

US President, First Lady attend fund-raising event

Kuwait's 'malaria role' praised

WASHINGTON, March 13, (KUNA): US President George W. Bush thanked Kuwait for its leading role in joining global efforts to fight malaria.

This came in a speech the US President made at a grand Kuwaiti humanitarian fund-raising event designed to help global efforts in the fight against the spread of malaria in Africa.

In a demonstration of his deep appreciation for the humanitarian role Kuwait continuously plays worldwide, US President George W. Bush led the guests of honor and attended, late on Wednesday, accompanied by his wife, First Lady Laura Bush, the annual event hosted by the Kuwaiti ambassador in Washington, Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah and his wife, Sheikha Rima Al-Sabah.

Bush, the first serving American President ever to visit the house of Kuwait and attend this annual Kuwaiti event in the nation's capital, thanked Kuwait for standing with the "forces of goodness" in fighting the spread of malaria in Africa.

"We are required to respond to human tragedy when it happens, and we thank you for standing with the forces of goodness, in that effort," Bush said in his speech, with the Kuwaiti and American flags behind him.

Bush, who recently toured several African capitals, launched an initiative in 2006 to fight malaria.

He told the audience that fighting malaria is part of his administration's efforts to enforce global peace.

"We are witnessing an ideological struggle," Bush said, reiterating his determination to defeat those trying to prevent peace.

"It will take time to prevail," he said. Organized by the Kuwaiti ambassador and his wife Sheikha Rima Al-Sabah, the fund-raising ceremony, held under the auspices and attendance of the US

President and his wife, ended with a big announcement to fund global efforts in the fight to eradicate malaria in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Sponsored by the Washington-based Kuwait-America Foundation (KAF), the fund-raising ceremony, themed "Stand for Africa," announced a sum of over 1.5 million dollars that will go to "Malaria No More", a non-governmental organization founded in 2006 as a direct result of President Bush's malaria Initiative (PMI), which was launched in 2005.

"The malaria No More" organization will supervise the fund of the event to the efforts in the fight to eradicate the spread of malaria.

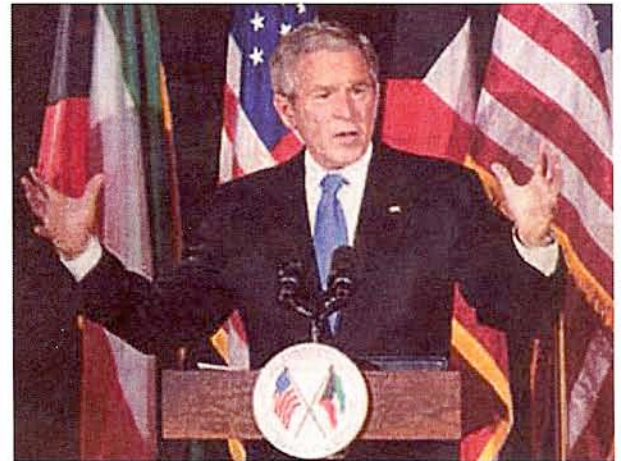
In addition to President Bush, the event, held at the ambassador's residence, was attended by a number of dignitaries as guests of honor including Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, top congressional leaders, members of the Bush Administration, Supreme Court judges and ambassadors.

President Bush visited Kuwait early this year, during which he expressed to the Kuwaiti government the Administration's appreciation for the leading role Kuwait plays in peace and security throughout the world.

Laura Bush, who was also the first American First Lady ever to attend this and two previous Kuwaiti functions in Washington as a guest of honor, expressed appreciation for Kuwait for efforts in helping nations in need.

"I greatly acknowledge the work to support the efforts to eradicate malaria," she said.

In a speech to the audience, the First



US President George W. Bush makes remarks at Kuwait-America Foundation's Stand for Africa Gala Dinner at the residence of the Ambassador of Kuwait in Washington, DC, March 12. (RTRS)

Lady also offered her thanks for the ambassador and his wife for the work they have done throughout the past four years in playing their humanitarian role globally.

Laura Bush last year attended a fund-raising ceremony hosted by Kuwait's Embassy to help fund the construction of a children's hospital in the southern Iraqi city of Basra and in 2006 the First Lady attended a similar event to support education in Afghanistan during which she offered, on both occasions her profound appreciation to Kuwait for its continuous support for quality education worldwide. In reflection of the highly successful results and the strong recognition in Washington of such an annual event, this is the fourth consecutive humanitarian initiative launched by the wife of the ambassador.

The mission of "Malaria No More" is primarily designed to end deaths due to malaria, the number one killer of children under five in Africa, claiming more than one million lives a year.

According to the latest statistics provided by the organization, malaria kills an African child every 30 seconds, where an estimated 80 percent of the world's malaria cases are concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa.