

Commute costs

Urgent call to raise civil service transport allowance for government employees

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

An urgent request to raise transport allowances for government employees has been submitted to Parliament after MPs said recent fuel price rises have pushed up the daily cost of getting to work.

The proposal, lodged under the urgent track, was signed by Mohammed Janahi, Ahmed Sabah Salloom, Hanan Fardan, First Deputy Speaker AbdulNabi Salman and Ahmed Abdulwahid Qarata.

Gap

“Fuel costs have risen while the allowance has stayed still, and staff are covering that gap from their own pockets,” Janahi said.

The MPs argue the allowance no longer matches real commuting costs for many staff who rely on private cars.

They drew attention in par-



Image used for illustrative purposes only

ticular to Jayyid fuel, which they said has risen by about 57 per cent, adding to daily spending for employees travelling to and from their workplaces.

The memo says the current allowance has lost buying power and no longer covers even basic travel costs for a wide group of government workers.

Costs

“We are asking for a rise that brings the allowance closer to real travel costs, especially for those who have no choice but to drive to work each day,” Janahi said.

The MPs asked for the request to be treated as urgent on the



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“The allowance no longer matches real commuting costs for many staff who rely on private cars.”

- MP MOHAMMED JANAH

grounds that the impact of higher fuel prices is being felt now, day after day, without a suitable way to make up the added burden through the existing allowance.

MPs push for public park in Old Sanad

● Seeking to expand green space and support upgrades walking routes

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MP Iman Shuwaiter

MPs have filed an urgent motion urging the government to start work on a public park in Old Sanad, on land already set aside in Block 743.

The motion was submitted by MP Iman Shuwaiter and four other MPs.

In their explanatory note, the sponsors say Old Sanad has a large and growing population but lacks public parks and green spaces.

They say the area has no green lawns, open areas, children’s play spaces or sports walking tracks, despite the neighbourhood’s size and on-going building growth.

Plan

The proposal says the site has been allocated for a public park as part of the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture’s parks and gardens projects, linked to the ministry’s strategic plan and the Sustainable Development



Old Sanad has a large and growing population but lacks public parks and green spaces.

Goals.

The MPs say residents have waited for the park for years.

They say the park would expand green space in Sanad and support upgrades to parks and walking routes.

The motion calls for free recreational areas for children, a free sports ground for amateur athletes, and a green open space for residents.

‘84% overall satisfaction with services and information on bahrain.bh portal’

● iGA 2024–2025 annual Customer Satisfaction Index Study

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The Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) announced the results of its annual Customer Satisfaction Index (CSI) study for 2024–2025, which was conducted through an online survey via the National Portal, bahrain.bh.

The study assessed public views on government eServices and information provided through the portal.

iGA’s Acting Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive of Operations and Governance, Dr. Khalid Almutawah stated that the results showed an overall satisfaction rate of 84% with the eServices and information offered to the public through the

portal, and that this is a reflection of sustained government efforts to improve the efficiency and quality of services as well as the strong support provided by stakeholders to the iGA.

Efforts

He also mentioned that these efforts include simplifying and reengineering procedures, enhancing the user journey, continuously updating information and the government services catalogue, and aligning services with ongoing developments across various sectors in the Kingdom.

Dr. Khalid also emphasized the importance of strengthening digital infrastructure, adopting advanced technologies, and maintaining public engagement through participation and voting on topics via the National eParticipation Platform, Sharekna.

Dr. Khalid Almutawah highlighted the iGA’s commitment



Dr. Khalid Almutawah

to implementing the directives of His Excellency General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior and Chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Information and Communications Technology (MCICT), by strengthening communication channels with the public and continuing to actively listen to their feedback and suggestions.

These efforts support the development of the eServices’ eco-

system and reflect the iGA’s ongoing commitment to keeping pace with rapid advancements in digital government, enhancing quality of life for citizens and residents, and supporting the core pillars of government programs and the Kingdom’s digital transformation.

Criteria

Based on the study’s evaluation criteria, which included satisfaction with the portal’s design, ease of use and access to eServices and information, the personal profile feature and the effectiveness of the search engine, the Personalization feature achieved the highest satisfaction rate at 86%.

This feature enables users to access their preferred services through single sign-on access, track transactions, receive official notifications, and view previous payments, resulting in a more organized and convenient user experience.

Gold Souq digital platform launched

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Ayman bin Tawfiq Al-Amoayed, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS) and Chairman of the Board of Hope Fund, announced the launch of the Gold Souq electronic platform, the first digital application in the Kingdom of Bahrain to provide a modern system for saving, investing and trading gold in accordance with the provisions of Islamic Sharia.

Almoayed emphasised the importance of continuing to deploy innovative digital solutions in the investment sector to support the national econo-

my and expand opportunities for entrepreneurs and Bahraini talents, particularly in the creative industries.

He noted that supporting innovation-based entrepreneurial projects aligns with SCYS’s directions to empower youth and encourage their engagement in future-oriented sectors with regional and international reach.

He explained that the launch of the Gold Souq platform reflects an advanced approach towards adopting innovative digital solutions to enhance investment sustainability and represents a practical model for integrating financial technology.

Bahrain leads way in women’s leadership opportunities

● GTCI 2025 index

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Bahrain has recorded a new achievement after ranking first in both the Arab world and the Gulf in the Women’s Leadership Opportunities indicator, one of the key measures within the Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) 2025 issued by INSEAD.

This indicator is calculated using data from the World Economic Forum’s annual Execu-

tive Opinion Survey (Davos).

It assesses the availability of leadership opportunities for women in the workplace, as well as the extent to which women enjoy equal opportunities to access senior leadership positions in companies.

The Global Talent Competitiveness Index is recognised as one of the world’s leading international reference reports for evaluating countries’ capacities to develop, attract, and retain talent.

Relationship

The report stated “econo-

mies such as Brazil, Bahrain, France, and the United Kingdom demonstrate a balanced input–output relationship, suggesting proportionate returns on their talent competitiveness investments. These economies sustain equilibrium between talent investments and resulting performance, indicating mature and stable talent ecosystems.”

This assessment reflects the Kingdom’s efforts to translate investment in human capital into sustainable outcomes and highlights its position among world’s growing economies.

A strategic partnership for cybersecurity modernisation

● Transition towards quantum-safe economy

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The The National Cyber Security Center of the Kingdom of Bahrain and SandboxAQ, a global leader in AI-driven cybersecurity and cryptographic management, yesterday announced a landmark partnership, aimed at establishing a nationwide cybersecurity modernisation framework.

The partnership marks one of the world’s first large-scale commitments to transitioning towards a quantum-safe economy.

As a founding member of the UNICC AI Hub on Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC), SandboxAQ will support Bahrain in securing sovereign data, critical infrastructure and sensitive government and private-sector systems against rapidly evolving cyber, cryptographic, and quantum computing threats.

The announcement comes as governments worldwide

prepare for “Q-Day”, the point when cryptographically relevant quantum computers (CRQCs) will be capable of breaking today’s widely used encryption.

While experts now estimate CRQCs to be feasible by as early as 2029, the threat is already present through “harvest-now, decrypt-later” attacks, where adversaries steal encrypted data today with plans to decrypt it once quantum capabilities mature.

For governments, this includes classified communications and diplomatic cables.