Tamkeen Launches "Tamakkan" and "Qiyada" Programs as Enhanced Versions of Previous Training and Leadership Employment Programs to Enhance

National Talent Skills and Support Career Growth in the Labour Market

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As part of its ongoing efforts to empower Bahraini talent and strengthen their contribution to the private sector, and investing in the national workforce as a key pillar of sustainable growth, the Labour Fund "Tamkeen" announced the launch of "Tamakkan" and "Qiyada" programs as enhanced versions of its training and leadership employment programs.

The two programs aim to develop and prepare Bahrainis for impactful leadership roles by aligning training and employment outcomes with current and future labor market needs. They are designed to enhance the competitiveness of Bahrainis, open new pathways for career advancement across various economic sectors, and support enterprises in investing in local talent and preparing them for managerial and leadership positions that drive private sector growth and development.

The "Tamakkan" program develops individuals' skills through accredited training pathways that include professional, technical, and leadership competencies aligned with labor market requirements. Through a grant-based support model, the program covers training costs associated with obtaining the qualifications and certifications needed to advance professionally.

Under the program, training costs will be covered at 100% for job seekers subject to the program's support caps, while support will reach 70% for employed individuals and 50% for enterprise training programs.

Additionally, the "Tamakkan" program offers an approved and continuously updated list of supported professional certifications, enabling both individuals and enterprises to select training programs that best meet their needs. Applications for the inclusion of new certifications will be opened to training providers every six months, based on clear and approved criteria to ensure quality outcomes and alignment with labor market demands.

Meanwhile, the "Qiyada" program provides 30% wage support for 12 months, encouraging private sector enterprises to attract and hire Bahraini talent into managerial and leadership positions, with salaries reaching BHD 2,500. The program supports quality employment opportunities and career progression for Bahraini professionals, helping them gain the experience and exposure needed to take on leadership responsibilities within their organizations.

These programs are expected to encourage greater investment in national talent by private sector enterprises, increase quality employment opportunities for Bahrainis, and strengthen workforce readiness to meet evolving market needs. They also contribute to achieving national development objectives by building a more resilient, competitive, and future-ready workforce.

Individuals and enterprises can learn more about these programs and submit applications through Tamkeen's website at www.tamkeen.bh.

The launch of these new programs aligns with Tamkeen's strategic priorities for 2026, which focus on areas with the highest returns on the economy and Bahrainis. It also reflects Tamkeen's role in shaping career pathways through programs that connect skills with opportunities in the labor market, adopting innovative approaches to stimulate private sector growth and financing, and implementing programs that enhance the Fund's efficiency and effectiveness by developing internal mechanisms and continuously strengthening governance.

A. A. Kothambawala Company Reaffirms Loyalty to the Kingdom

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Pradeep Puravankara

Abdulkader Abdulali Kothambawala Company (A.A. Kothambawala Co.), together with its associate companies, Mishkat Al Anwar Trading and Qutbi Trading, proudly held a ceremony to reaffirm loyalty and allegiance to the Kingdom of Bahrain through the signing of the Pledge of Loyalty and Allegiance to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The event brought together the management and employees of all three companies, reflecting their shared commitment to the Kingdom's values, stability, and continued progress. The ceremony was attended by Mr. Shabbir Lakdawala and Mr. Abdul Kadir Lakdawala, Directors of A.A. Kothambawala Co., Mr. Burhanuddin Abbas, Director of Mishkat Al Anwar Trading, and Mr. Saifee Lunawadi, Director of Qutbi Trading. They were joined by the staff members of all three companies in a collective expression of loyalty and dedication to the Kingdom of Bahrain and its wise leadership.

With a legacy spanning more than 110 years in Bahrain, Abdulkader Abdulali Kothambawala Company continues to uphold the principles upon which it was founded, while contributing to the Kingdom's economic growth and sustainable development. Together with Mishkat Al Anwar Trading and Qutbi Trading, the companies remain committed to supporting Bahrain's vision for prosperity and excellence through responsible business practices and dedicated service to the community.

Speaking on the occasion, the Directors expressed their pride in participating in this national initiative, emphasizing that the ceremony reflects the companies' deep appreciation for the Kingdom of Bahrain, its visionary leadership, and the opportunities the nation has provided throughout more than a century of business operations.

