

# Three-Month Pension Payment Pause

- Deferment will carry no interest, fees, or penalties
- Payments are postponed, not cancelled
- Intended as a temporary relief measure

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Pension replacement payments for public-sector workers and retirees would be paused for three months under an urgent proposal approved by Parliament on Tuesday, as MPs sought relief for households facing strain from the after-effects of the Iranian attacks.

The proposal, put forward by MP Mohammed Al Maarafi and four other MPs, calls for the three-month deferment to be



**This proposal comes as Bahrain faces exceptional economic conditions resulting from the Iranian attacks and their direct and indirect effects on citizens' living conditions**

MOHAMMED AL MAARAFI, MP

granted without interest, added fees or extra charges.

Mr Al Maarafi said the measure aimed to ease the month-

ly burdens on people who had used pension replacement to meet their needs, but now found the payments harder to bear.

"Those effects have weighed on people's ability to meet their financial duties on time. Pension replacement is one of the funding tools used by public-sector workers and retirees to meet their needs, but the monthly sums due under this system can add to the burden in the current circumstances, especially with rising living costs or where some families' income has been affected."

## Finances

The proposed pause would not cancel the sums owed. It would delay repayment dates for three months, giving beneficiaries time to reorder their finances.

Mr Al Maarafi said the step was temporary and sought to balance household relief with the financial position of the bodies concerned.

"Deferring pension replacement payments for three months, without any interest or added fees, is a temporary measure aimed at easing financial pressure and giving beneficiaries a period in which to rearrange their affairs," he said.

"This is not a write-off of the debt. It is a temporary deferment that balances the interests of beneficiaries with the financial considerations of the bodies concerned, while also matching the state's approach in helping citizens during exceptional circumstances."

He said the proposal had been filed urgently because of the need for near-term measures to ease the economic effects now being felt by families.

"The urgency of this proposal stems from the need to take measures that ease the current economic effects and help those benefiting from the pension replacement system, strengthening their ability to face living pressures," he said.

# Government shoulders majority of water costs

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Consumers in Bahrain paid less than half the cost of water services in 2024, while covering just over two-thirds of electricity costs, according to data released by the Electricity and Water Authority.

The authority said total spending on producing, transmitting and distributing water and electricity reached 713.1 million Bahraini dinars (\$1.89bn) last year, with electricity accounting for 550.8 million dinars and water for 162.3 million dinars.

State subsidies covered 52% of water costs, or 85.2 million dinars, leaving consumers to pay 48%. For electricity, government support stood at 175.3 million dinars, or 32%, with consumers covering the remaining 68%.

The figures were provided in response to a parliamentary question by MP Mamdouh Al Saleh.

The authority said all water supplied through Bahrain's network is desalinated and safe for drinking, with no mixing with groundwater. Most desalination uses seawater, except at Ras Abu Jarjur, which uses reverse osmosis to treat groundwater.

The authority said produc-



Mamdouh Al Saleh, MP

## Water

- Total production cost: BD117.3 million
  - Transmission: BD31 million
  - Distribution: BD14 million
  - Gas share of production costs: 29%
- ## Electricity
- Total production cost: BD416.8 million
  - Transmission: BD79 million
  - Distribution: BD55 million
  - Gas share of generation costs: 58%

tion costs remain unchanged regardless of subsidy levels or tariff adjustments.

# Relief for Souq Al Baraha traders



Mohammed Al Olaiwi, MP

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The parliament approved an urgent proposal calling for government intervention to support tenants and investors at Souq Al Baraha in Diyar Al Muharra, as traders warn that rising rents and weak football are pushing businesses to the brink.

The motion, led by MP Mohammed Al Olaiwi, urges the Ministry

of Industry and Commerce and the Labour Fund (Tamkeen) to introduce rent relief, wage support for Bahraini employees, and to open talks with the market's owners and management.

Al Olaiwi told parliament that many small and medium-sized traders were struggling with high operating costs, including rents and service charges, while customer numbers had declined.

He said the downturn had been worsened by reduced regional tourism and visitor flows, which he linked to wider regional tensions affecting travel and spending patterns in the Gulf.

According to the proposal, traders say repeated rent increases and fees have become unsustainable, forcing some tenants to consider closure or legal disputes with management.

# MPs Seek Tamkeen Aid for Left-Out Bahraini Staff

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Bahraini workers left out of Tamkeen aid schemes would be brought under support for companies hit by the current conditions, under an urgent proposal put forward by MP Mohammed Moosa and four other MPs.

The plan covers Bahraini staff who have never received Tamkeen aid, as well as those who benefited before but are no longer covered by the latest schemes.

Its aim is to help firms under strain keep Bahraini workers on the payroll, while easing the risk that families lose part or all of their income.

Mr Moosa said the proposal had been tabled because some businesses faced mounting strain that harmed their ability to keep local staff.

He said this had fallen hardest on Bahraini employees who have not benefited from support programmes, or who benefited previously and are not included in the current support schemes.



MOHAMMED MOOSA, MP

**This has increased concern over the job stability of these groups, and the possibility that they may lose their sources of income**

The MP said the gap raised fears over job security among workers already carrying living costs.

He added that such a blow would weigh on Bahraini households and called for urgent action to bring all eligible workers under Tamkeen's aid umbrella.

# BIS Hosts Grand Investiture Ceremony



Juzer Rupawala, Director of Lulu International Group, with Bhavans Bahrain Indian School officials and students

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Bhavans Bahrain Indian School (BIS) marked the start of the 2026-2027 academic year with an investiture ceremony celebrating student leadership and responsibility.

The event was attended by Juzer Rupawala, Director of Lulu International Group, who highlighted the importance of leading by example and urged students to embrace integrity and initiative.

Sreyas Sreevalsan was elected Head Boy and Sarah Ann Roy as Head Girl, while Daksh Choudhary and Mayookha Ropchand were named Vice-Head Boy and Vice-Head Girl, respectively,



following a selection process. The ceremony featured the formal induction of the student council—including sports captains, house leaders, committee members and prefects—who received sashes and badges symbolising their roles.

School director Himanshu Verma said leadership requires accountability and ownership, while director Ritu Verma congratulated the students on their appointments.

Principal Saji Jacob administered the council oath, urging

members to uphold discipline and serve as role models.

The ceremony concluded with the school anthem after an interactive session between school leadership and the newly elected council, which reinforced support for student governance initiatives.

# Salary-only rule for housing applications

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Five Bahraini lawmakers have submitted an urgent proposal to exclude cost-of-living allowances from income calculations used to determine eligibility for state housing programmes.

The initiative, led by MP Jalal Kadhem, calls on the government to base housing eligibility assessments on basic salaries only, arguing that allowances intended to offset rising living costs should not be treated as part of applicants' income.

The proposal is backed by MPs Jaleela Alawi, Najib Al Kuwari, Mohammed Al Maarfi and Jameel Mulla Hassan. It seeks amendments to provisions under Ministerial Decision No. 909 of 2015 and its subsequent updates, which regulate access to government housing services.

MP Kadhem said the current system counts cost-of-living allowances as part of monthly income, despite their purpose being to help households cope with higher expenses rather than increase their eligibility threshold.