

maybe you could cooperate with the Minister of Planning and Affairs and make it so only Kuwaitis can hold these jobs. Maybe then we can get this over with? As for the second statement, it belonged to the respectable Minister who said in response to one of the deputies: "The government intends to set a fixed rate of growth for the population of foreigners which will be lower than the rate of growth of Kuwaitis. This will be done without harming the needs of development projects which require labor, as well as by setting a maximum period for the residence of foreign workers."

O Minister, have mercy on us. How exactly can we apply this maximum limit for a foreigner's residency? Please, do tell me. Suppose I have a trustworthy employee, and once his maximum residency period is over, I go about telling him: "Ok, time's up. You can go back home. I'll just find another guy who knows nothing about Kuwait, train him from scratch, and just when he gets the hang of it, I'll show him the exit too!" The same is true if you have a good cook, and you worked hard to teach him how to make *machbous*—a famous Kuwaiti dish. Then once his residency period is up, you'd just let him leave you to find another cook who doesn't know anything about machbous?! Or let's say a doctor comes to Kuwait and practices his profession on our children, and when he becomes good enough we tell him to go so others might benefit from his skill. For us, we'll just settle for another one to start practicing on us all over again.

These shallow plans will only complicate our lives and open new doors for exceptions and corruption. I don't believe you'd refuse to renew the residence permit of anyone sponsored by a Sheikh, a deputy, or a minister!

But of course, it's easy to act tough on the poor citizen.