The event concluded with the signing of the Pledge of Loyalty and Allegiance by the Directors, alongside the participation of employees from all three companies, reaffirming their unity, loyalty, and commitment to contributing to the continued success and development of the Kingdom under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the guidance of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

NBB Celebrates People and Performance at Q2 2026 Townhall

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The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) held its Q2 2026 Townhall on 5th July, bringing employees together for a comprehensive update on the Bank's performance, strategic priorities, and ongoing progress across key areas of the business, organisational developments and the Bank's direction for the remainder of the year.

The Townhall also placed strong emphasis on employee appreciation, with the Bank recognising the collective contribution of its workforce. The agenda included an update on the latest employee engagement survey results, highlighting vital strengths, improvement areas, and actions being taken in response to staff feedback.

Several employee recognition awards were also presented, including the Customer Experience Award, the Employee Engagement Award, and the Group CEO Awards, which honoured individuals and teams for embodying the Bank's values and delivering outstanding customer service.

Al Salam Bank Receives Two Recognitions from Visa for Leadership in Bahrain's Cards and Payments Market

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Al Salam Bank received two recognitions from Visa for its exceptional performance and continued leadership across Bahrain's cards and payments market during 2025, highlighting the Bank's strong market position, growing cards portfolio, and continued contribution to the Kingdom's rapidly evolving digital payments ecosystem.

The Bank was awarded "Largest Issuing Payment Volume in Bahrain – 2025", recognizing its market-leading performance in payment volumes generated across its card's portfolio. In addition, Al Salam Bank was also awarded "Largest Active Cards Issuer in Bahrain – 2025", acknowledging its continued leadership in expanding its active cards base and strengthening card adoption across the Bahraini market.

These achievements reflect Al Salam Bank's sustained investment in strengthening its retail banking proposition and continuously enhancing payment solutions that provide greater convenience, security, and flexibility for clients. The recognitions further underscore the Bank's growing role in advancing Bahrain's digital payments landscape through innovative and client-centric banking solutions aligned with evolving consumer expectations.

Commenting on the achievement, Mohammed Buhijji, Chief Retail Banking Officer, Al Salam Bank, said: "These recognitions reflect the strength of our retail banking strategy and the trust our clients continue to place in our products and services. Over the years, we have remained focused on continuously enhancing our cards proposition, expanding digital payment capabilities, and developing solutions that create greater convenience and everyday value for our clients. This achievement reinforces our leadership position in the market and reflects our continued commitment to delivering innovative banking experiences that evolve alongside the changing expectations of our clients."

From his side, Ahmed ElKaffass, Country Manager for Visa in Bahrain, commented: "We are pleased to recognize Al Salam Bank for its exceptional performance and strong contribution to the continued growth of Bahrain's digital payments landscape. The Bank has demonstrated consistent leadership in driving card usage, expanding payment volumes, and delivering payment solutions that align with the evolving expectations of consumers. We value our partnership with Al Salam Bank and look forward to continuing this shared journey of innovation and growth within Bahrain's rapidly evolving payments sector."

These recognitions further reinforce Al Salam Bank's leadership position within Bahrain's cards and payments market and reflect its continued focus on advancing digital payment adoption, strengthening client engagement, and delivering innovative financial solutions that create long-term value for clients while supporting the Kingdom's broader digital transformation agenda.

Top Employees to Receive Recognition

Annual ceremony to recognise top employees and leading companies

- **Top-performing employees and companies to be celebrated**
- **Committee reviews plans for the 41st annual honouring ceremony**
- **Bahrain highlights the role of workers in national development**

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Bahrain has begun preparations for the 41st edition of the annual ceremony honouring distinguished and high-performing workers in private sector establishments. The ceremony is scheduled for December under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The first meeting of the organising committee was chaired by Labour Minister and Minister of Legal Affairs His Excellency Yousif bin Abdulhussain Khalaf, where preparations for the upcoming ceremony were reviewed.

The event will recognise outstanding employees nominated by their companies across various workplaces and production sectors in Bahrain, along with honouring labour pioneers and distinguished organisations that have made significant contributions to employing Bahraini citizens.

Khalaf said the royal patronage of the annual ceremony reflects His Majesty the King's continued support for national talent in the private sector, as well as the commitment of the government, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to strengthening a culture of excellence and innovation in workplaces.

He praised the achievements of Bahraini workers, highlighting their professionalism, capabilities and valuable contributions to the Kingdom's ongoing development journey.

The Minister added that recognising outstanding workers represents a message of appreciation for exceptional national talents and reflects the ongoing partnership between the government and private sector in supporting Bahraini competencies and encouraging continued achievement, creativity and excellence across various industries.

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The ceremony will recognise exceptional employees, labour pioneers and organisations that have played a significant role in employing Bahraini nationals.