



# New Kuwait

## *Vision 2035 - A Future Beyond Oil*



#Kuwait  
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## As Kuwait has grown, Ahmadiyah has grown with it

Behind many of Kuwait's landmark construction projects is Ahmadiyah, which since its establishment in 1954 has helped to build the country

It all began with a handshake. In 1954, Abdulatif F. Al Thuwainy and Nagib Ibrahim Najjar, two ambitious entrepreneurs with a strong conviction for building projects, shook hands in front of HH the Emir of Kuwait, Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, then-foreign minister—a gesture which led to the establishment of Ahmadiyah.

It was at this time that Kuwait was experiencing its first oil boom. The newfound oil wealth that followed brought about a wave of large-scale construction projects, many of which were undertaken by Ahmadiyah. "As Kuwait grew, Ahmadiyah grew, by working with both the government and the private sector, taking part in building the nation," says Ayad Abdul Mohsin Al Thuwainy, Vice Chairman of Ahmadiyah Contracting & Trading Company.

Over its history of more than six decades, Ahmadiyah has built everything from sky-

scrapers, palaces and hotels to government buildings, shopping malls, and industrial complexes. Some of the more prestigious projects in its portfolio include the Bayan Palace, the headquarters of Kuwait Airways and the Arab Organization and the 75-story Al Hamra Tower, which is Kuwait's tallest building and also the world's tallest building with a clad stone facade.

The company has also been behind several critical national infrastructure projects, including airport terminals, hospitals, power stations, housing projects, bridges and highways, as well as contributing to mega-projects such as Sabah Al Ahmad Sea City.

"Generations later, the two families that started the business, the Al Thuwainy family and the Lebanese Najjar family, remain strong partners to this day," affirms Mr. Al Thuwainy. During the seven-month-long Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in 1990, construc-

tion, like much else in the country, ground to a halt. During this time, Ahmadiyah's activities ceased indefinitely, but it continued to look after its employees. Following liberation, despite having suffered huge losses, the company began operating again and helped to rebuild the country.

With the events of the Iraqi occupation long behind it, a new vision for Kuwait was unveiled in January. The 'New Kuwait' development plan aims to transform the country into a regional financial and cultural hub by 2035 through numerous strategic development programs. Among the seven pillars of the plan is one devoted to infrastructure, which aims to develop and modernize the national infrastructure to improve the quality of life for all citizens. As the country's leading construction company, Ahmadiyah will be integral to the success of this plan.

"We are looking very positively on our future within the New Kuwait Vision 2035," says Mr. Al Thuwainy, who is a strong advocate of deeper partnership between the public and private sector to bring new projects to completion in the lead up to 2035.

"There are many opportunities to see greater international partnership in the current investment climate in Kuwait. This is really an opportunity for more public-private partnerships [PPPs], which already started successfully in Kuwait a few years ago."

Delivering high-quality projects on time and on budget is something that the 63-year-old construction firm knows all about. Some of Ahmadiyah's current and future projects include: a 300-meter tower that will be the headquarters of the National Bank of Kuwait; Kuwait International Tennis Complex, which will become a venue for regional and international tennis tournaments; the 58-story Al Assima Tower; and the expansion of the Avenues Mall, which will add around 500,000 square meters to the existing facilities.



**"We see opportunities in both government and private investment in construction. We are looking very positively on our future within the New Kuwait Vision 2035"**

Ayad Abdul Mohsin Al Thuwainy,  
Vice Chairman of Ahmadiyah  
Contracting & Trading Company