

Double disability jobs quota

Draft law seeks to raise disability hiring rate to 4%

- Government warns the change could strain budgets and leave posts unfilled due to limited qualified candidates.
- Supporters argue a higher quota would boost inclusion and expand job opportunities for persons with disabilities

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A draft law to raise Bahrain's jobs quota for persons with disabilities from 2 to 4 per cent in workplaces with 50 or more employees will go before Parliament on Tuesday, after the Services Committee endorsed it despite government objections.

The amendment would also require the Labour Minister, in coordination with the Social Development Minister and the Civil Service Bureau, to specify government roles in which qualified

fired candidates with disabilities would have priority.

The government asked MPs to reconsider the bill, arguing that its goals are already being met through existing legislation and the National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities (2023–2027). It warned that fixing a 4 per cent quota could leave posts unfilled due to a shortage of qualified candidates, add pressure on the State budget and disrupt the Fiscal Balance Programme and Economic Recovery Plan.

The Labour Ministry supported this view, noting there are 325 registered jobseekers with disabilities and 214 employed in the private sector. It said the required ministerial decision has not been issued because the current law treats it as optional and because assigning specific posts across government is impractical; it prefers a case-by-case approach.

The Social Development Ministry reported 14,800 persons

with disabilities in 2024 and outlined its vocational rehabilitation programmes, which feed qualified graduates into the labour market in coordination with the Labour Ministry. It also contracts 12 private centres for additional training services.

The Civil Service Bureau said recruitment in government entities is governed by existing Civil Service law, which already requires a 2 per cent quota and grants priority to candidates with disabilities. It has designated 72 suitable job titles and currently employs 282 persons with disabilities across government.

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry urged caution, warning that doubling the quota without strong data could harm some sectors. The General Federation of Bahrain Trade Unions backed the proposal, calling for tougher penalties for non-compliance and arguing that a higher quota would support social and economic inclusion.

UK Ambassador



Yousif bin Abdulhussein Khalaf, Minister of Legal Affairs and Acting Minister of Labour, received Alastair Long, UK Ambassador. The meeting highlighted the strong and enduring partnership between Bahrain and the United Kingdom, with both sides expressing their commitment to deepening cooperation. They discussed opportunities to broaden bilateral work, particularly in labour affairs and other shared priorities, and to enhance the exchange of expertise in support of mutual interests.

BD3m fraud: Businessman gets 10 years, ordered to repay victims

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A businessman has been sentenced to 10 years in prison and fined BD100,000 for running an unlicensed BD3 million investment scheme and misappropriating clients' funds, the First High Criminal Court has ruled.

The court ordered all proceeds confiscated and instructed him to repay the victims, along with BD6,000 and BD1,000 in provisional compensation to two civil claimants.

Prosecutors said the defendant received funds from three victims between 2020 and 2023 after falsely claiming he would invest and manage their money despite having no licence from the Central Bank of Bahrain or any authorised body.

Instead, he kept the funds and high-val-

ue movables for personal use.

The first victim transferred BD1.67m in cash, bank payments, cars, jet skis, equipment and luxury items for supposed real estate ventures and business projects, none of which were registered in his name. A second victim transferred one million Saudi riyals for a Manama project involving jet skis and padel courts; he later recovered the amount minus SAR50,000, with no profits provided.

The third victim gave the defendant BD45,000 and was promised a job, profit shares, a luxury car and a BD100,000 cheque, all of which were withdrawn or never delivered. The defendant also took two special vehicle number plates.

Dubai Arbitration Week

On the sidelines of Dubai Arbitration Week 2025, the Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution (BCDR) and Jus Mundi, a leading global legal tech and AI organisation, hosted an exclusive evening reception. The event provided a rare opportunity for cross-sector networking, professional dialogue, and knowledge sharing. The reception celebrated the ongoing partnership between BCDR and Jus Mundi, which fosters a dynamic exchange of knowledge through joint initiatives, research, and professional trainings, leveraging cutting-edge AI and legal technology to enhance arbitration know-how.



Housing backlog hits 756 in South, some dating back 23 years

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Pending housing applications in the Southern Governorate have reached 756, with some cases dating back to 2002, MP Dr Maryam Al Dhaen has been told.

In its response, the Housing Ministry said the constituency had 688 requests for housing units, 25 for residential plots and 43 for ownership apartments, all filed between 2002 and 2025. There are no pending applications predating 2000. Since the start of the current legislative term, 232 housing services have been granted to residents of the constituency.

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The ministry linked its plans to the Government Programme 2023–2026, saying it is broadening housing options and expanding cooperation with private developers to speed up service delivery. It highlighted

financing initiatives such as Tas'heel and Tas'heel+, which have processed thousands of requests since 2022, and the Tumooch scheme, which offers eligible beneficiaries an additional subsidised loan of BD20,000 a decade after purchasing an apartment to help them upgrade to a larger home.

The ministry also cited partnerships under the Government Land Development Rights Programme, including the Suhail project in Al Louzi—meeting

132 applications—and Hai Al Naseem in Madinat Salman, expected to cover 131 more, as well as the Al Wadi project in Buhaier, now under off-plan reservation.

In Madinat Salman, new apartment buildings containing 1,362 ownership flats have been opened, with a second phase adding 432 units under way, alongside three contracted projects offering 138 additional units. In Madinat Khalifa, tendering is being prepared for a major development of more than 3,000 housing units, and a separate project is already under way to provide 372 homes for the Southern Governorate.

The ministry added that work continues in Al Hidd Housing City, Madinat Salman, Khalifa

City and Sitra Housing City under the 2025–2026 budget. In Sitra, 1,077 units have been delivered, a second phase of 531 units is nearing completion, and a third phase of 1,269 units is being built, with handovers scheduled for this year and next. Residential plots have also been allocated following the completion of infrastructure works.

Maryam Al Dhaen, MP

