

# Kuwait Project

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## MP cites Iran, Iraq competition

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KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: The Popular Bloc is against the Northern Oilfields draft law as its text, which is not clear, doesn't elaborate on the impact of the project on Kuwait's economy, says member of the bloc MP Mohammad Al-Khalifa.

He said the draft law doesn't specify how Kuwait will technically benefit from the project, adding "the government has no excuse for its failure to explain the technical aspects of the project, especially as it has several technical advisors."

Claiming the draft law is not based on the studies conducted by a consultant office, the MP said "all the companies which are going to participate in the project are weak because none of them has the technical expertise to implement a project of this magnitude."

Al-Khalifa expressed his displeasure at the insistence

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stressed.

## Bloc details

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of foreign companies to receive a percentage of the oil production from the project, saying "the government should sign a fixed-price contract with these companies instead of allowing them to interfere in our national resources."

Why can't we buy the technology necessary for the implementation of the project from these foreign companies?, he asked.

Al-Khalifa also said "the government cannot match the negotiation skills of such foreign companies and hence unable to include conditions which will suit it in the contract."

Referring to the numerous laws, which the government has been able to pass in spite of opposition from various political blocs, he said "although the Popular Bloc is against the draft law, we are not sure we can cancel the project."

The MP denied Energy Minister Sheikh Ahmed Al-Fahd Al-Sabah will be grilled for presenting the Northern Oilfields draft law in its current form, saying "usually ministers are not grilled for submitting draft laws."

Meanwhile, MP AbdulWahed Al-Awadi says MPs should respect the views of others, especially on draft laws presented by the government.

Expressing his displeasure at the way some MPs behave when their views differ from those of other lawmakers, Al-Awadi said "although it is normal to have difference of opinion over some laws, it should not lead to a crisis. The opinion of the majority will determine the fate of the draft law."

Referring to the intense competition from Iraq and Iran with regard to selling oil, he said "in the current situation it will be dangerous if we don't pass this draft law, especially as Iraq and Iran are trying to increase their production and improve the quality of their oil."