

# MINISTRY TO KEEP TAB ON CONTENTS OF MEDIA

To be done in coordination with various government agencies

DT News Network  
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The Ministry of Information Affairs will keep an eye on the contents of local as well as international media to ensure that the media houses project the true development achieved by Bahrain.

Addressing media yesterday after the weekly Cabinet meeting, chaired by Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Information Affairs Minister, Isa bin Abdulrahman Al Hammadi said that the media-monitoring job would be done in coordination with various government agencies.

The Minister said that the government would take all necessary actions to deal with local media, which publish wrong information about the Kingdom. "Even the international media will also be contacted if they give inaccurate information about Bahrain," he said.

The Minister said that the government had established laws in 2002 to regulate media in the Kingdom. "If needed, the Kingdom will enact more laws."

The Information Affairs Minister said that the current Press Law did not apply to social media. The new laws, which will be enacted in future, will bring social media under Press Law. "But currently there

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Al Hammadi speaks at the Press conference.

are enough laws to deal with media users," he said. He said that the Ministry of

Interior would create laws to tackle the violations committed on social media. Later the law will be presented to the Public Prosecution. In this regard, the role of the Information Affairs Authority (IAA) is to coordinate with the Interior Ministry.

"If anyone notices violations on social media, he/she can

bring it to the notice of the person concerned. We have to use the social media in a right way," he remarked.

## Stalled projects

Commenting on the stalled projects, Al Hammadi said that the government was studying all stalled projects in the

Kingdom.

"Many small and large scale investors have contacted the authorities. First, we have to deal with large projects. Later, medium and small-scale investors will be given prominence. The priority of the government is to protect the interest of the investors," the Minister added.

## Hearing starts in breach of traffic law case against Asian man

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The High Criminal Appeals Court has commenced hearing the trial of an Asian man, who contested a conviction in a breach of traffic law case. The defendant was earlier given 20 days' imprisonment for using his car for commercial transportation.

He was captured after transporting a Gulf national from the Bahrain International Airport to Manama. Prosecutors claimed that the defendant offered to give the visitor a lift to Manama at a fair of BD5 when he met him at the airport.

However, the defendant alleged that it was the Gulf National who requested him to transport him to Manama by his car in return of money. "I drove my friend to the airport, and while I was about to leave, I saw the man (the Gulf national). He requested me to take him to Manama by my car for BD5," the defendant pointed out in his statement.

The accused was captured at the airport exit while he was en route to Bahrain's capital. He was convicted before the Lower Criminal Court - which is concerned with hearing cases related to traffic violations

- on grounds of providing public transportation without a license. Judges had also fined him BD500 for his offence as well as ordered for his immediate deportation once he completes his jail term.

The initial ruling also included a three-year-long re-entry ban to Bahrain against him. It's worth to note that it was the first time for a Bahraini court to issue a verdict for such a road violation. The case was referred to the appeals court after the defendant contested his initial sentence. His case was adjourned yesterday until August 5 to summon up a translator for him.

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