

AI set to sharpen Bahrain’s government services

Proposal Calls for AI Audits, Automation in Public Sector

- **Efficiency and transparency:** AI tools proposed to speed up services, reduce errors, and improve oversight of public spending
- **Wide applications:** From smart audits and complaint tracking to traffic management and public-area monitoring
- **Capacity building:** Plan includes staff training, partnerships with universities, and development of AI tools tailored to Bahrain’s needs

Mohammed Darwish
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Lawmakers are considering the roll-out of artificial

intelligence (AI) across government ministries, from automating services to smarter oversight of public spending.

The proposal, introduced by MP Hassan Ebrahim alongside Dr Hisham Al Ashiri, Jaleela Alawi, Dr Ali Al Nuaimi, and First Deputy Speaker AbdulNabi Salman, will be discussed in Parliament on Tuesday.



This initiative would develop services, speed up transactions, reduce administrative and financial burdens, and enhance accuracy and transparency in government work

HASSAN EBRAHIM, MP

“This initiative would develop services, speed up transactions, reduce administrative and financial burdens, and enhance accuracy and transparency in government work,” said MP Ebrahim. “AI offers unprecedented capabilities in data analysis and decision-making.”

The proposal highlights AI’s potential to support internal audits, detect unusual financial patterns, and track performance by analysing complaints and enquiries from the

public. It also suggests systems to monitor operations, flag irregularities, and ensure optimal use of public funds.

Daily-life applications are included, such as smart cameras and visual analysis for public areas, and AI-driven traffic systems to monitor vehicle flows and optimise signal timings.

Sponsors emphasise the need for training government staff, attracting specialist expertise, and partnering with universities and research centres to develop AI tools tailored to Bahrain’s needs.

The Nasser Centre for Science & Technology backed the initiative, noting that automating routine tasks can increase output, reduce errors, and free staff for higher-value work. AI-driven data analysis can guide service improvements, reduce costs, and support decision-making through insights and forecasts.

The centre highlighted prototypes tested over three years, including smart financial-audit systems, staff performance and training assessment tools, customer-service platforms, legal-text search tools, complaint

analysis systems, and data retrieval tools for various ministries and agencies.

The Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee recommended approval, with all members agreeing that the proposal serves the public interest.

Governments world-wide are increasingly using artificial intelligence to improve public services, with around 40% of government AI projects focused on enhancing service delivery and operational efficiency, including automating routine tasks, fraud detection, and citizen engagement.

‘Future Consultants’ scheme to Bahrainise legal advisory roles set for debate

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A ‘Future Consultants’ scheme to train Bahrainis for legal advisory roles will be debated in Parliament on Tuesday, following MP Hanan Fardan’s warning that over 1,900 law graduates are unemployed, according to the National Audit Office’s 2023 report.

The plan aims to prepare graduates for public and private sector legal work, bridging the gap between entry-level skills and employer expectations. Fardan said it draws on the successful



Hanan Fardan, MP

‘Future Judges’ model.

A joint committee from the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee and the Services Committee recommended approval, citing public-interest benefits such as increasing Bahrainisation and creating a skilled pool of Bahraini consultants.

The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf would lead the programme, in coordination with the Ministry of Labour and Tamkeen, recruiting and training graduates. The Labour Ministry highlighted existing initiatives, including trainee placements in law

firms with allowances, Polytechnic training, and language courses.

The Ministry of Justice noted new specialist roles such as private enforcement agents and private notaries, alongside training through the Judicial and Legal Studies Institute. The Civil Service Bureau stressed that Bahrainis are prioritised in government hiring, with expatriates only employed when necessary and required to train nationals.

The proposal will be debated in Tuesday’s parliamentary session.

Parliament set for new vote on advertising law preamble

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A narrow dispute over the preamble of a bill regulating advertising in Bahrain will go to a new vote in Parliament, while the main clauses remain agreed.

The draft law, amending Decree-Law No. 14 of 1973, requires prior approval for advertisement content, empowers municipal authorities to inspect and remove adverts that breach the law, and allows licence suspension or withdrawal. Offenders may face fines of 1,000–20,000 dinars, imprisonment, or both, with each violating advert attracting additional penalties. Courts can also order site restoration at the advertiser’s expense.

The disagreement concerns how the preamble references Decree-Law No. 47 of 2002, with the Shura Council updating wording to include electronic media, while the lower house cited only press, printing, and publishing. The Public Utilities and Environment Committee recommended backing the Shura Council version.

Other amendments clarify ministry responsibilities, allow task delegation, repeal an obsolete committee article, and confirm implementation by the Prime Minister and ministers.

Gold bullion drives Bahrain’s re-export trade

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Gold bullion topped Bahrain’s re-export trade in November 2025, with shipments worth 8.3 million dinars, almost all sent to the UAE, according to monthly trade data.

The figures also show outward sales of gold jewellery to several markets, with Saudi Arabia and the United States among the main destinations, alongside import flows that fed

re-export activity during the same month.

Bahrain exported gold bullion worth 11.1 million dinars to the UAE in



November. Exports of gold jewellery, ornaments and parts reached 3.5 million dinars to Saudi Arabia, while the United States and the UAE each received 1.4 million dinars. Other destinations included Italy, worth 212.5 thousand dinars, and Kuwait, worth 119.1 thousand dinars, with additional markets recorded.

On re-exports, bullion was the largest item across all goods at 8.3 million dinars, with nearly the entire amount shipped to the UAE. Bahrain also

re-exported gold jewellery, ornaments and parts worth 3.5 million dinars to Saudi Arabia, 309.7 thousand dinars to the United States, 212.5 thousand dinars to Italy, and about 134 thousand dinars to the UAE.

Imports during November included gold bullion worth 14.9 million dinars from the UAE, 4.5 million dinars from Switzerland, 392.5 thousand dinars from Australia, and 97.3 thousand dinars from South Africa.

Bahrain also imported gold jewellery, ornaments and parts

worth 9.8 million dinars from the UAE, 1.7 million dinars from India, 535.4 thousand dinars from Italy, and 494.8 thousand dinars from the United States. Further imports came from France at 216.8 thousand dinars, Thailand at 136.4 thousand dinars, and Switzerland at 128.5 thousand dinars, alongside other sources including China, Germany, Lebanon, Spain and Turkey.

The data also recorded imports of semi-worked gold from the UAE worth 66.7 thousand dinars in November.