



His Majesty, HRH the Premier and HRH the Crown Prince honours newly-elected parliamentarians and newly-appointed Shura members.

New era in democracy as His Majesty opens first session of Fifth Legislature

His Majesty hails national election success; emphasises strong executive-legislature ties

Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday patronised, in the presence of His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, the first session of the fifth Legislative Term of the Shura and Representatives councils.

HM King Hamad was welcomed by Shura Council Chairman, Ali Al Saleh, and MP, Youssef Zainal, on arrival at the Isa Cultural Centre, accompanied by a constellation of police cavalry.

The National anthem was played and some holy Quran verses were recited.

His Majesty delivered a speech in which he emphasised the importance of implementing reforms to enhance progress and transform the Kingdom into a modern nation.

“We are pleased to congratulate our brothers and sisters on their membership of the current National Assembly and the municipal councils, wishing them success in their endeavours to continue the development of parliamentary and municipal work.

“We urge them to maintain the friendly relations between the executive and legislative authorities, so as to strengthen the ties of integration and cooperation, and abide by the principle of separation of powers and advancing public interest.

“On this occasion, we would like to express our great satisfaction with the outstanding success of the national elections, whose outcomes reaffirm the strength of the democratic experience and the solid will of the people in upholding the interest of Bahrain.

“We would also like to thank here the Chairman and members of the High Elections Committee, along with the ladies and gentlemen members of the Judiciary, for their distinguished work and follow-up characterised by remarkable development and sincere efforts which are greatly appreciated.

“With the beginning of a new phase of work, which we are



His Majesty honours elderly Bahrainis who cast their votes in national elections.

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HIS MAJESTY

preparing for together with eagerness and hope, we find it appropriate to talk with you about our national public affairs, to assess what we have accomplished, and to look forward to what we would like to achieve, God willing.

“At the national development level, our main priority is the goal to achieve financial balance by adopting a well-defined programme that accelerates our national efforts to rectify the public budget situation and diversify our income, under the supervision of our dear uncle, the Prime Minister, with the tireless efforts and help of our son and Crown Prince.

“We express to them here our pride in the promising results of the national economy which, through its strong performance, has managed to maintain its positive growth and enhance its global financial reputation.

“We need to work tirelessly to continue to attract and encourage national and international investments, in order to create

further work opportunities and choices, in particular in the field of energy supply diversification and development of the oil sector, which is in turn witnessing a qualitative leap following the discovery of the largest oil and gas field in the history of Bahrain.

“In this regard, we look forward to the field development plans yielding the desired developmental returns.

“We call here on our brothers and sisters members of the legislative authority to take into account the priorities of national action and future requirements, and to continue the efforts of those before them in supporting the necessary reforms and actions, among the most important of which relates to the sustainability of pension funds to ensure their ability to fulfil their obligations towards future generations.

“We also call upon the esteemed Government to put among its priorities for the coming work period the necessary plans to develop areas of investments and diversify sources of income to the insurance funds to improve the services provided to retirees, and to work intensively on reviewing its policies in a comprehensive manner to accelerate the pace of national action, maximise our gains and develop our experiences.

“We convey our sincere thanks to our brothers in the

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the State of Kuwait, for their noble stances, which we highly appreciate, in supporting our national efforts to achieve the sought after financial balance and economic growth, through which we will work to strengthen facets of our integration and economic cooperation with our brothers, within the context of our common policies that aim

to maintain the security and stability of the region and safeguard its gains.

“As part of our commitment to our Arab and Islamic countries, we will continue to defend our Arab and Islamic causes in international forums, and the Palestinian issue is at the forefront of our interests. We will seek that the Palestinian people obtain their legitimate rights, including the establishment of

an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital.”

The speech also saw His Majesty hailing the contributions of Bahraini youth, Bahraini women as well as the success of Bahraini sportsmen in prestigious international events including Asian Games. His Majesty also hailed the achievements of HH Shaikh Nasser in enhancing the youth to take part in various sports activities.



The General Headquarters of Bahrain Defence Force

Announces Military Museum Timings

On the Occasion of the Kingdom of Bahrain's National Day on december 16-17, marking the anniversary of the establishment of the modern state of Bahrain as an Arab and Muslim country in 1783 by it's founder Ahmed Al-Fateh, the 47th anniversary of since Bahrain has joined the United Nation as a full member and the 19th anniversary of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne, the General Headquarters of the Bahrain Defence Force announces that the Military music Band Museum will be open to the public on Sunday and Monday, December 16-17 from 9am to 5pm.

During these two days, the Military Music Band will preform authentic traditional and patriotic music.