

# Marriage to move-in: MPs want housing allowance paid immediately

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TDT | Manama

Newly married couples should receive a housing allowance from the date of marriage, rather than after a five-year wait, according to a proposal backed by MPs but opposed by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning.

Despite the ministry's objections, Parliament's Public Utili-

ties and Environment Committee has recommended approval of the proposal, with all attending members voting in favour.

The proposal, submitted by MP Dr Ali Al Nuaimi, seeks to amend current rules governing housing allowance payments. Supporters argue that newlyweds face rising living costs, alongside higher property prices and rents, particularly during the early years of marriage.

MPs backing the move said paying the allowance from the date of marriage would help couples meet daily expenses, support family stability and ease financial pressure at the start of married life. They also linked the proposal to the government's 2023-2026 programme, which includes targets related to improving living standards and preserving social gains.

The Ministry of Housing and

Urban Planning has warned that implementing the change would affect the sustainability of its housing plans and its ability to deliver services at the required pace.

The ministry cited Decision No. 909 of 2015, which governs the housing system and stipulates that the allowance is paid after five years from the date an application is submitted. It noted that certain categories —

including divorced women and widows — are exempt from this rule and receive the allowance from the date of application, in recognition of their financial circumstances.

The ministry

**Dr Ali Al Nuaimi,**  
MP

added that its current efforts are focused on expanding housing options, including immediate financing solutions tailored to different needs, without reliance on long waiting periods.



## Marching to the rhythm of Bahrain's pride



The Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) military band held a celebration at Marassi Galleria in Muharraq Governorate, marking the 58th anniversary of the establishment of the BDF. The event featured musical performances by the BDF military band, accompanied by a women's military band, combining live music with a military march. The programme included a selection of national musical pieces inspired by Bahrain's heritage and traditional folklore, which were well received by attendees.

## Indian Ladies Association celebrates Annual day 2026 with a “Bollywood Vintage Night” at Crowne Plaza

**Manama**

The Indian Ladies Association (ILA), one of Bahrain's most respected and longest-serving women's organizations, celebrated its Annual Day on 5th February 2026 at Crowne Plaza, marking the commencement of its 70th year with elegance, nostalgia, and vibrant community spirit. The evening's theme, “Bollywood Vintage Night,” paid tribute to the timeless charm of classic Indian cinema.

The programme was gracefully anchored by Ms. Rekha Utam, whose poised and engaging emceeing ensured a seamless and lively flow throughout the evening.

The event was honoured by the presence of Ms. Betsy Mathaison, Guest of Honour, who addressed the gathering and appreciated ILA's seven decades of dedicated service to the community.

A significant highlight of the evening was the Presidential Address by Ms. Smita Jensen, who underscored the essence of sisterhood as the very foundation of ILA—a bond that has remained unbroken since 1956 and continues to grow strong-



er across generations. As ILA steps into its Platinum Jubilee year, she spoke passionately about celebrating joy, unity, and togetherness, while reaffirming ILA's commitment to inclusivity, meaningful initiatives, and vibrant events that enrich members' lives. She emphasized that the journey ahead would be possible only through the continued support,

participation, and enthusiasm of its members, who are the true custodians of ILA's enduring legacy.

One of the most unique and widely appreciated moments was the Bollywood-style introduction of the newly elected Executive Committee. Members made a retro-themed entry to classic Bollywood melodies, creatively aligning with the

theme and drawing enthusiastic applause.

This was followed by the formal induction and oath-taking ceremony, which was administered by Ms. Meera Ravi. The solemn yet powerful oath was deeply appreciated by the audience for its dignity and sense of purpose. In a distinctive and symbolic gesture, respected entrepreneurs and community

leaders from Bahrain, actively serving the community, were invited on stage to pin each Executive Committee member, reinforcing unity, trust, and collective leadership.

During the ceremony, mementos were presented to Subcommittee Coordinators in recognition of their dedicated service throughout the year. Special appreciation was also extended

to those who contributed significantly to the successful organisation of the Dandiya celebrations, acknowledging their hard work and commitment. In addition, Sneha and Sneha Coordinators were formally recognised for their compassionate efforts and continued service to community welfare initiatives.

Adding an emotional and celebratory touch to the evening, all ILA members came together on stage to cut the cake, commemorating 70 years of ILA's enduring sisterhood, unity, and service to the community.

The evening also featured a Best Attire Competition, with winners announced as:

- Best Attire – Female: Zamini Aruldas
- Best Attire – Gentleman: Kamal & Ushas
- Best Attire – Couple: Kalesh

The evening concluded with cultural performances, live music, and dinner. The programme formally closed with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Sarmistha Dey, Honorary General Secretary, expressing heartfelt gratitude to the guests, members, sponsors, volunteers, and all those who contributed to the success of the event.