

Kuwait: MoH seeks Cabinet help to buy 6 private hospitals

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Kuwait City – The **Ministry of Health {MoH}** has reportedly sent a letter to the Cabinet asking it facilitate the purchase of six private hospitals, reports Al-Jarida daily. Sources say the step is aimed at developing health services, increasing bed-capacity and reducing the cost of medical services, besides offering high quality health care. The ministry wants to reduce pressure on the existing government hospitals, add sources.

Meanwhile, an orthopedic hospital with 500-bed capacity will be established in Al-Sabah area within the next five years," Al-Rai daily quoted Head of Al-Razi Hospital Dr Waleed Al-Faze as saying.

Currently Al-Razi Hospital is the only hospital specialized in this field, "but it is not able to cope with the increasing number of patients," said Al-Faze, adding "the new hospital will help ease pressure on Al-Razi Hospital."

The **Ministry of Health {MoH}** will set up health awareness offices in all hospitals and private health care centers in every health zone, reports Assawt daily.

These centers will provide information on the right way of fighting and dealing with various diseases and ailments and will thus help in decreasing suffering.

The main reason for setting up these offices is lack of awareness about the dangers of certain ailments, especially diabetes and high blood pressure. "These centers will provide information on how family members can help patients," say sources.

Autism is a development disorder caused by a breakdown in brain functions and appears as a developing disability within the first three years of a child's life, Dr Maryam Al-Rashedi, representative of the International Center for Autism, told Al-Seyassah.

Al-Rashedi made the statement at a seminar organized by the Kuwait Society for Parents of the Handicapped under the slogan "Method of Improving and Learning Autism Skills" at Al-Khorafi Autism Center recently.

Emphasizing that scientists have yet to discover causes of the disease, Al-Rashedi said researchers and studies done on autistic children showed that the brain the central nervous organ is affected either during pregnancy, after delivery, or the first two years of the child's life.

She also clarified that symptoms vary from one child to another while the most significant indicators include speech impairment and negative attitude. Pointing out that language, in any form, is a medium of expression in society, Al- Rashedi said this could be speech, body or facial expression through writing or speaking. "Specialists should evaluate speech disability to find the right solutions to individual problems at the early stage. Parents should learn to engage their children in their favorite activities to elicit responses from them and allow them to mingle with their peer groups," the autism expert suggested.

{Zawya}