

Change of Game Plan – Kuwait, 12 July 2018: The whole world now has its eyes on the FIFA 2018 World Cup that has so far surprised us in so many ways especially from the emerge of new teams that reached the finals, the transformation of the power teams and the game plan changes. It seems that the 2018 World Cup has laid its effect on Kuwait that has in turn decided, strategically, to change its political and economic game plan.

In light of the Amir of Kuwait's official state visit to the Republic of China, accompanied by the heads of state and major authorities, it seems Kuwait will be drawing new features to the region and the country in particular.

Obviously, the visit is not only for the purposes of strengthening the trade and investment ties between the two countries but it also has a lot of political vision. How will this visit change Kuwait's economy? How will it change Kuwait's political status especially with the United States under the Trump era? And how will it change the region's politics and relations? These are questions that everyone is currently posing and everyone is awaiting the next steps.

Kuwait has signed with China several cooperation agreements and memorandum of understating (**MOU**) in various fields, including energy, defense, e-commerce, technology, labor, etc.

Maybe one of the most significant issues that Kuwait intends to cooperate with China about is the development of the Harir City (Silk City) and Boubyan Island. The initial idea that has been put on the table is to create smart technology oriented cities in Kuwait hand in hand with China.

Currently, there is one Decree in Kuwait that addresses the Establishment of an Authority to Develop the Silk City (Sabbiyah) and Boubyan Island (**Islands' Development Authority**) being Decree No.240 of 2012 which is the last amendment regarding the matter. The First Deputy Prime Minister has been appointed by the Council of Ministers as the Head of the Islands' Development Authority and the management is entrusted to a committee appointed by the said Minister.

The Islands' Development Authority is entrusted with taking all required steps to implement the planning stage, preparation stage for the purpose of development of the Silk City and Boubyan Island, including but not limited to contracting with international consultants for feasibility studies, studying the current legislation and suggesting amendments to the existing laws and regulations.

Accordingly, we expect that the First Deputy Prime Minister shall instruct the Committee to start working on the creation of laws and regulations that would support the huge China/Kuwait project in regards to the development of the Silk City and Boubyan Island. The basic legal framework for the lease and development of Boubyan Island and Silk City must be prepared.

Until then, we await to review the treaties, cooperation agreements and MOUs that have been signed between the countries, hoping for the best for the State of Kuwait.

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