



Deera Editorial

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### Incentives for the Investor:

#### Five Ideas to Motivate the Modern Investor

On 15 June 2026, the Ministry of Interior announced that the Council of Ministers, in its Resolution No. 651 of 2026, approved a new regulatory framework allowing qualified foreign investors and their immediate family members to obtain residency permits for up to fifteen years. The Ministry, working through the General Directorate of Residency Affairs in coordination with the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), framed the decision as a direct expression of the national objective to transform Kuwait into a financial and commercial hub attractive to investment. Deera reads the resolution as a confident, forward-looking step that gives the modern investor something every capital allocator values first: a long and stable horizon.

The framework sets out clear eligibility categories: owners of licensed investment entities, authorised partners, qualified immediate family members, and senior executives. Entities licensed by KDIPA must maintain an investment value of no less than five million Kuwaiti dinars, conduct their actual business activities within Kuwait, and meet the minimum requirements for employing Kuwaiti citizens. For approved investment activities, the capital must not be less than one million Kuwaiti dinars. The framework advances the objectives of Law No. 116 of 2013 on the promotion of direct investment, strengthening the legal and regulatory foundations that support long-term capital. Read together, these provisions describe an investor the state genuinely wants: substantial, operational on the ground, and committed to Kuwaiti talent. This brief offers five concrete incentives, drawn from the most successful residency and investment-promotion programmes in the region and beyond, that the country can offer alongside the new framework. The argument is supportive and forward-looking.

## **I. A DECISIVE STEP TOWARD A HUB**

Long-term residency is the single most powerful signal a state can send to international capital, because it converts a transaction into a relationship. An investor weighing where to base a regional platform is, in effect, choosing where to raise a family, place children in school, and plan a decade of compounding. A fifteen-year horizon answers that question generously. It places Kuwait in the same conversation as the most ambitious residency programmes in the Gulf and beyond, and it aligns the country's legal posture with the scale of its sovereign ambition under Vision 2035. The framework is, in the truest sense, an invitation.

The timing is also notable. Across the Gulf, the past seven years have seen a structural shift in how states compete for capital and talent. The sponsor-tied, short-cycle residency that characterised the region for decades is being replaced, programme by programme, with longer and more independent forms of residence designed to retain the people and the firms that drive a diversified economy. Kuwait's Resolution No. 651 places the country firmly within that movement, and the fifteen-year ceiling it establishes is competitive with the longest standard horizons currently on offer elsewhere in the region.

## **II. WHAT THE MODERN INVESTOR WEIGHS**

Residency is the foundation, not the whole building. The modern investor weighs a wider basket: the ease and speed of issuing the permit, the rights extended to a spouse and children, the predictability of renewal, the quality of schooling and healthcare, the friction of moving capital and repatriating returns, and the clarity of the rules five years out. The Gulf's leading programmes have learned that the residency itself is necessary but not sufficient; what converts interest into commitment is the surrounding experience. The five incentives below are offered in that spirit, each one designed to make the new framework not only attractive on paper but effortless in practice.

## **III. FIVE INCENTIVES TO MOTIVATE THE MODERN INVESTOR**

**Incentive one: one-window digital issuance.** Issue the investor residency through a single digital window, building on Kuwait's own Sahel Business stream. An investor should be

able to complete licensing through KDIPA, company registration, and the residency permit for the family in one guided journey, with status visible end to end. The international benchmark is the speed with which the United Arab Emirates pairs company formation with Golden Visa issuance, supported since February 2025 by the GDRFA's AI-powered Salama platform, which allows residents to complete visa transactions within minutes through unified digital identity and automated data retrieval (egsh.ae). Singapore offers a parallel lesson in coordination between its Economic Development Board and immigration authority. A one-window experience turns a multi-agency process into a single, legible decision for the applicant, and Kuwait already possesses, in Sahel, the platform on which to build it.

**Incentive two: a family-and-talent package.** Pair the investor permit with a clear package for the family and the team the investor brings. The framework already extends to immediate family members and senior executives; an explicit package would add the right of a spouse to work, streamlined school placement for children, and access to private healthcare. The Gulf's most successful programmes treat the family as the unit of decision, not the individual: the UAE Golden Visa extends to spouses and children regardless of age, and Saudi Arabia's Premium Residency permits the inclusion of spouses, children, and parents (Henley & Partners). When a spouse can build a career and children settle into good schools, a fifteen-year residency becomes a fifteen-year root.

