

MPs approve higher unsafe homes grant

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A call to raise support for repairing unsafe homes to BD20,000 was approved by Parliament after MPs heard that the current grant no longer covers repair costs for many low-income families.

The proposal, put forward by MP Mohammed Mousa, concerns the home restoration scheme run by the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture.

It calls for the private sector to help fund the increase, lifting the grant from BD10,000 to BD20,000 for those who qualify.

Mousa told the chamber the scheme had been running for more than 15 years, but rising building material prices and higher contractor charges had left the current amount too low to cover the repair of damaged homes.

He said the aim was to bring in private-sector funding so the grant could be doubled and families could better meet the real cost of repairs.

Scheme

The scheme is for citizens earning less than BD600 a month and is meant to improve living conditions in older homes that



Image used for illustrative purposes only

pose health and structural risks.

MPs heard that many families now struggle to carry out repairs properly because the grant falls short of the real cost.

In its reply, the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture said it had no objection to moving ahead, so long as there

was community backing and private-sector support through coordination with the Capital Trustees Board and municipal councils.

Support

The ministry said it continues to support the Cities and Villag-

es Development Project as one of the schemes aimed at meeting the needs of Bahraini families.

It said the project, running since 2006, had helped repair more than 3,000 homes and provided rain insulation for more than 8,000 homes across the kingdom in cooperation with



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— MP MOHAMMED MOUSA

Commerce and Industry said it had earlier received a proposal on private-sector support for work linked to traditional markets and Manama Souq, and had written to the Bahrain Association of Banks, which responded positively.

Chamber representatives suggested linking the two proposals to draw on that experience, and called for a specialist body to be formed to shape the plan, follow it up, oversee it and assess its performance.

According to the explanatory memorandum, the unsafe homes restoration scheme is one of the government's main housing support programmes for families on limited incomes.

Inflation

But higher inflation and a sharp rise in building costs have left the current grant short of the amount now needed for proper repairs.

The proposed increase is meant to help families carry out restoration works properly, improve the state of ageing houses, strengthen cooperation between the public and private sectors in social development projects, and cut the health and structural risks faced by those living in such homes.

Majalis Al-Noor: A village united by Holy Quran



Majalis Al-Noor in full spirit

Ghadeer Alkumais
TDT | Manama

In the heart of Nabih Saleh, Ramadan isn't just about fasting; it's about a special tradition that has lit up the village for the past 15 years.

Known as “Majalis Al-Noor” (The Councils of Light), this gathering has grown from a small local dream into a beloved landmark that everyone looks forward to as soon as the crescent moon appears.

It all started back in 2011. One of village residents had a simple but beautiful idea: why not bring the whole island together for a collective Quranic recitation during the holy month?

He took his vision to the

Imam Ali (as) Center for Islamic Education and Culture, and they didn't hesitate for a second. By 2012, the dream became a reality at Al-Hirz Ma'atam.

The beginning wasn't easy. The first year was quiet, and the turnout wasn't exactly what the organizers had hoped for. But instead of giving up, the team at the Center decided to aim higher.

They believed that the people of Nabih Saleh deserved something truly special.

Partnering with the “Iqra” Association for Quranic Sciences, they completely transformed the program.

They brought in some of the finest reciters from across Bahrain.

295 requests highlight residents' daily concerns

Seventh District

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

A total of 295 requests, complaints and proposals reflecting residents' everyday concerns in the Seventh District were reviewed during the Capital Municipal session, with community voices forming the largest share of cases presented to the council.

According to the figures discussed, 170 requests were submitted directly by citizens and residents, while 63 were received through the Nation-

al Suggestions and Complaints System (Tawasul).

Another 43 requests were forwarded by MPs representing the Capital Governorate, alongside 12 issues identified through field visits, four submitted by council members, and three by civil society organisations.

Services

A large portion of the requests was related to services overseen by the Ministry of Works, which accounted for 155 cases addressing infrastructure and public facility concerns across the district.

Among the most common requests were 67 cases related to road and pavement mainte-



Additional individual cases included installing an iron fence and removing concrete barriers, reflecting specific safety concerns raised by residents.

nance, reflecting residents' calls for smoother and safer streets.

Humps

Another nine requests concerned the construction or maintenance of speed humps, while five cases involved street posts or barriers.

Drainage issues were also raised, with 10 complaints related to water accumulation and eight cases linked to sewage systems.

Other requests included four cases concerning red brick pavement maintenance, four requests to open road access points, two parking-related issues, two requests for installing reflective mirrors, and two traffic guidance signs.

Land reclassification in Al Kharijiyah approved

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Urban planning decisions often begin with maps, codes and technical terms, yet their true meaning is felt most clearly in the daily lives of residents.

During the Capital Municipal

session, members approved a proposal to reclassify a property in the Al Kharijiyah area, a step aimed at improving services and organisation within the neighbourhood.

The decision concerned a property with a total area of approximately 501.7 square me-

tres.

The land had previously been classified as RHB, a connected residential classification, but the council endorsed a recommendation to change its designation to PIC, a category used for public infrastructure and service corridors.

While the discussion involved planning terminology and regulatory classifications, the objective behind the decision was practical.

Reclassifying the land allows it to be used for service access and major infrastructure support.