every soul examine what it has sent ahead for tomorrow. You shall reverence Allah; Allah is fully Cognizant of everything you do.”**

**Thanks be to Almighty Allah for His countless blessings and His guidance to the righteous path, and peace and blessings be upon his Prophet Mohammad, his kin and his companions and those whom follow him until judgment day.**

**Speaker and esteemed members,**

**Assalamu |Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh**

**With the assistance and success granted to us by Allah, and by the guidance of the Holy Quran and a sincere national will, we begin a new promising era with the first opening session of the twelfth legislative term of the National Assembly. Our objective has constantly been, and will always remain; raising the stature of Kuwait and pursuing its progress along with the welfare of its people.**

**I am pleased on this venerable occasion to convey my sincere felicitations at your victory in the parliamentary elections having obtained the confidence of the people. I am also pleased and proud to congratulate the loyal and zealous Kuwaiti people for electing their representatives in the national assembly and practicing this national responsibility in a democratic atmosphere defined by complete transparency, freedom, integrity, absolute neutrality and respect of the laws which was a point of admiration by all.**

**Speaker and esteemed members,**

**Despite our pride in this qualitative leap in our national course, we are grieved and saddened at the loss of His Highness the Father Amir, the Fourteenth Ruler of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah may Allah rest him in peace, a man who devoted his life for his people and won their hearts over with his fervent nationalism, his fixed determination stemming from the legacy of our fathers and forefathers in elevating the status of his country.**

**He is the humane father true to his people, a staunch leader in triumphing for issues related to his country. He is the pioneer in the philosophy of tolerance and refinement, a fine example in establishing the State of law and institutes in**



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method and practice. He is the sincere advocate of peace and stability in the region and the world. He is attributed the champion role in liberating the country from the abhorrent Iraqi occupation, he is the man of the moment; with memorable accomplishments in reconstruction during an extremely sensitive and delicate phase in the national history of Kuwait.

We pray to Almighty Allah to have mercy on the deceased, grant him his final resting place in the higher paradise with the faithful and the virtuous and grant the people of Kuwait endurance and solace. To Allah we belong and truly to Him we shall return.

Speaker and esteemed members,

I find it only fair to commend the various efforts, preparations and arrangements made by the concerned parties in organizing and holding the parliamentary elections which were held for the first time according to the five (5) constituency system, replacing the twenty five (25) constituency system, having been implemented for the last quarter century. The decree law was implemented by amending certain provisions of law number 35 for the year 1962 pertaining to national assembly elections, to confront the fundamental change in the distribution of electoral constituencies and the consequences resulting from the necessity of amending the procedures of the electoral process with the aim of facilitating procedures for the electorate, to empower voters in order to carry out their responsibilities thoroughly to avoid suspicions of interfering in the electoral process and observing neutrality as well as insuring honest competition amongst candidates.

The government was committed to withholding employment and occupying executive jobs, transfers and secondments in ministries, departments, institutions and all government apparatus throughout the elections period.

To alleviate citizen's burden in facing the increase in consumer commodities, the government has allocated a bonus for Kuwaitis and expatriates employed in the government sector, including Kuwaitis and retirees working in the private sector to face the high cost of living. Also entitled to this bonus are those who qualify for general benefits and special needs, along with a set of procedures carried out by relevant parties towards subsidizing a number of consumer commodities besides special measures to control prices and provide the elements of a dignified standard of living for citizens.

It is noteworthy to point to government efforts in accomplishing the 4<sup>th</sup> World Islamic Economic Forum which was held in the country recently under the title of: (Islamic Countries: Partners in The Global Development) and the announcement of the decent living fund in the Muslim world this "embodies the pioneering role of Kuwait in supporting and consolidating Muslim solidarity, based on the humanitarian responsibilities of its people and to assist our brothers in the Arab and Islamic world.

Speaker and esteemed members,



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**We are destined to live in a region considered to be amongst the most volatile in the world; where the security situation is increasingly complex and is deteriorating. Perhaps the gravity of the matter is the decline and ramifications witnessed across the region which compel us to protect our country and act appropriately to maintain its security and stability, since we have great duties toward Kuwait and a historical responsibility we all undertake before Allah, our people and future generations.**

**Doubtless to say, that the detrimental aspects which undermined the relations between the legislative and the executive powers in the previous legislative term hampered the required achievements and lead to obstructing the course of national action, this caused wide spread public condemnation.**

**Speaker, esteemed members,**

**We can not ignore some practices that raised numerous queries of late and that call for caution, and require pausing at in order to confront them with resolve; notably, practices that enhance aspects of prejudice unprecedented in the Kuwaiti society. These aspects undermine national unity, clash with democracy and do not serve the public interest. Also amongst these strange practices is the breach of law and defiance of the authority of public institutes. We are all aware that this is an offence to the State stature and sovereignty which permits others to interfere in its affairs; this is unacceptable and cannot be disregarded under any circumstances.**

**These practices confirmed that intertwined powers and overlapping boundaries could result in violating the constitution, dissipating capabilities and efforts and harm the national interest.**

