

## Urgent call made to fix Hamad Town public toilets

● Projects remain unfinished despite repeated complaints from community

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Persistent problems affecting public toilets in Hamad Town were brought back to the forefront during the Northern Municipal Council's Ordinary Session 11, as members criticised long delays, poor maintenance and limited access to facilities used daily by residents and visitors.

Abdullah Mubarak Bilal Al Qubaisi led the intervention, questioning why projects discussed years ago remain unfinished despite repeated complaints from the community.

Council members highlighted that plans to upgrade and open new public toilets date back to 2016, yet progress remains unclear, with some timelines extending as far as 2029.

Al Qubaisi said residents continue to rely on ageing facilities that frequently close or operate for limited hours, forcing people to endure unnecessary hardship, particularly during busy periods and public events.

### Issues

Members cited damaged doors, leaking water, worn fittings and poor hygiene as recurring issues.

Concerns were also raised over wasted water, outdated plumbing and a lack of regular supervision.

Several speakers noted that the toilets operate for only 12 hours a day, despite constant public use, while the shortage of guards has allowed neglect and misuse to persist.

## Fast track completion of Budaiya Health Centre: Council

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The Northern Municipal Council renewed its pressure to accelerate the completion of the Budaiya Health Centre, warning that continued delays strain healthcare services and residents in surrounding areas.

The issue was raised under the "Other Business" agenda during the council's Ordinary Session 11, following a proposal submitted by council member Mohamed Saad Al Dossary.

Council members learned that the existing Budaiya clinic is under significant pressure, serving an estimated 7,500 patients monthly.

The facility serves several residential areas, including Budaiya and nearby villages, making it one of the busiest primary healthcare points in the Northern Governorate.

# Public health first

Northern Municipal Council backs Hamad Town sewage upgrade to end foul smells

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The Northern Municipal Council has approved a proposal to upgrade the sewage pumping station on Road 1650 in Block 1216 in Hamad Town after repeated complaints about foul odours, with a residents' petition attached to the proposal.

The plan was put forward by council member Abdulla Al Thawadi and cleared at the council's meeting on Monday.

He said: "We have received repeated complaints from residents about foul odours coming from the station, causing disturbance and affecting their quality of life."

### Demand

Al Thawadi said some parts of the station were ageing and needed maintenance or replacement, while higher demand from housing growth had added to the operating load.

He said the work was aimed at tackling the smell problem and improving the service, adding: "We want to reduce the odours



Sewage pumping station in Hamad Town

and treat their causes at the root, raise the station's operating efficiency, and improve the level of service provided to residents."

The proposal describes the sewage system as core public infrastructure, with a direct link to public health and the surrounding environment.

### Facility

It says the station, described as an important service facility

in Hamad Town, needs work in light of operational notes, complaints from residents and the petition.

It calls for updating existing systems to improve performance and raise capacity so the station can handle higher volumes as Block 1216 grows.

The proposal also calls for steps to meet approved environmental and health requirements, and to improve the quality of

treated water so it meets local and international standards before discharge.

### Technology

The proposal also refers to using modern technology to cut pollution linked to the station and support environmental sustainability, including reusing treated water for non-drinking purposes to help conserve water resources.



**"We want to reduce the odours and treat their causes at the root, raise the station's operating efficiency, and improve the level of service provided to residents."**

— ABDULLA AL THAWADI, NORTHERN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBER

It also calls for better maintenance routines and training for staff to cut faults, reduce service stoppages and keep the station running more reliably.

## Council backs reopening of garbage bag offices



Northern Municipal Council session in progress

● Move to resolve long-running crisis affecting residents

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Calls to reopen garbage bag distribution offices dominated the Northern Municipal Council's Ordinary Session 11, as members warned that existing measures have failed to resolve a long-running crisis

affecting residents across the governorate.

Abdullah Mubarak Bilal Al Qubaisi, Saad Al Dossary, Bassem Abu Idris and Abdulla Ashour expressed shared concern that the Ministry has yet to demonstrate sufficient seriousness in addressing the issue, particularly in high density areas such as Madinat Hamad.

Members challenged official claims that distribution machines operate 24 hours a day, noting that many are located inside complexes that close at midnight and remain shut on

Fridays and Saturdays.

In several locations, only two machines are available to serve large populations, with frequent malfunctions further restricting access.

Saad Al Dossary revealed that a home delivery service for elderly residents had previously been in place but was later cancelled, leaving many without support.

Council members stressed that a significant number of senior citizens are unable to use electronic machines in the first place, effectively excluding

them from the service.

They argued that reopening distribution offices is no longer optional but necessary, at least until sufficient and reliable alternatives are available.

The council highlighted that the problem dates back to 2020, despite repeated assurances since 2022 that additional machines would be deployed.

Members also questioned why office services remain open in other governorates, while residents in the Northern Governorate continue to face closures.

**Firm action sought on workers housing in family neighbourhoods**

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The Northern Municipal Council has moved to confront the growing issue of workers being housed within family residential areas, warning that the situation now carries social and safety implications that can no longer be overlooked.

The matter was raised during the council's Ordinary Session 11, where members agreed that the spread of unregulated accommodation requires co-ordinated and decisive intervention.

Council member Mohammed Saad Al Dossary outlined the scale of the problem, pointing to increasing complaints from residents over overcrowding, unauthorised subletting and the erosion of the social character of neighbourhoods.

Some properties are being used in clear violation of regulations, with occupants sharing homes originally designated for single families.

### Environmental awareness workshop

The Supreme Council for Environment, in coordination with the Ministry of Social Development, organised a workshop titled "We Bring It Back to Revive It... In Our Homes," targeting social centres. The initiative comes as part of joint efforts to enhance environmental awareness and promote proper waste management practices across the community. The event was attended by Mr Ziad Adel Darwish, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Development.

