

Democracy Irreversible in Kuwait: Sheikh Sabah

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His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah yesterday reiterated that democracy in Kuwait is irreversible and that interpellations are a constitutional right of MPs, but called for using other means. The affirmation came during a meeting between the Amir and Speaker of the National Assembly Jassem Al-Khorafi and a number of MPs representing various blocs in the Assembly.

Besides Khorafi, MPs Adnan Abdulsamad (Popular Bloc), Ahmad Baqer (Islamic Bloc), Jaber Al-Muhailbi (New Islamic Bloc), Mishari Al-Anjari (National Bloc) and Mubarak Al-Khraisej (Independent), attended the meeting. MP Abdulsamad told reporters after the meeting that the Amir emphasized the importance of the Assembly and its role as a legislative institution, and insisted that democracy in the country is essential.

The Amir also affirmed on the use of constitutional means including grillings, but called for using other means like questions and investigations before resorting to interpellations, Abdulsamad said. He added that rumors of the dissolution of the National Assembly were not raised during the meeting.

Every representative expressed his views during the meeting and some said that some people from outside the Assembly were trying to obstruct the functioning of the government through influencing a number of MPs, Abdulsamad said. The Amir however demanded a proof for such allegations, insisting that there should be no unsubstantiated statements. The Amir added that he is prepared to apply the law on anyone provided he has proof, the lawmaker said.

It was agreed to hold more such meetings in the future, said Abdulsamad, adding that the Amir did not hold the National Assembly alone responsible for what's happening in the country. HH the Amir praised cooperation shown by MPs in approving a number of economic legislations during the past few sessions, the MP said.

MP Baqer said the Amir also called on MPs to approve other economic bills involving privatization, tenders, companies and capital market among others. The Amir also assured the lawmakers that the issue of increasing salaries of Kuwaitis will be implemented as promised in February through the cooperation of the Assembly and the government, Baqer said.

The meeting was arranged before the debate of the grilling of Education Minister Nouriya Al-Sabeeh on January 8 in a bid to discuss the issue of cooperation between the government and the Assembly. The meeting was also called over speculations and rumours that the National Assembly was going to be dissolved by the Amir following tensions between MPs and the government and the large number of grillings of ministers and threats to grill many others.