

Municipal Councils Advance Key Public Service Measures

Power Cut to Illegal Workers' Housing in Hoorat Sanad

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Electricity has been disconnected to a property in Hoorat Sanad following reports that it was being used as illegal workers' accommodation and is linked to unauthorised construction, illegal electricity connections, and fire safety violations.

Southern Municipal Council member Mohammed Darraj said the property at House 1278, Road 4559, Block 645, had been the subject of repeated complaints from residents, prompting investigations by relevant authorities.

He said the Electricity and Water Authority found that the property had been receiving government-subsidised electricity since November 2018 and that an electricity meter had been moved without approval. He added that outstanding electricity dues were estimated at around BD40,000, subject to recovery limits.

Darraj also said Southern Municipality was moving to recover municipal fees retroactively from July 2018, while



Mohammed Darraj, Southern Municipal Council member

Civil Defence confirmed safety concerns, including the storage of gas cylinders inside the building.

He added that authorities have classified the structure as unlawful and warned it could face legal action, including demolition, if violations continue.

The Housing Ministry had earlier indicated the land had been acquired in 2021 for planned housing development projects in Hoorat Sanad.

Darraj said the case was raised with multiple government bodies after earlier complaints did not lead to action, and confirmed that electricity was only cut after the matter was escalated to ministers.

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Call for 24-Hour Ambulance at Barbar Health Centre

Northern Municipal Council chairman Dr. Sayed Shubbar Al Wadaei proposed a round-the-clock ambulance for Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah Health Centre in Barbar. The council's Services and Public Utilities Committee recommended raising the request to the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture.

The proposal calls for stationing an ambulance at the centre 24 hours a day to handle emergencies more quickly, reduce medical danger inside the facility, provide a safer setting for patients and staff, and support the country's emergency care network.

The committee said keeping an ambulance permanently at the centre would shorten the time needed to deal with serious cases. It added that the first few minutes in an emergency can decide the outcome



Dr Sayed Shubbar Al Wadaei, Northern Municipal Council chairman

and help prevent grave complications.

The health centre serves many people in the area, increasing the chance of sudden medical cases such as fainting, strokes and accidents. The proposal also states that an on-site ambulance would increase the centre's readiness for unexpected cases and give visitors greater reassurance about the available level of care.

Proposal to Allow Extra Utility Meters

Abdullah Al Qubaisi, a Northern Municipal Council member, proposed allowing additional electricity and water meters in certain housing units to address rising utility bills in homes shared by more than one family.

The proposal targets specific cases, including married sons living in the family home, divorced women with separated sections, and married heirs residing in the same property. It aims to ensure fair billing, ease pressure on internal electrical systems, and reduce risks such as outages, wiring damage, and appliance failures, especially during peak summer demand.

It also highlights changing household usage patterns and suggests that separate meters would improve cost distribution where multiple households exist within one



Abdullah Al Qubaisi, Northern Municipal Council member

property.

Under the proposal, applicants would need to update their registered address annually through the eGovernment system, obtain municipal approval, and ensure proper infrastructure capacity upgrades. A deposit would also be required for new meters, with old meters removed when residents change addresses.



RHF Assistant Secretary-General for Social Care Ammar Sami Qambar and Director of Public Relations and Media Badr Ali Qambar during the signing of an agreement with social media influencer Mohammed Badee Kamal

RHF Launches "Media Ambassadors" Initiative

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The Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) has launched a new "Media Ambassadors" project aimed at strengthening its humanitarian mission and expanding its media presence across Bahrain and beyond.

The initiative is part of the "Rest Assured... Bahrain Is Well as Long

as You Are Its People" campaign and coincides with RHF's 25th anniversary celebrations under the theme "25 Years... A Humanitarian Legacy."

The project was officially inaugurated with the signing of its first agreement. RHF was represented by Assistant Secretary-General for Social Care Ammar Sami Qambar, in the presence of Director of

Public Relations and Media Badr Ali Qambar. The agreement was signed with social media influencer Mohammed Badee Kamal.

The initiative aims to promote awareness of RHF's humanitarian work, highlight its programmes, and build a network of media ambassadors to support charitable and social initiatives across digital platforms and public events.

Remote Hearing Rules Introduced

Mohammed Darwish
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Bahrain has introduced new regulations allowing economic, financial, and investment disputes before the Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution (BCDR) to be heard fully or partially online.

The rules were issued by Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf Minister Nawaf Al Maawda and take effect following publication in the Official Gazette.

Under Decision No. 27 of 2026, remote hearings may be conducted at the request of parties or at the discretion of the tribunal, including dispute panels, judges, and case managers. Proceedings can take place from inside or outside Bahrain, although physical attendance



HE Nawaf Al Maawda, Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf

may still be required when necessary.

Claimants can choose remote services when filing cases online, while other parties may join later upon payment of a fee unless the tribunal initiates the process, in which case no fee applies.

All online hearings will gen-



Proceedings can take place from inside or outside Bahrain.

erally be public unless confidentiality is ordered, and existing legal procedures will continue to apply with adjustments for digital cases. The BCDR will also ensure technical readiness, record all proceedings electronically, and enforce strict rules on conduct and data security.

Emergency Teams Move Fast

● Rainfall sweeps across Kingdom

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Emergency teams across Bahrain moved swiftly as sudden rainfall swept across the Kingdom, preventing potential disruption by clearing water and securing key areas within minutes of the downpour.

Municipal crews and relevant authorities were deployed immediately across the Capital Governorate, Muharraq, the Northern and Southern Governorates, working in coordinated operations to manage water accumulation and keep roads



Before-and-after scenes from Sanad show rapid response efforts tackling water accumulation.

open.

A structured response plan prioritised affected locations, with pumps and tanker trucks used to quickly remove standing water before it could impact traffic or public safety. Offi-

cialists said work is continuing in open areas where rainwater continues to collect, with teams remaining on standby amid the ongoing sarayat season, which is known for unpredictable and heavy rainfall.