

## Engineer supervision required for building permits

● New ministerial decision

**Mohammed Darwish**  
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H.E. Wael Al Mubarak

Building permit applicants in Bahrain will have to appoint a licensed engineer or engineering office to oversee construction work before it begins, under a new ministerial decision that also eases the rule for small changes, repair work and some light structures.

Decision No. 25 of 2026, issued by Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Minister, His Excellency Wael Al Mubarak, and published in the Official Gazette, changes parts of the executive regulations of the Building Regulation Law.

It also opens the way for licensed engineering offices to inspect finished buildings before occupancy or use permits are granted, sets out the steps for replacing the supervising engineer during a project, and lists the kinds of minor changes to approved plans that will not count as a breach of the permit.

Under the new rules, anyone seeking a building permit must appoint a licensed engineer or engineering office to supervise the permitted works.

### Responsibility

Full responsibility for that

supervision will rest with the engineer or office in charge.

Before any work starts, the applicant must also submit a written undertaking from that engineer or office to the Capital Municipality or the relevant municipality.

Some cases are exempt.

### Rule

The rule will not apply to simple changes to a building, by extension or by adding upwards or sideways, where the area does not exceed 50 square metres and the height does not go beyond two storeys including the ground floor, so long as no special structural designs are needed.

The exemption also covers support work, maintenance and restoration that have written approval from the Capital Municipality or the relevant municipality, as well as light above-ground structures of up to 500 square metres that do not need special structural designs.

## 'Necessary step'

Tamkeen urged to cover full wages for Bahraini employees of war-affected SMEs

● MP proposal

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An urgent proposal has been put before Parliament calling for Tamkeen to pay the full wages of Bahraini staff at small and medium-sized firms hit by the war and the attacks on Bahrain.

MP Hassan Bukhammas, chairman of Parliament's Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee, wants the government to direct the Labour Fund to launch an emergency support scheme for a fixed spell, or until the fallout from the war has passed.

He said the call came as the region faces "exceptional circumstances" from the ongoing war and "the criminal Iranian attacks that targeted the Kingdom of Bahrain", with the effects feeding into the local market and weighing on many smaller firms.

### Pillar

Bukhammas said such businesses are "a basic pillar of the economy" and one of the main homes of Bahraini workers.

Keeping them on their feet, he said, and stopping them from falling into trouble or shedding local staff, is now "a strategic, economic and security necessity", especially as supply chains are shaken and running costs climb.

He said the proposal aims to keep salaries reaching Bahrai-



"The proposal would help keep money moving in the home market and avoid closures or bankruptcies among smaller businesses."

— MP HASSAN BUKHAMMAS

shield firms from financial strain caused by the regional climate.

Such a move, he said, would help build trust in the economy and keep business activity going across many fields.

Bukhammas said the urgent nature of the proposal stems from "the pressing need to protect the stability of the Bahraini family from the effects of regional crises".

### Shocks

He added that small and medium-sized private firms are the most exposed to economic shocks, which calls for immediate action to keep their work going and stop job losses or financial strain from hitting many Bahraini businesses.

The lawmaker said an emergency Tamkeen scheme to cover the wages of Bahrainis working in small and medium-sized firms would be "an economic and social safety valve at this stage" and would help protect the labour market while giving Bahrain's economy a better chance of getting through the current strain.

nis in the private sector "without interruption or delay", while easing the load on owners of small and medium-sized firms so they can face the slowdown brought on by the current conditions.

Bukhammas said the move would also help keep money moving in the home market and avoid closures or bankruptcies among smaller businesses.

### Action

He described fast action through Tamkeen, by way of an emergency support scheme, as "a necessary step" to keep Bahraini workers secure and

## 10-year jail punishment for harmful news posts

**Rehab Mohammad**  
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The General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security has confirmed that the law punishes anyone who publishes or broadcasts news, information, or images that may cause panic among the public or harm military preparedness or operations.

This offense is punishable by imprisonment of up to 10 years, in accordance with Article (133) of the Penal Code.

The directorate explained that Article (133) stipulates penalties for anyone who intentionally spreads false or misleading news, statements, or rumors during wartime, or engages in provocative propaganda that could harm military preparations or operations, or cause panic and weaken the morale of the nation.

### Accuracy

The directorate stressed the importance of accuracy and responsibility when sharing information or publishing images and data through various media outlets and social media platforms, especially during exceptional circumstances, in order to protect national security and safeguard the public interest.

It also called on everyone to comply with the applicable laws and regulations and avoid spreading rumors or sharing unreliable information.

## Criminal case filed over fabricated social media videos

● Public security threat

**Rehab Mohammad**  
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The Head of the Terrorism Crimes Prosecution an-

nounced that the Public Prosecution has referred several defendants to criminal trial.

The charges involve publishing fabricated videos and spreading false news on social media in a manner that could harm public security and cause panic among members of the

community.

The Public Prosecution had received several reports from the Cybercrime Department stating that, during its monitoring operations, a number of social media accounts were detected publishing and circulating false news and malicious rumors about the

locations of missile strikes during the ongoing hostile attacks targeting the Kingdom.

One of the defendants was also found to have published and circulated a fabricated image falsely showing residential neighborhoods being bombed, which could provoke

fear and panic among citizens and residents and threaten civil peace.

Upon receiving the reports, the Public Prosecution immediately launched an investigation. The suspects were questioned and confronted with the evidence against them.

Authorities also ordered the examination of the electronic devices used in committing the offense and heard witness testimonies.

The suspects were detained pending investigation and later referred to trial before the competent criminal court.

### Draft law on dangerous animals reviewed



The Public Utilities and Environment Committee of the Shura Council, chaired by Dr. Mohamed Ali Hassan Ali, reviewed a draft law aimed at regulating the possession and trade of dangerous animals in the kingdom. The draft law seeks to establish a legal framework to ensure the proper care of these animals and address the current legal gap, which lacks penalties for individuals keeping such animals without a license, posing risks to lives and property. The committee also examined the decision of the Council of Representatives and the report of the Shura Council's Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee on the draft law. It decided to invite relevant authorities for further study and to gather their opinions and feedback before final approval. (Report by Rehab Mohammad)

## Mistaken private house entry leaves man with hearing loss

**Rehab Mohammad**  
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A man who mistakenly entered a private house believing it was a nearby mosque suffered permanent hearing loss after being slapped by the homeowner, according to proceedings before Bahrain's First High Criminal Court.

The incident occurred after the victim left Salmaniya Medical Complex and began searching for a mosque to perform his prayers, court records show.

While walking through the area, he approached a house displaying flags on its façade, which he believed marked the entrance to a mosque.

Acting on that assumption,



Prosecutors say the homeowner, angered by the intrusion, slapped the man on the left side of his face.

he opened the door and entered the property.

The homeowner immediately confronted him.

Realising his mistake, the visitor apologised and attempt-

ed to leave, explaining that he had entered unintentionally after confusing the house for a mosque.

Prosecutors say the homeowner, angered by the intrusion, slapped the man on the left side of his face.

### Victim

Shocked by the incident, the victim left the scene without escalating the situation.

Later that evening, however, he began experiencing severe pain in his left ear and sought medical attention.

Doctors later confirmed that he had suffered a perforated eardrum, resulting in permanent hearing loss estimated at 7 per cent, according to medical reports submitted to the court.