

## **Kuwaiti parliament planning to modify poll rules**

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**Arab Times** - 13 January, 2007

The Parliament is planning to modify rules and regulations related to elections and citizens will have to present their civil ID cards during voting, Al-Rai quoted MP Dr Jaman Al-Harbash as saying. Al-Harbash said fighting electoral corruption is one of the important objectives of the current Parliament, adding "the National Assembly's Interior and Defense Committee will Saturday review some suggestions and draft laws presented by MPs to amend law 35/1962 on Parliamentary elections."

Indicating First Deputy Premier, Minister of Interior and Defense Sheikh Jabber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah will attend the meeting of the committee, he said "we are keen to reform electoral procedures. This can be achieved only if the Parliament and government cooperate in fighting electoral corruption." Al-Harbash stressed any MP who is convicted of bribing voters to win a seat in the National Assembly should lose his Parliamentary immunity and membership of the house, saying "the committee will discuss a draft law which gives Parliament the right to fire any MP won the election through corruption." Referring to reports on corruption during the last Parliamentary elections, he said "corruption can involve cash or services to win votes. MPs will focus on a suggestion to use civil ID cards as identification documents during election."

Meanwhile, MPs Ahmed Baqer and Marzouk Al-Ghanim have invited all MPs to attend the meeting of the parliamentary Finance and Economic Affairs committee to come to an agreement over the state properties issue and to draft a powerful State Properties Law, reports Al-Anba daily. Sources say presence of all MPs during the meeting will help in decreasing discussions during the parliamentary session on Jan 22, when the law will be submitted to the parliament for discussion and voting. According to sources, the law will help in attracting foreign investments to the country besides boosting national economy.