**Incentive three: a clear ladder to permanence.** Publish the path beyond the first permit. Investors plan in decades, and the most reassuring feature a programme can offer is a transparent ladder: the conditions under which the fifteen-year residency renews, and the milestones — sustained investment, jobs created for Kuwaitis, years of compliant operation — that lead to longer or permanent status. Saudi Arabia's Premium Residency offers the clearest regional model: its Investor category, introduced in the January 2024 expansion, grants direct permanent residency to those who invest at least seven million Saudi riyals (approximately 1.87 million U.S. dollars) and create at least ten jobs within the first two years (Immigrant Invest; Vialto Partners). A clear ladder tells the investor that staying is not just permitted but encouraged.

**Incentive four: sector-targeted incentives aligned with Vision 2035.** Direct the framework's pull toward the sectors Kuwait most wants to grow. KDIPA can layer sector-specific incentives onto the residency — for fintech and financial services, for logistics and the Silk City corridor, for clean energy and downstream industry. Ireland built decades of foreign direct investment by pairing a stable, competitive tax environment with a focused agency, IDA Ireland, that courted the industries it wanted; by 2024, IDA-backed foreign firms employed approximately 312,400 people, a record, with a deliberate policy of directing more than half of new investment to regional locations outside the capital (IDA Ireland; U.S. Department of State). Aligning the investor grant with Vision 2035 priorities ensures the capital it attracts compounds national objectives rather than arriving at random.

**Incentive five: an investor-experience guarantee.** Offer a published service standard for the investor journey. A single relationship manager at KDIPA, a committed processing time for the residency, and a transparent, predictable renewal calendar would convert goodwill into measurable reliability. The most competitive jurisdictions compete not only on the generosity of the grant but on the certainty of the experience around it. Singapore's Global Investor Programme publishes clear processing expectations and assigns dedicated case management through its Economic Development Board; the predictability is itself part of the offer. An investor-experience guarantee — clear timelines, a named point of contact, and an open channel for resolving friction — signals that Kuwait values the investor's time as much as the investor's capital.

#### **IV. THE REGIONAL BENCHMARK**

The Gulf's recent history shows how quickly a well-designed residency can reshape an investment story. The UAE's Golden Visa, introduced in 2019 and broadened substantially through Cabinet Resolution No. 65 of 2022, made a five-to-ten-year renewable residency a centrepiece of the country's pitch to investors, entrepreneurs, executives, and specialised talent, with holders residing without a local sponsor and family inclusion built in (egsh.ae; Henley & Partners). Saudi Arabia's Premium Residency, launched in 2019 and relaunched in January 2024

with five new categories spanning investors, entrepreneurs, talent, and real estate owners, did the same within its own diversification agenda; the programme drew more than forty thousand applications between January 2024 and July 2025, with a record 8,074 permits granted in 2024 alone (Breaking Travel News; MFD Services). Singapore's Global Investor Programme, in place since 2004, grants permanent residence to those who commit substantial capital, with thresholds raised in March 2023 to a minimum of ten million Singapore dollars into a business or twenty-five million into an approved fund, keeping the programme focused on high-impact investment (UNCTAD Investment Policy Monitor; Singapore EDB). In each case the residency was the headline, and the surrounding experience was the substance. Kuwait's new framework now joins that company.

Beyond the Gulf, Ireland offers a different but instructive model. Rather than a residency-by-investment headline, Ireland built one of the world's most successful foreign-direct-investment stories on the combination of a stable and competitive corporate tax regime — 12.5 percent from 2003, adjusted to a 15 percent minimum effective rate for large groups in January 2024 under the OECD framework — and a focused promotion agency that courted specific industries with patience and consistency (U.S. Department of State; FTI Consulting). The lesson for Kuwait is that the residency framework is most powerful when it is one component of a coherent, sector-aware investment-promotion strategy, rather than a standalone instrument. KDIPA is well-placed to play the role IDA Ireland has played for decades.

## **V. CONCLUSION**

Council of Ministers Resolution No. 651 of 2026 is a confident move, and it arrives at the right moment. By offering qualified investors and their families a horizon of up to fifteen years, Kuwait has put in place the foundation on which a financial and commercial hub is built. The five incentives proposed here — one-window digital issuance, a family-and-talent package, a clear ladder to permanence, sector-targeted incentives aligned with Vision 2035, and an investor-experience guarantee — are complements, not corrections. Each is within reach, each builds on infrastructure Kuwait already has, and each turns a generous grant into a compelling

proposition. Deera's view is simple: the framework opens the door, and the experience the country builds around it will decide how many of the world's best investors choose to walk through.

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