

'BD23,000 tender' to hire cars with drivers for House deputy speakers

House obliged to pay monthly remuneration and other allowances to MPs, says Speaker

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The Council of Representatives has reportedly allocated a monthly amount of BD658 to rent two cars with chauffeurs for the first and second deputy speakers of the House for the next three years, despite the fact that both MPs receive a monthly car allowance of BD750.

This came in the reply of the Council Speaker Fawzia Zainal following an inquiry submitted by MP Fadhel Al Sawwad to clarify over the allocation of two cars to the first and second deputy speakers.

In her reply, Ms Zainal confirmed that the tender for allocating two vehicles for the first and second deputy speakers has been awarded for BD23,000 for the next three years to the best bid in terms of cost and technical specifications.

Ms Zainal also confirmed in her reply that the car allowance disbursed to both lawmaker continues.

She said: "The House of Representatives is obliged to pay the monthly remuneration and allowances stipulated in the decree-law on determining the allowances of the chairpersons, both deputy speakers and mem-



The House of Representatives in session.

bers of both Shura Council and the Council of Representatives, including the car allowance of BD750 that is stipulated in Article 3."

"The Council is committed to the circular of Finance Ministry on the appropriations of regulations and instructions for the implementation of the state budget for the fiscal years 2019-2020, and therefore verified the provision of funds before proceeding to



Mr Al Sawwad

launch an internal tender procedure to rent the cars," the Chairwoman further clarified.

Ms Zainal's reply showed that the cost of both cars has been calculated to be BD1,300 in 2019, BD7,800 in 2020 and 2021, and BD6,500 in 2022, which is the last year of the ongoing legislative term.

Commenting on this information, MP Al Sawwad described the speaker's reply as "a confession

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MS ZAINAL

of a major financial violation", stating: "The speaker provided evidence of financial and administrative violations."

The MP added: "There is no legal basis for this act. Article 3 of the decree-law on determining the allowances of the chairpersons, both deputy speakers and members of both the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives, mentions that each of the deputy speakers and members of both councils shall receive a car allowance of BD750 per month."

The First Deputy Speaker MP Abdulnabi Salman and the Second Deputy Speaker MP Ali Zayed didn't comment on the matter.

Ex-television presenter arrested

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A former TV presenter was recently arrested for insulting the people of Kuwait in a video he posted on social media networks.

The Bahraini man has been thrown behind bars by the Public Prosecution pending further investigation.

The former presenter runs popular channels on YouTube and Instagram, where he regularly shares videos expressing his views on several political and security cases.

However, in one of the episodes he posted recently, he attacked the people of Kuwait and insulted them by describing them as "uncivilised and beggars". This has raised nationwide anger among social media users in Kuwait, demanding to hold him accountable for his insults.

On Saturday, Interior Ministry confirmed in a tweet that the General Directorate of Anti-corruption and Economic and Electronic Security has taken legal steps against an individual who shared footage that consisted of insults to a brotherly state on social media networks, without mentioning more details about the man's identity or the country he insulted.

Muharrag Governorate Chief Hussain Khamees announced yesterday that "the Public Prosecution has been notified by the General Directorate of Anti-corruption and Economic and Electronic Security with regard to the circulation of footage showing an individual who his speech consisted of misuse of means of social media".

"The Public Prosecution immediately launched its investigation after receiving the report, as it reviewed the circulated footage, interrogated the suspect and confronted him with the footage he had posted and the remarks mentioned in it.

"The Prosecution ordered to detain him pending further investigations," Mr Khamees added.

85 inmates freed from jail to serve alternative punishments

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The Public Prosecution yesterday announced that 85 inmates in the reformation and rehabilitation centres in the Kingdom will get their imprisonment sentences replaced with alternative punishments that include community service and taking part in rehabilitation and training programmes, among other procedures.

This was mentioned in a statement posted by the Prosecution on its official page on Instagram yesterday, quoting Execution Prosecution Chief Prosecutor Hamad Al Qallaf.

Mr Al Qallaf explained that the

move comes within the framework of the Kingdom's Penal Code, which permits replacing imprisonment punishments with alternative punishments.

The official explained that the decision was taken after assessing the conditions of the inmates to see if they fit the legal requirements so that they can serve the remaining periods of their punishment period with the alternative punishments stipulated in Law 18 of 2017, with respect to alternative sanctions and measures.

Clarifying further, Mr Al Qallaf said the has been reviewed with the Execution Judge, who issued the verdict to replace the remain-

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MR AL QALLAF

ing period of the imprisonment punishment of the inmates with several alternative punishments.

As reported earlier, Article 2 of the law mentions that the alternative punishments include

community service, house arrest, confinement within a particular place, refraining from entering a particular place or places, undertaking to refrain from menacing or communicating with particular persons or entities, submitting to electronic surveillance, attending rehabilitation and training programmes, and remedying the damage that resulted from the crime.

The law also mentions that the alternative punishments shall only be applicable to prisoners who have served half the term of the sanction or sanctions he/she was sentenced to, to be of good conduct, their release from prison shall not constitute a public

security risk, and shall have paid all the financial liabilities handed down against them by a criminal court, unless it is impossible for them to pay it.

Article 12 of the same law reads: "Any convicted person sentenced to imprisonment of not more than one year or physical coercion may request the Execution Judge to substitute the imprisonment sentence or physical coercion by one or more of the alternative sanctions set forth in Article 2 of this Law.

"The execution judge shall decide upon such request after hearing the statements of the Public Prosecution."

Youth Centre planned in Southern Governorate

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A youth centre could be established in the Southern Governorate after a plot of land was allotted for the project.

The Southern Municipal Council has approved a proposal to establish a youth centre in the governorate.

The proposal has been referred to the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning and the Ministry of Housing.

"There is a lack of facility for the youth to practise their hobbies, sports and other interests," the proposal stated.

Southern Municipal Coun-

Youth are an important segment of the society and the council hopes to support them.

MR AL TAMIMI

cil chairman Bader Al Tamimi stressed that youth are an important segment of the society and the council hopes to support them.

A prominent proposal put forward by the Southern Governorate recently came to fruition as a park in the southern region, which has been equipped with

special facilities to cater to special needs population.

A number of council members expressed their delight for the success. Khalid Janahi, a municipal council member of the Southern Municipal Council said that the initiative is an amazing example of becoming an inclusive society.

He praised the efforts of the municipality in taking such steps. "The move comes with our belief that people with special needs are an important part of Bahraini society and the too have recreational needs that they want to experience," the Municipal Council said in a statement.

26 NOV TO 7 DEC



ALHAWAJ PARTICIPATING SHOPS:

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BAB AL BAHRAIN - MUHARRAQ - SAMSONITE (BCC) - WATCH TIME (SEEF, BAHRAIN MALL) - Military Consumer &
Economic Association - American Tourister Bahrain Mall.

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