

Why the country struggles with severe water-logging?

Parliamentarian questions authorities on preventive measures and infrastructural improvements required to reduce rain-related damage



A waterlogged tunnel



MOI personnel at a road affected by waterlogging

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MP MOHAMMED BUHAMOOD



**TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran**

Urgent efforts are needed to make key infrastructures in the Kingdom more resilient against natural disasters, particularly in areas where serious rain-related damage is feared, warned a Parliamentarian.

“The current practice of providing tankers to drain water from the flooded areas are not enough,” MP Mohammed Buhamood reminded urging the authorities to deal with the “root causes.”

“Improvement in infrastructure is a pressing need,” he said while urging to study “why the country struggles with severe water-logging issues.”

“The areas likely to suffer most from water-logging is well known,” he said adding: “All we need is proactive measures to help prevent such issues.”

“The water drainage network must be expanded and must always be an important aspect during urban expansion.”

He further pointed out that neglecting the maintenance of

roads and facilities also contributes to increasing the number of points of gathering rainwater, and worsening the impact of water-logging.”

Citing the long-term benefit of investments at the right time, he said, “An investment in water drainage must be made for all governorates.”

He also rejected the idea of draining water using tankers during flooding saying, “It is not the right solution.”

“It reflects a lack of readiness to deal with the issue,” Buhamood, who chaired the Northern Governorate Municipal Council between 2014- 2018, said

Compensation inadequate

Speaking on the compensation mechanism, the parliamentarian said that they are grossly inadequate.

Citizens, he said, suffer tremendous losses during such incidents. “Everything including valuable furniture and home appliances get damaged,” he said adding that compensation provided is mostly unfair.

“Because they calculate as-

sets in accordance with current market value, not based on their original price.”

The Council of Representatives recently submitted an urgent proposal recently to “fairly” compensate citizens affected by the torrential rains before the advent of the Holy Month of Ramadan (first week of May).

A warning

The torrential rain that hit Bahrain on Saturday highlighted the risks that extreme weather condition associated with global warming which will become more frequent and results in conditions including flooding and severe damages.

On Saturday, several popular events were cancelled as heavy rain caused water-logging in many areas on the Island, which also disrupted normal life.

The only way out is informing people living in such areas about the risks involved and taking necessary preventive measures.

Popular opinion also is that prompt effort are needed from the part of authorities to prevent such incidents in the future.

Kingdom’s first digital payroll solution launched

**TDT/Manama
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Al Salam Bank-Bahrain (ASBB), a pioneering Shari’a-compliant bank in the Kingdom, and Arab Financial Services (AFS), the region’s leading FinTech enabler and payment services provider, officially launched the Kingdom’s first digital payroll solution ‘Al Rateb’ Payment Protection Scheme enabling employers to pay wages to unbanked workers digitally.

The Payment Protection Scheme which comes in line with the recent Shura Council endorsement on the proposed law that mandates companies to pay workers through secure wage protection solutions.

Attended by prominent government officials, dignitaries and the media, the reception was an opportunity for decision-makers to have a hands-on experience of the Al Rateb wage



ASBB and AFS launch ceremony

protection solution.

Guests witnessed the unveiling of the exclusive first Al Rateb mobile ATM van, which will be moving between various locations across the Kingdom of Bahrain to service employees and facilitate access to an ATM machine.

Rafik Nayed, Group CEO of Al Salam Bank-Bahrain told Tribune, “It is an honour to

launch the first of its kind solution that serves the blue-collar workers with cashless payment service ‘Al Rateb’ the wage protection solution system.”

“Today through Al Rateb, we embarked on a significant milestone bringing both the corporate companies and their respective employees who do not have bank accounts in the King-



The unveiling of Al Rateb Mobile ATM

dom via an innovative payroll solution that provides tailored banking services with secured access to their wages, and cash withdrawals and remittance solutions to meet and exceed all their requirements.”

“The service allows employers to securely upload wages and benefits onto payroll cards through an online portal that is configured with their own pay-

roll system.

“Cardholders can withdraw funds at any ATM, transfer of funds that is the remittance solutions and can use Point of Sale (POS) terminals locally or abroad.

“Cardholders can also access financial services including statements, interactive dashboards, 24/7 customer care and multi-lingual customer support.”

“In addition employers will save significant time and money as Al Rateb helps to improve employers’ internal efficiencies and operations via innovative technology integrations that further streamline payroll calculation, administration and disbursement processes, making it easier, faster and more accurate,” he said.

Cardholders can use their cards in all ASBB ATMs for free and use their cards for cash withdrawal through the dedicated Al Rateb mobile ATM van. Al Rateb cards also offer a remittance solution at competitive FOREX rates to many destinations including but not limited to India, Pakistan, Philippines, Nepal, Bangladesh, Egypt and Sri Lanka.

B Chandrasekhar, CEO of AFS, further added, “More innovative FinTech solutions will be offered to Al Rateb employees in the next few months.”