

A letter to Almanfouhi

Engineer Ahmed Almanfouhi;

I have known you since you were the manager of Hawalli's municipality. Back then I had an issue with a building's façade which your department had refused to approve for the simple reason that they "hadn't seen something like this before." I wanted to beautify the area by placing a large clock at the top of the building, but your folks didn't allow that. One of the engineers in your department took me aside and said: "Go to Abu Abdullah and he will fix this for you." And sure enough, I went to your office and you received me very kindly despite the fact we hadn't met before. You saw the building's design and told me "If you actually make it happen I will give you a letter of thanks." I completed the beautiful building with the clock on the façade, but I didn't get my letter of thanks because you left your position by the time it was finished.

My message to you Abu Abdullah, is that you are now occupying a position that does not afford any mistakes. Yesterday, the regulations for the building violations were issued, and allow me to say that these regulations go around and round resolving the building code violations but never actually strike to the core of it. I have written several articles that explain these violations, and I submitted a study to the adviser of the National Assembly before the issuance of the last law, thereby, I shall summarize the whole dilemma for you by asking a couple of questions. The new regulations too shyly oppose the building code number 2009/206, so are the fines mentioned in these old regulations still standing? For instance, the fine for partitions inside the apartments was fixed at a maximum of 800 dinars per area. If the partitions are still standing and the violator came to pay the fine, will the municipality only collect the fine or will it ask for the removal of the violation? If the removal is requested, how will the property's owner act with the tenant? You know that the rental law does not allow for evicting a tenant because of a