

# 2,200 Autism Cases Recorded in Bahrain

## Cases Reveal Need for Unified National Response

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Around 2,200 autism cases have been recorded in Bahrain, Parliament was told during a session that saw renewed calls for a comprehensive national strategy to support individuals with autism and their families.

MP Hassan Ibrahim said the figures include about 1,700 males and 500 females, highlighting growing concern over gaps in diagnosis, care, education and long-term support. He noted that many families continue to face high costs, limited access to services and unclear pathways from early signs to proper diagnosis and treatment.

Rehabilitation fees ranging between BD250 and BD1,000 per month, coupled with limited availability and concerns over oversight of some private centres, are placing added pres-



“All children have been screened for autism signs at the age of two since 2021”

- HEALTH MINISTER JALEELA AL SAYED



“Bahrain needs accurate national data on autism.”

- MP JALEELA ALAWI



“Families are being worn down by high costs.”

- MP HASSAN IBRAHIM



“Care plans are continuously updated to match the child’s development and needs.”

- MARYAM AL JALAHMA, CEO OF GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS

port. Maryam Al Jalahma, Chief Executive of Government Hospitals, added that diagnosis is carried out through detailed assessments by specialists, while treatment focuses mainly on behavioural, social and educational support rather than medication.

### Services

Meanwhile, MP Jaleela Alawi stressed that services must be backed by strong legislation rather than individual efforts. She called for expanding inclusion classes, improving early intervention services and conducting a comprehensive national study to better understand autism cases in Bahrain.

MPs agreed that while progress has been made, more coordinated efforts are needed to ease the burden on families and ensure long-term care, education and employment opportunities for people with autism.

sure on families, he said. He also stressed the need for specialist-led diagnosis, regular reassessments and stronger training

for Bahraini professionals.

Responding to the debate, Health Minister Dr. Jaleela Al Sayed said Bahrain already has

a structured pathway in place, with early screening introduced at primary health centres for children as young as two years

old. Cases showing signs of autism are referred to specialist teams in government hospitals for further evaluation and sup-

# ‘Insurance Is Not Enough’

## Call to Fix Healthcare Gap in Southern Governorate

TDT | Manama

Dr. Ali bin Majed Al-Nuaimi, a Member of Parliament, urged the government to acquire a private hospital in Riffa and transform it into a government-run facility specializing in maternity and healthcare services.

Al-Nuaimi said the move would help bridge a significant

gap in healthcare provision in the Southern Governorate, which currently lacks a government maternity hospital. As a result, residents are often forced to rely on private healthcare services, placing additional financial strain on families.

He stressed that health insurance should not justify the absence of essential public healthcare services. He questioned



why residents of the Southern Governorate are treated differ-



“Health insurance should not justify the absence of essential public healthcare services.”

- MP DR. ALI BIN MAJED AL-NUAIMI

ently from those in other parts of the Kingdom where government

hospitals and health centres are readily available.

According to Al-Nuaimi, residents of Riffa and nearby areas face increasing difficulty accessing maternity care, which adds pressure to existing government hospitals and potentially affects service quality.

He emphasized the importance of the government and the local community cooperation.

## Exposed Manhole in Hamala Raises Safety Concerns



Northern Municipal Council member Mohammed Saad Al Doseri



A manhole creates navigation challenges for pedestrians

### Call for cautious driving

Hasan Barakat  
TDT | Manama

An exposed manhole on an unpaved road in Hamala forces residents to slow down and stay alert during daily travel, highlighting ongoing infrastructure concerns in the area.

Northern Municipal Council member Mohammed Saad Al Doseri has drawn attention to Road 1010, noting that while sewage works are complete, the unfinished road surface creates safety and navigation challenges.

The sandy, uneven terrain combined with the poorly visible manhole has led to cautious driving, particularly at night, with some residents reporting minor vehicle damage.

The issue has been formally raised through council channels, with calls to prioritize paving work and complete the remaining infrastructure to improve safety and ease of movement in the neighbourhood.

NATIONAL HOTELS COMPANY (B.S.C.)

**ANNOUNCEMENT FOR DISTRIBUTION OF CASH DIVIDENDS FOR 2025**

The Board of Directors of National Hotels Company B.S.C. is pleased to invite the shareholders whose names are registered in the Share Register as of the Record Date on **Sunday 5 April 2026** to arrange a prior appointment through the Hotline indicated below or via ( Skiplino ) with the Company's Share Registrar and Dividend Agent, Messrs. Bahrain Clear B.S.C.(C) to receive the cash dividends for the financial year ended 31 December 2025 from **Thursday 16 April 2026** . The shareholders shall carry with them on the date of the appointment their ID card, passport and original share certificates. For shareholders who have previously made arrangement for the transfer of dividends via bank transfer to their IBAN, the cash dividends shall be deposited directly into their bank accounts.

**Share Registrar and Dividend Agent**

**Messrs. Bahrain Clear B.S.C.(C)**  
Bahrain Financial Harbour, Harbour Gate  
4th Floor, King Faisal Highway  
Building No. 31, Road 383, Block 305  
P.O. Box 3203  
Manama – Kingdom of Bahrain  
Hotline: +973 17108786  
WhatsApp: +973 33510008  
Email: [edividend@bahrainclear.com](mailto:edividend@bahrainclear.com)

**Faisal Ahmed Al Zayani**  
Chairman

### Fixed Pitches and E-Booking System for Food Trucks

Muharraq Municipality Director-General Khalid Al Qallaf outlines the municipality's position in an official letter responding to the Municipal Council's proposal.

● **Structured licensing process set to be introduced**

**Mohammed Darwish**  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain is preparing a new system to regulate food trucks through fixed pitches across all governorates, along with an electronic booking and licensing system, according to the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture.

Under the proposed plan, food truck owners will be able to reserve designated locations via an online platform based on availability and preferred sites. The system will also introduce a structured licensing process once all technical and regulatory requirements are finalised.

However, Muharraq Municipality has stated it does not support a separate new proposal to regulate mobile food sales, noting that the sector is already governed by existing regulations, including decisions issued in 2017 and 2020.

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