

Bahrainisation Ahead of Target

Temporary expatriate roles remain in specialised technical and regulatory positions

- 87% of the Alba workforce and 89% at BAC

- Structured workforce strategy

- Review process for replacing expatriate roles

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) and Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) have exceeded their Bahrainisation targets, according to Mumtalakat, although some highly specialised roles continue to be filled by expatriates on a temporary basis.

In a response to MP Dr Hisham Al Ashiri, Mumtalakat stated that Bahraini nationals make up 87 percent of the workforce at Aluminium Bahrain and 89 percent at Bahrain Airport Company, both exceeding the required nationalisation levels set by relevant authorities.

The fund explained that certain positions still require specialised



expertise and experience not yet widely available in the local labour market. As a result, foreign professionals are temporarily employed until Bahraini employees are fully trained to assume these roles.

At BAC, the role of X-ray machine operator is expected to be transferred to Bahraini staff during April, following the completion of training programmes. Mumtalakat noted that such transitions are part of an ongoing review process aimed at replacing

expatriate roles with qualified Bahraini nationals.

At Alba, remaining expatriate-held roles include specialised positions in environmental governance, electronic systems such as SAP, information science, high-voltage power conversion, and core aluminium operations like metallurgy, reduction cells, and ingot production.

Similarly, BAC continues to rely on non-Bahraini staff for certain regulatory and technical roles that

require international certifications and extensive experience. These roles are periodically reviewed for potential localisation, particularly as workforce demands increase.

Both companies are actively investing in training and development programmes to sustain and further improve Bahrainisation rates. At Alba, employees undergo structured academic, vocational, and on-the-job training, with progress assessed at key stages before transitioning into special-



Hisham Al Ashiri, MP

ised roles.

BAC also implements continuous training initiatives, including technical and vocational programmes, as well as support for professional certifications aligned with operational requirements.

Mumtalakat emphasised that these efforts aim to build a sustainable, skilled national workforce while reducing reliance on expatriates. Career planning, performance evaluations, and targeted training are also used to ensure operational continuity and maintain high standards.

Additionally, Alba prioritizes national employees through various initiatives, including supervisory development programmes,



The Bahrain Airport Company is preparing to hand over X-ray screening operations to Bahraini staff this April, while Alba still depends on expatriates for advanced roles in aluminium production.

skills assessment schemes, and specialised training tracks such as the Bridge and Star programmes. Support is also provided for higher education, including diploma, bachelor's, and master's degrees, alongside international training opportunities.

Mumtalakat said these combined measures are designed to prepare Bahrainis for leadership and technical roles, ensuring long-term sustainability of Bahrainisation across key sectors.

Bahrain Crushes Iran-linked Drug Smuggling Ring



The Ministry of Interior announced that the Anti-Narcotics Directorate, under the General Directorate of Crime Detection and Forensic Evidence, successfully foiled an attempt to sell and distribute over 100 kilograms of marijuana and hashish, with an estimated street value of around BD 1.5 million.

Authorities confirmed the arrest of three individuals involved in the case.

According to the ministry, the smuggling operation originated in Iran using a so-called "dead drop" method; the drugs were then intended for distribution and sale within Bahrain using the same network.

The Anti-Narcotics Director-

ate stated that after receiving initial intelligence, it launched extensive investigations and evidence-gathering operations that led to the suspects' identification and arrest.

A number of items were seized during the operation, including cash in various currencies, materials used in smuggling and distribution, and two boats allegedly used for trafficking operations from Iran.

The General Directorate of Crime Detection and Forensic Evidence confirmed that the seized items were confiscated and that all legal procedures were completed before referring the case to the Public Prosecution.

Election Campaigns in Bahrain May Go Digital

- No approval granted for installation

- Existing infrastructure is sufficient.

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Hasan Barakat

Bahrain is moving towards a new model for election campaigning, allowing candidates to use existing electronic screens and licensed roadside billboards, while firmly rejecting the installation of new digital displays.

The Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture confirmed that proposals to install new electronic screens for election advertising were not approved, stressing that the existing electronic screens is already sufficient to serve campaign needs.

In its response to the Southern

Municipal Council, the ministry stated that a relevant government committee reviewed the matter and concluded that licensed digital screens operating across the Kingdom can be used within established regulations.

The shift could reshape how candidates reach voters, moving away from traditional campaign visuals that have long dominated Bahrain's streets. For years, elections relied heavily on banners, posters, and temporary structures, which were often installed shortly before the voting day and removed afterward.

Officials indicated that relying on existing infrastructure offers a more efficient and controlled approach, avoiding additional financial burdens while maintaining traffic flow and urban order. The ministry added that alternative advertising methods remain available



where needed, depending on each campaign's nature.

For candidates, the move signals a transition towards more organised and potentially competitive campaigning, where visibility may depend less on physical presence in neighbourhoods and more on strategic placement

across digital platforms already embedded in daily life.

As Bahrain prepares for future elections, the decision reflects a broader recalibration of campaign tools, one that blends regulation with modern visibility while keeping the public space unchanged.

Drunk Driver Fined After Amwaj Restaurant Crash

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Mohammed Darwish

A drunk driver who smashed into another car, the glass door of a restaurant and three trees in Amwaj has been fined BD3,000 by a court, despite a high alcohol reading that can often lead to a jail term in cases of this kind.

The crash happened when the 74-year-old British man lost control of his vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. His car hit another vehicle, shunting it into a wall, then carried on into the



Taqi Hussain, lawyer

glass door of a restaurant before striking three trees. The crash left damage to the other car, the wall, the door and the trees.

The court said the case was proved by the driver's own statements, an alcohol test and the traffic accident report. He admitted during the investigation that he had been driving after drinking, lost control and hit the other vehicle.

Tests by the medical laboratory section at the Interior Ministry found 112 milligrams of alcohol in every 100 millilitres of his urine



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sample and said he was in no state to control a car properly. The reading was high, yet the court's punishment was limited to a BD3,000 fine.

The traffic report said he was driving in Amwaj under the influence to a degree that left him unable to control the vehicle. It also found that he failed to take the

care and attention required on the road, which led to the crash and the subsequent damage.

His lawyer, Taqi Hussain, asked the court to show leniency because of his health. The court found him guilty of drink-driving, causing damage to other people's property and driving without due care and attention under Bahrain's Traffic Law, Law No. 23 of 2014.

It ruled that the three offences were linked and should be treated as one act for sentencing, imposing a single fine of BD3,000.