

The Municipality's Tarthuth

Tarthuth, for those who don't know, is the Kuwaiti name for a type of mushroom that appears in the desert. After the rain, the tarthuth seem to sprout up overnight, so we often call people or problems that appear out of nowhere "tarthuth." And this is our topic today; the recent events in the Municipality of Kuwait and the new municipal law which was announced in the newspapers, in spite of the repeated warnings of its weaknesses and the difficulty of implementing its provisions.

Our country has suffered and is still suffering from the municipality and the crises it has caused.

But fixing the situation has to be carefully studied and understood and not based on setting of scores or balancing which policies make money and which ones are too expensive.

Yes, finding inventive ways to violate the construction laws will never end, but there is no law in the whole universe that can undo the irregularities which accumulated over years of the municipality's neglect and the government's slackness.

I am not calling for rewarding the violators and the bribed, but we need to face reality, and the solution does not exist in "blinding yourself with eyeliner." (This Kuwaiti phrase is used when one tries to improve upon something, but ends up making it worse than it was to begin with.) Unfortunately, this has already happened.

Law number 33 of 2016 is now in effect, and the first bomb dropped on day one. Article 33 states:

"The Executive Body shall not be allowed to grant building permits for investment and commercial buildings unless the building includes a basement or an upper floor for parking equal to the entire building area."