

Crisis of thought (2)

One of the problems that Kuwait suffers from is a habit of constantly acting and then reacting. It's a mentality that controls the legislature and state institutions. Whenever we hear oil prices are dropping, we start tighten up the belt and officials start giving statements. One talks in assemblies about saving electricity, and another calls for cancelling higher studies missions. Another cancels car privileges for leaders and compensates them with a 250 dinars "cash allowance," as if he saved anything! There is one who threatens to introduce taxes, then immediately retreats with his words. But not one of them knows how much any this austerity would even save for the State budget, because I think if we calculated it with a pen and paper, it wouldn't fill even a small percentage of the deficit. The only result this gets us is a boost of self-centeredness and envy. Managers who didn't get a car will be glad that cars are taken away from others, and those who were not able to pursue their education abroad will be glad that study missions are cancelled. Let's not forget that our National Assembly threatens to stop any legislation which would affect the citizen's pocket, while the same Assembly loudly demands raising salaries and increasing staff.

I remember well when the former Minister of Finance stated that oil prices would not continue above one hundred dollars and would drop. I remember members of parliament laughing at him and subjecting him to questioning until the government eventually sacrificed him and showed him the way out. This Assembly would not dare to make decisions affecting the citizen's pocket today, especially that there is an upcoming election and the government intelligently states that all austerity