

BIG STORY
big story

A true Bahraini hero

Abu-Amin sought ways to overcome challenges while many youth merely complain of unemployment and poverty

● Tribune contacted the area MP Shaikh Majeed Al Asfoor, who promised to spare no effort to assist the ambitious Bahraini youth.

● The number of followers of Abu-Amin car washing services gradually grew on social networks reaching over 2,000 within two years.

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TDI | Manama
Muhannad Mansour

An ambitious Bahraini man who was sacked from his job almost two years ago, successfully transformed the devastating situation of being unemployed into a positive one by launching his personal project and employing other jobless Bahrainis from his area.

Sayed-Amin Hashim, aka Abu-Amin, told Tribune that he was working as a customs clearance agent for a private company for a couple of years. He had developed his hobby for detailing and cleaning cars since a young age.

Apart from his job as a clearance agent, he washed and polished cars of relatives, friends and neighbours near his house in Marquban village in the heart of Sitra, charging them trifling amounts so he could cope with his increasing living expenses.

However, the man informed that his previous boss wasn't happy with his car washing activities and eventually fired him, unknowingly becoming the motive for Abu-Amin to expand his work and attract more customers from Bahrain and fellow GCC countries.

"I lost my job back in 2016 because I



Abu-Amin and his co-workers pose for a selfie.

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unemployed Bahrainis were hired by Abu-Amin since he began the project.

washed cars after my working hours got over. My previous boss thought it harms the image of the company. It was a devastating situation as I initially began washing cars to provide an additional income to support my family. After losing my job, relatives and neighbours



We have proved that Bahrainis are capable of performing any job and positively contributing to the local economy.

ABU-AMIN

We are ready to help these youth as they form the backbone when it comes to taking the local economy forward.

MR AL ASFOOR



A Bahraini youth making use of his spare time by washing cars at Abu-Amin Carwash.



were my main supporters to begin the business, as they encouraged me to focus on the side business, car washing, and make it my main income source," Abu-Amin narrated.

Abu-Amin initially began washing and polishing cars outside his house. He was soon able to purchase additional equipment such as pressure washers and imported polishes and body cleaning materials.

After a few months, a couple of unemployed Bahrainis from Sitra would join him and Abu-Amin shared the income with them for the services they provide.

Within the span of two years, he attracted ten other jobless youth to work with him, as the number of customers began to grow steadily.

He said, "I began utilising social media networks to promote my business, especially on Instagram. This promoted our work quickly and we started receiving customers from all over Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The idea to overcome social obstacles as Bahrainis and defeat unemployment by working in car washing received a nationwide welcoming. We proved that Bahrainis are capable of performing any job and positively contribute to the local labour market and economy."

Abu-Amin said he and his colleagues would split the income received each day among them, adding that they make BD60 a day on an average.

The number of followers of Abu-Amin car washing services gradually grew on social networks reaching over 2,000 clients within two years.

He was recently contacted by Tamkeen (Labour Fund) which pledged to provide him with the necessary support (financial and logistical) to help his business improve.

But, to receive Tamkeen's support, he must officially register his business by applying for a Commercial Registration (CR) certificate with the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism.

"Tamkeen promised to support us with the equipment, rent and salaries. We've searched for a proper land in Sitra and the surrounding areas, but failed to find any suitable one for our project.

"I hope the concerned authorities, such as the Jaffaria or Sunni Endowments Directorates could help us find a land with sufficient space and reasonable price. We aim to expand our work in the future and hire more talented unemployed Bahraini youth," Abu-Amin said, adding that "the time has come to take the business to the next level".

Help

Tribune contacted the area MP Shaikh Majeed Al Asfoor, who promised to spare no effort to assist the ambitious Bahraini youth. A meeting was arranged between Abu-Amin and the MP to discuss his requirements and requests.

MP Al Asfoor told Tribune: "We will hear from them and convey their message to the concerned authorities to help them establish their project. We stand with all Bahraini youth and work hard to meet their aspirations. This project is unique as it targets the unemployed Bahraini youth, who find an interest in taking care of cars. The youth need our support. They are the backbone when it comes to taking the Kingdom's economy forward."