

# Deportation cost to stay with employers

Government rejects plan to shift deportation costs to LMRA

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

A proposal to transfer deportation and body-transfer costs for foreign workers from employers to the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) has been rejected by the government, which warned it would leave the state footing deportation bills with limited cost recovery.

The amendment to Article 27(c) of Law No. 19 of 2006 sought to make the LMRA re-

*Similar laws in Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Oman, and Qatar hold employers responsible for deportation and body-transfer expenses*

sponsible for deportation and repatriation expenses. Currently, employers must pay for a worker's return or, in case of death, the cost of preparing and repatriating the body if requested by the family. In emergencies, the Interior Ministry may act at the LMRA's expense, but the Authority can fully recover

costs from the last employer — a rule upheld by the Court of Cassation.

The government said the proposal would “break the contractual balance,” benefiting employers at public expense and stripping the LMRA of the right to reclaim what it spends. It also noted that the LMRA is a regula-

tory body, not a funding agency, and that assuming such costs would violate public finance rules. Similar laws in Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Oman, and Qatar hold employers responsible for deportation and body-transfer expenses, the memo added.

Most cases involve depor-

tations rather than deaths, meaning the LMRA would bear heavy costs — including storage, permits, air freight, and consular fees — while recovering little.

The Legislation and Legal Opinion Commission, tasked in April 2025 with drafting the MPs' bill, noted overlap with another proposal amending the same law and recommended merging them to avoid duplication. The government has urged Parliament to reconsider the plan.

Bill seeks  
Tamkeen  
funding for  
Bahraini  
doctors'  
overseas  
board  
training



Dr Hisham Al Ashiri, MP

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Tamkeen could soon fund Bahraini doctors pursuing international board certification abroad, under a new bill tabled in Parliament. Lawmakers say the move would ease pressure on limited local training slots, with over 1,000 applicants competing for fewer than 100 seats each year.

An explanatory note says the existing programme, run jointly by the Supreme Council of Health and Tamkeen, cannot meet demand and leaves many doctors unable to advance. It adds that international board qualifications are globally recognised benchmarks offering stronger theoretical and practical training, which would ultimately enhance healthcare standards in Bahrain.

MPs backing the bill — Dr Hisham Al Ashiri, Mahmood Fardan, Mamdouh Al Saleh, Jaleela Al Alawi and Mohsen Al Asboul — say extending support overseas would raise the calibre of Bahrain's medical workforce, ensure fair access to career growth, and serve as a long-term investment in human capital. The current local training partnership would continue alongside the new initiative.

## Bahrain a strong partner in shaping regional future: US Diplomat

Ashen Tharaka  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain continues to stand as a strong and reliable partner of the United States across various sectors including key areas that shape the future of the region, said Charge d'Affaires a.i. at the U.S. Embassy in Manama, Elizabeth A. Litchfield.

In an exclusive interview with *The Daily Tribune* on the sidelines of the opening ceremony of the IISS Manama Dialogue 2025, Litchfield highlighted the depth of cooperation between Bahrain and the U.S.

“Bahrain is a strong partner in many different fields and that includes the future of the region,” she said. “There are



Elizabeth A. Litchfield

many aspects that President Donald Trump and his administration are pursuing to achieve, and those will be among the topics of our conversations.”

Meanwhile, the IISS Manama Dialogue Middle East and North Africa Young Leaders' Programme is once again bringing together a new generation of visionaries to exchange ideas and craft innovative policy proposals for the region's most pressing challenges.

The initiative provides young delegates with the opportunity to directly engage in policy design and regional strategy discussions, while building cross-border networks for long-term collaboration.

This year's programme welcomes another dynamic cohort

of emerging leaders from across the Middle East and North Africa to participate as full delegates at the 21st IISS Manama Dialogue, held today and tomorrow at the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain.

In addition to attending the main sessions, participants will join exclusive roundtables with senior officials and take part in private visits designed to deepen their understanding of regional dynamics.

By nurturing this community of future policymakers and strategic thinkers, the IISS aims to empower the next generation to shape the course of governance, diplomacy, and economic development across the Middle East and beyond.



IISS Manama Dialogue Middle East and North Africa Young Leaders' Programme



Tamkeen, established in 2006, is a government agency that supports private-sector growth and workforce development by funding training, entrepreneurship, and business expansion — having assisted over 250,000 Bahrainis and enterprises across various programmes.