



The address of His Highness the Prime Minister at the first session of the Cabinet

12th January 2009

In the name of Allaha The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh

I was honoured to comply with the wish of His Highness the Amir to assume the post of Prime Minister. I am pleased to convey my pride and gratitude for his confidence, and to express my appreciation to His Highness the Crown Prince for his customary support. On our first session, I extend my appreciation to fellow ministers for accepting to participate in the cabinet and bearing the immense responsibility which we affirm our cooperation and solidarity to achieve reforms and development objectives.

It has not escaped me on this occasion, to commend the spirit of responsibility of members of the previous government and their sincere efforts, and express our gratitude to them for their devotion in serving the country and its people.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We follow with extreme concern, and strong condemnation the ongoing brutal massacres and despicable crimes against defenseless innocents (senior citizens and children), which resulted in hundreds of victims; martyrs and injured, without any regard for human values and international legitimacy conventions.

The State of Kuwait calls upon the international community, particularly members of the Security Council, to implement resolution number (1860) which was passed recently and assume its humanitarian and legal responsibility to put a stop to these brutal crimes and practices against our brothers in Gaza, and taking decisive measures to bring to a halt this bloody tragedy. Thus, we express our appreciation for the sincere efforts exerted by the Kuwaiti Red Crescent in cooperation with relevant international organizations to deliver aide and relief to our people in Gaza. We also pay tribute to the laudable efforts employed by the brotherly Republic of Egypt for facilitating the entrance of this aide into Gaza.

In this context, the State of Kuwait is hosting the Arab Economic, Social and Development Summit, where Arab leaders flock as guests in their second country to discuss all aspects of achieving development for our countries, hence it has been His Highness the Amir's central preoccupation and constitutes an added



advantage to Kuwait's customary role in supporting Arab solidarity and boosting every positive effort to confront the issues of our Arab Ummah. We pray to Allah that this brotherly gathering will result in a positive outcome.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are all aware of the magnitude of challenges and the huge responsibilities of this phase; no doubt you will agree with me Ladies and Gentlemen, that we are required to exert continuous effort and fruitful contribution to live up to this great responsibility. To this end, it is necessary to modernize and innovate, stressing mostly on establishing the state of law and institutions to maintain Kuwait as a safe and secure country and a land of freedom, justice and democracy.

Perhaps there is an urgent need for reviewing laws, legislations and procedural systems; developing and activating them to achieve the necessary qualitative leap, through liberating them from the all consuming traditional work patterns, eliminating aspects of deficiency and administrative routine, adhering to the duties of the public post and implementing the principle of reward and punishment on everyone to raise the performance and carry out the interests of the citizen's promptly and easily.

You will agree with me Ladies and Gentlemen that the greatest challenge we face at this stage is confronting the ramifications of the global financial crisis, which hit various economic sectors in the world. Kuwait is no exception; efforts were exerted to limit its impact; we witnessed its beginning, Allah only knows when and how we will overcome it. Thus, plans and development programs might be affected by the crisis's outcome, especially in light of the huge downturn in oil prices, which entailed a reduction in the sources of income. This requires a review of our development objectives and our aspirations for further affluence within the available potentiality and in the framework of the necessary priorities to build a strong State, above all epitomizing the desire of His Highness the Amir to transfer Kuwait into a regional and global financial and commercial hub.

I think you will agree with me Ladies and Gentlemen, that among our priorities is enhancing the positive values in youths, to attend to their affairs and anxieties, provide them with the means of education and advanced knowledge, brace them with the culture of tolerance, dialogue and moderation; renouncing violence and fanaticism in all its forms and incentives, and distancing themselves from negative aspects to maintain national unity, loyalty, and collective objectives and aspirations.

Ladies and Gentlemen, if we are predestined to uphold the national responsibility amidst these delicate times which the region is passing through, then we remain firmly adhering to the national principles in dealing with our region and the world. Our foreign policy continues to act in its Arab, Islamic



dimensions and in the regional and international framework as a bridge to peace and a civilized beacon of light towards human development and welfare.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In spite of the previously mentioned, we are approaching a bright and promising tomorrow, through the guidance and the teachings of our religion, the directives of His Highness the Amir and the support of His Highness the Crown Prince.

We fully believe Ladies and Gentlemen, in the role of the National Assembly, as the perfect partner in assuming the responsibility. Our hopes and aspirations will not be achieved unless we incorporate this positive partnership, and find genuine and fruitful cooperation, overcoming all obstacles to attain integral and constructive action that the people of Kuwait pin their hopes on. This with the blessing of the people and our proficient national media, through its various institutes which practice their responsible role as a free platform, observing public interest and preserving the stature of the country, as well as enhancing enlightened public opinion and maintaining freedom in a responsible manner.

We pray to Almighty Allah to guide us towards success and assist us in fulfilling the great oath, and that our country is blessed with opulence under the leadership of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince.

Wassalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh.