



Al Sammak

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A Bahraini family that was left homeless after their flat was destroyed by a fire last Tuesday, was yesterday provided with a temporary shelter, while their home is being repaired.

DT News learnt that the five-member family reached a dead-end and was left to face their destiny on the streets seeking a shelter following Tuesday's mishap.

They moved to the temporary flat in the Northern Governorate as per the direct instructions of Interior Minister Lieutenant General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa.

The incident occurred in Al

Lawzi Housing Government Project near Hamad Town during the early hours of Tuesday and the family members, along with other residents of the building were rescued by Civil Defence firefighters.

Speaking to *DT News* yesterday, the parliamentary representative of the area Dr. Jameela Al Sammak, said the family was left homeless after flames devastated their flat.

"I rented a furnished apartment for them from my personal money. But, they said that the flat was far away from the schools of their children and that they don't have a proper means of transportation," the MP said.

Dr. Al Sammak said she reached nowhere when she

approached the Housing Ministry for assistance, as the ministry officials apparently said that their duty was to repair the damaged flat and not to provide the family with a temporary one.

"Then I approached the Northern Governorate, but I was informed that the institution doesn't have sufficient budget to fund such a procedure," she clarified.

The MP contacted the minister's bureau, which replied within an hour, confirming that a flat has been allocated to accommodate the family within the same area of their damaged apartment, as per the direct orders of the minister to the governorate.

According to Dr. Al Sammak, the family will spend

2-3 weeks at the temporary unit, until their revamped flat is ready.

The lawmaker expressed her sincere gratitude to the minister for his prompt reply.

She added that she's currently following up with the Housing Minister to stand on the latest progress of the revamps.

As reported earlier on DT News, ten people were rescued

by the Civil Defence from the building. The Interior Ministry confirmed that no injuries were reported in the mishap, but the flat was completely destroyed.

Hope restored for homeless family

Cause of fire revealed

Eyewitnesses informed the fire was caused by an electric short circuit, though this has not been confirmed officially.

Dr. Al Sammak told *DT News* that an air-conditioning unit at the flat was engulfed in flames due to overload, while the family was asleep.

"One of their daughters is bed-ridden after undergoing a spine surgery recently. It was required to keep her in an air-conditioned area. The father informed that they had kept the AC on for three continuous days and that's what caused the fire," the MP said.



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