

Safe investments

MPs approve proposal safeguarding citizens’ rights in stalled property development projects

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Parliament approved a proposal aimed at safeguarding the rights of citizens who purchased properties in stalled or delayed development projects, marking a significant step toward addressing long-standing concerns within the real estate sector.

The decision reflects growing recognition that buyers should not bear the consequences of disputes or failures beyond their control.

MPs highlighted that many purchasers found themselves caught between developers and administrative procedures, unable to register their properties despite fulfilling their financial obligations.

Members agreed that such situations undermine confidence in the housing market and place unnecessary strain on families seeking stability and security.

The approved proposal calls for streamlined procedures to enable buyers to complete registration processes even when projects face legal or technical obstacles

MPs stressed that citizens who acted in good faith must be protected and that ownership rights should not remain suspended due to issues between other parties.

During deliberations, emphasis was placed on the principle of fairness, with MPs arguing that current arrangements can



Property construction projects

MPs said clear and predictable procedures are essential for sustaining investment and supporting long term economic growth.

leave buyers exposed for years without clear remedies.

The approval signals a shift towards a more balanced framework that prioritises individual rights while preserving the integrity of the property market.

Members noted that resolving such cases would not only protect citizens but also strengthen confidence in Bahrain’s real estate environment. Clear and

predictable procedures, they said, are essential for sustaining investment and supporting long term economic growth.

With Parliament’s approval secured, attention now turns to implementation, as relevant authorities are expected to develop practical mechanisms that translate the decision into tangible relief for affected buyers and greater stability across the sector.

Innovating production

● UNIDO, Arab League back Kingdom’s industrial and innovation vision

● Why global entrepreneurs are choosing Bahrain to grow

Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

Bahrain will launch a state-of-the-art industrial incubator in September, known as HQ Industrial, aimed at transforming innovation into industrial-scale production, His Excellency Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce, announced at the 6th World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum (WEIF).

The new facility will operate as an industrial launch pad, providing a single, integrated ecosystem that supports startups and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from research and development through prototyping, production, and final sale.

“This is not a traditional incubator,” H.E. Fakhro said. “It is designed to close the gap between innovation and industrial production.”

He added that Bahrain is positioning itself not just as a gateway to the region, but as the best destination for long-term business growth, sup-

ported by competitive costs, a skilled workforce, strong logistics infrastructure, and access to regional and global markets.

Forum

The announcement came during the forum, held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and attended by leaders, investors, innovators, and entrepreneurs from 86 countries.

Addressing participants, H.E. Fakhro said the global economy is undergoing profound transformation due to geopolitical shifts, climate challenges, demographic changes, and rapid technological advancement.

Traditional growth models, he noted, are under pressure, making entrepreneurship central to economic resilience.

“In today’s world, competitiveness is no longer defined by size alone, but by speed, adaptability, and the ability to scale ideas into impact,” he said.

He highlighted Bahrain’s long-standing economic strategy based on openness, diversification, and private sector leadership, noting that non-oil sectors now contribute more than 83% of the Kingdom’s GDP, while SMEs account for over 93% of registered businesses.

H.E. Fakhro said Bahrain’s ambition extends beyond creating startups to building scalable companies and competitive industries capable of operating regionally and globally from the Kingdom.

Call to raise housing salary cap to BD2,500

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A call to lift the maximum salary threshold for state housing services to BD2,500 has been approved by Parliament, extending eligibility beyond the current ceiling.

MPs passed the proposal in yesterday’s sitting.

It was submitted by Abdulwahid Qarata, Bader Al Tamimi, Hamad Al Doy, Ali Al Doseri and Mohammed Salman Al Ahmed.

Supporters said the higher cap would allow more citizens

to access housing services and would ease pressure on household budgets as living costs rise.

They also said it could reduce reliance on extra borrowing.

During the debate, Maryam Al Saegh urged the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning to review how income is counted when people apply, saying applicants should not lose their place because of routine pay rises while they wait.

