

Mandoob Park

Among the cultural landmarks in Kuwait such as the Kuwait Towers and the beautiful Al-Shaheed Park, we find “Mandoob Park.” This “park” is located in Hawalli's Rawda area on Tunis Street and used to be a kindergarten before it became a branch of the Ministry of Labor, smelling like sweat and the effort of an army of mandoobs.

The mandoob is a career created to save time and effort for a company's owner, becoming the most important element in any organization. Moreover, the employer can't even do half the things the mandoob is capable of performing, especially with the unending complexity of the state's institutions. I remember once I had some business with a ministry before the Iraqi invasion. Everyone I spoke with told me I wouldn't be able to get my request approved, then I was referred to so many different agents, managers, and almost the minister himself! This is a law I suppose, but then I met Zeinhoum, a mandoob, who knew the law better than I did and the transaction was done. The very next day, I received my papers signed by the very same manager and undersecretary who I spoke to personally the day before. Both of them told me they couldn't help! So I asked Zeinhoum how he managed to get it through?! He said he knew the manager's Bengali cleaner and he was able to work it out. And because the Ministry of Labor realizes the importance of the mandoob, it changed the regulations so that each licensed company has to have a mandoob. So if one person owns three licensed companies, he must employ three mandoob; one for each! On top of that, the mandoob is required to have a "higher education" as if he is working on transactions for the UN. But now they are coming up with new regulations that a company must hire a mandoob for every 25