

BIG STORY

New campus in five years

Students, faculty members welcome the move to shift College of Engineering campus from Isa Town to Sakhir

TDT|Manama

Finally there is a big relief for students of the College of Engineering as the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning has begun work on the project to entirely relocate its campus from Isa Town to Sakhir.

Sources say the work, which is expected to cost the government BD35 million, will be completed within five years. The move comes after 32 years of the opening of the college in Isa Town.

There has been a lot of complaints about the lack of facilities at the present campus.

Speaking to Tribune, Abdul Bader Khonji, head of the college said that the buildings have grown old and need huge maintenance works.

"We suffer from a lot of problems here at the Isa Town campus. There is an acute shortage of classrooms and students spend most of their time commuting between Isa Town and Sakhir.



The new location of the College of Engineering

35 million Bahraini dinars is the estimated cost for completely relocating the campus.

"The parking of vehicles is another big issue here. There are two institutions - University of Bahrain and the College of Engineering and there is no enough space for parking vehicles for both students and faculties. The parking area is sandy and unpaved."

Mr Khonji said there are also

administrative problems including the issue of registration with the college being run in two campuses.

Ahmed Saeed, representative of the College at the University of Bahrain Student Council, said talks regarding the shifting of campus had begun over ten years ago, but nothing hap-

pened in reality.

"We are hearing it for a long time now. The talks about relocating the campus started doing rounds when Dr Riyadh Hamza assumed the presidency of the university."

The relocation will solve many issues. It will offer students a better environment to

learn, he added.

About a year ago, Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Minister Essam Khalaf met Dr Hamza to discuss the plans over shifting the campus and the cost for the first phase of the project was calculated to be somewhere in the neighborhood of BD 17m.




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MR KHONJI




Talks began over 10 years ago, but nothing has happened in reality.

MR SAEED



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