“t is not acceptable that a young person applies for housing on a modest wage at the start of their working life, then has their application cancelled

because their salary later rises above the ceiling due to normal increases,” she told the chamber.

She called for income to be assessed using the salary at the time of application, or through a method that accounts for gradual wage growth.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning said current rules set income limits across housing services, with an upper ceiling of BD1,200.

It said a beneficiary’s income must not exceed BD1,200 when a nomination certificate is issued.

Three employees sent to prison for embezzlement

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The Head of the Financial Crimes and Money Laundering Prosecution announced that the First High Criminal Court has convicted three employees.

It sentenced each of them to three years’ imprisonment and imposed a fine of BD500. The court also ordered the return of the seized items related to the crime.

They were convicted of embezzling property found in their possession during and by reason of the performance of their duties.

The Public Prosecution had received a report from the defendants’ employer alleging that they had embezzled clothing from shipments they were responsible for inspecting and examining.

It subsequently launched an investigation, during which it heard witness testimony and reviewed video footage related to the incident.

The defendants were interrogated and ordered to be remanded in custody before being referred to the First High Criminal Court, which ultimately found them guilty and imposed the prescribed penalties.

Driver guilty in fatal traffic accident

● One-year jail term

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court sentenced a 38-year-old Asian man to one year in prison and ordered his deportation after serving the sentence for causing a fatal traffic accident that killed an Arab woman and injured her young child.

The incident occurred on November 30, 2025, when the defendant hit a woman who was crossing the road while pushing a baby stroller, resulting in her death and injuries to her child, who is under two years old.

The Public Prosecution

charged the defendant with causing the accident due to negligence and failure to exercise proper care while driving, which endangered the lives of pedestrians and caused damage to property.

Investigations showed that the victim, a 26-year-old woman, was crossing the street at a pedestrian crossing when the defendant’s vehicle struck her and the stroller.

She sustained severe head injuries and died while being transported to the hospital.

The child suffered minor injuries and was treated and discharged.

Medical and forensic reports confirmed that the death resulted from traffic-related injuries, with no criminal suspicion involved.

Man cleared of public slander

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A Criminal Court has acquitted a man accused of public slander and set aside a BD20 criminal order after finding the case was not proven and that doubt surrounded the allegation. The court ruled that the criminal order should fall and be treated as though it had never been issued, applying Article 255 of the Criminal Procedure law.

According to lawyer AbdulAdheem Hubail, prosecutors alleged his client publicly directed words at a woman and her daughter on a public road

that would harm their honour and reputation, without tying the claim to a specific incident.

A criminal order was issued imposing a BD20 fine.

Objection

The defendant objected to the order under Article 277 of the Criminal Procedure law and the dispute was heard in court.

He denied the accusation and denied any criminal intent to insult or cause harm.

The defence argued that the papers contained no decisive proof beyond the complainants’ statements and that there was no neutral witness.

It also said a video clip sub-

mitted in the case did not show any clear act establishing wrongdoing.

In its reasoning, the court said it could not be satisfied to convict on uncorroborated statements and noted the family relationship between the complainants as one factor that added to doubt about the reliability of the account.

The court reaffirmed the principle that doubt is interpreted in the defendant’s favour once the court has examined the case with due care, and that protecting individual rights and freedoms outweighs the risk of a guilty person avoiding punishment.

Alerts for high-tariff electricity use

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

An urgent proposal to require the Electricity and Water Authority to send alerts when a customer’s electricity use moves into the third, higher-tariff band has been approved by Parliament. The proposal calls for messages to be sent by SMS or electronic notification as soon as a customer passes the first and second bands, warning that their use has reached the third band.

MP Bader Al Tameemi, who submitted the proposal, said it was meant to give households early warning before costs rise.

“Many citizens are not familiar with the stages of consumption and what costs follow,” he said, adding that this “often leads to shock when bills are received”.

The proposal was driven by consumer protection. “The proposal came from a desire to protect consumers from unexpected financial burdens,” Al Tameemi said.