**We all acknowledge that adhering to the principle of separating powers yet cooperating is in accordance with article (50) of the constitution and a constitutional pillar in securing the strength of the State. Cooperation does not under any circumstances mean relinquishing power or overriding one another, neither does it imply usurping the parliamentary rights of members of the national assembly; considering cooperation is a positive objective which does not infringe upon the rights of members nor does it increase government control. It is a relationship based on an appeal to insure sound utilization of monitoring instruments; probing where appropriate in accordance with precepts and conditions set by the law and adhering to the provisions of the constitution and internal regulations, it is a constructive cooperation that contributes to activating democracy and achieving its noble objectives.**

**Speaker, esteemed members,**

**The local scene has tired of the countless speeches and endless slogans which transpired into empty promises. Whenever our experiences deviate from our**



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national resolve, they lose their safety valve; since countries are built through their experiences which are cultivated by positive and prominent events. The time has come to look around us and across the region to recognize, with an examining eye the position they have reached and the turmoil, destruction and damage endured by the people as a result of deadly miscalculations.

The outcome of the previous term does not rise up to the level of the hopes and aspirations desired. We look forward to a new parliamentary era accompanied by hope and optimism in overcoming all the former obstacles and impediments. Therefore; it is imperative to make this legislative term a distinctive model through which we achieve all our aspirations and desired accomplishments that serve the country and citizens.

Speaker, esteemed members,

The government has embarked on preparing a perception of the general strategy of the State in cooperation with specialized authorities, in a preliminary step towards the completion of the developmental plan, then submitting it to your venerable assembly at the next session in order to issue the pertinent law. The government shall also present its agenda to the assembly at the next session in accordance with article (98) of the constitution, while it maintains that the agenda will include all the necessary means and instruments to implement it; the agenda will be realistic and applicable according to a well studied timetable, thus ensuring the fulfillment of the actual needs of our developmental aspirations and the best utilization of time, efforts and potentials.

The government agenda will be concerned with implementing the content of the developmental plan, tackling all the fundamental issues in the country, above all; molding the Kuwaiti individual whom is considered a basic element in the integral developmental process, amassing efforts to improve all services chiefly; educational, health and housing services. As well as enhancing the social safety net which the civil institutes will play an affective role in its implementation.

The government agenda will also address means of implementing the economic reform process in the next phase, ensuring that our country bolsters its status as a developed financial and commercial hub on the regional and global levels, as well as diversifying and increasing sources of revenue and activating the comprehensive development process.

Undoubtedly, many of the appeals and recommendations raised by members of the national assembly are consumption orientated and stem from what is known as financial surplus resulting from the fluctuation and increase in oil prices. The issue here must be subject to a comprehensive and serious study from all angles and economic dimensions, and their impact on the living conditions of citizens, guaranteeing the best investment for actual financial surplus and propel it towards construction and sustainable development which serves the interests of citizens, providing them with the means of dignified living standards at present and in the future.



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The government agenda also upholds support and development for the private sector, boosting its potential to contribute more effectively in compelling development in all fields.

As for investment and improving the investments environment in development fields, the government's agenda will include means of developing and modernizing the legal structure, ensuring the immersion of development and transformation requirements, while concentrating on expansion and modernization of the infrastructure in different sectors and on all levels to attain the much sought after developmental aspirations.

We pin high hopes on the positive cooperation between the legislative and the executive branches to reflect the spirit of responsibility and the magnitude of the duty we all bear to raise and elevate the status of our country of which it is worthy.

Speaker, esteemed members,

Faced with the challenges of this phase, we are required to live up to our responsibility and confront them, whatever their consequences and effects. We must also realize Kuwait is not restricted to a single sect, faction or tribe; Kuwait is for its people, who maintain their identity and preserve their national solidarity by exercising loyalty to this dear land which is considered the compassionate mother to her children and they will remain (by the will of Allah) her dutiful children.

There is no excuse for infringing upon our national duty to hand over the charge to the next generations; Kuwait to its people is the cradle of security and the haven for a pleasant life, it is their past, present and future and we must learn before its too late, to preserve its status and honour its existence as a State of law and institutions and an oasis of safety and security thereafter.

Speaker, esteemed members,

We live in a country that Allah has blessed with many riches and has the potentials and capabilities to enable it to be in the lead of developed countries, there are no more time, effort and potential to waste.

We have great faith that you will be able to reach an agreement which represents genuine intentions, sincere resolve and determination to activate the will for positive change, in order to achieve the qualitative leap we pursue in all fields of life and attaining the hopes and aspirations of the people of Kuwait, elevating its status and aiming at implementing the sound democratic pattern by thought and practice, enhancing the standing of the Kuwaiti individual who will remain the true wealth of the country. Countries are not built on dreams, hopes and good wishes, nor do they prosper without rigid planning and perseverance. We are all partners in decision making and the grand responsibility by cooperating and standing together in solidarity, we personify the unity, solidarity and genuine communication guided by the Quran verse: "...and do not dispute and (thus) lose courage and (then) your strength would depart" Almighty Allah has spoken



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**the Truth. Constantly inspired by the teachings of our great religion and adhering to our national resolve. We pray to the Almighty for sincerity in our actions and success in our aspirations for the prosperity of our country.**

**Wassalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh.**