



شركة التنمية النفطية  
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# 'MPs have right to request info on Audit Bureau's performance'

Parliament to review law on oilfields development

## Al-Seyassah Report

**KUWAIT CITY, Feb 17:** "According to the Constitution the Audit Bureau is a monitoring authority, which is affiliated to the parliament, and all MPs have the right to request information on its performance," says MP Jassem Al-Kandari.

Commenting on the resentment of the Audit Bureau on the MPs' rights to ask questions about it, Al-Kandari said "this gives the impression Constitutional rights of the Parliament are passing through a testing phase."

The Parliament should take immediate measures to plug such loopholes before they are misused to encourage other state departments to seek independence in running their own affairs without being monitored by the legislative authority, the MP said.

Stressing MPs have the right to question the performance of any ministry, Al-Kandari said "they have the right to request any data, which will help them to perform their duties in a better manner, from the Audit Bureau which is, affiliated to the Parliament."

Indicating the Audit Bureau's objection is based on its need to maintain a neutral stand between the Parliament and government, he said "the Bureau's neutral stand will be affected only when any MPs asks it not to be neutral on a specific issue. However, this doesn't apply when MPs ask the Bureau to provide them with general data or documents."

Reiterating absolute transparency should be the highest priority of the Audit Bureau, he said "it cannot be superior to the Parliament by citing separation of authorities to stand on its own. Separation of authorities will be meaningless and incomplete without cooperation between all the authorities as envisaged in the Constitution."

Meanwhile, the Parliament will soon review a law of developing the northern oilfields under the leadership of the new government, say sources. The issue has been lying dormant in the Financial Parliamentary Committee for a long time, reports Al-Watan.

## Submission

Government sources indicated the new government will put the said law at the top of its priorities for immediate submission to the Parliament so it can schedule a private session to review the law.

To ensure approval and implementation of the said law, the government deemed it important to stress the following stipulations:

- The State has full ownership of the oil resources.
- The State has absolute sovereignty on its territories even if a part of these territories were included in any treaty or agreement with the defense of the State's security and safety at the top of its list of priorities.
- The government should consider the economic benefits of the State before engaging in any activity by linking all projects with the social and development issues of the State upholding the rights of the national manpower in undertaking these projects.
- The State has the right to stop or reduce oil production any time to ensure that the contractor adheres to the specifications agreed on the implementation of any project.