

# Eid bonanza for hospitality sector

Occupancy rates at many hotels as high as 80pc



For the first time, Bahrain attracted many tourists from Germany, Switzerland and the US during the Eid season.

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The occupancy rates at five and four star hotels are all set to exceed 80 per cent

during Eid holidays, according to industry leaders.

This reflects the Kingdom's position as a most sought after tourist destination by Arab nationals as well as other foreigners, they say.

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Speaking to Tribune, industry veteran Akram Miknas said the tourism movement in the Kingdom is gradually gaining momentum. "The Eid holidays are going to be really good for the hospitality sector. Tourists are flocking to hotels, restaurants, cafes, water parks and beaches."



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MR AL SAYED

Praising the tourism authority for its efforts, he said many events organised by the authority have attracted large number of Arab families.

Golden Tulip Hotel general manager Abdulrahim Al Sayed said the occupancy rates at his hotel exceeded 80 per cent. "Bookings began well in advance for these five Eid holidays and on the second day we had maximum customers."

"GCC nationals make up the largest share of customers and within that Saudis come first followed by foreigners residing in the eastern coast of Saudi Arabia," he explained.

He added that the tourists were getting benefited by the competition in the industry in

the form of promotions and offers.

For his part, Mohammed Jawadi, director (sales and marketing) at the Grove Hotel and Conference Centre, said that the Eid holidays have been a big boost for the hospitality sector with hundreds of tourists coming from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman and other countries.

"Apart from Gulf countries, even tourists from Switzerland, Germany and the United States visited the Kingdom during this Eid holidays," he said, adding that the World Cup Football also made a positive impact on Bahrain's tourism season.

## Proposal to expand Tamkeen board with SME representatives

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Member of Parliament (MP) Ali Al Aradi, along with a number of MPs, has proposed a law aimed at setting up a legislative framework for the representation of small and medium enterprises within the Labour Fund's (Tamkeen) board of directors.

The proposal stated that "small and medium enterprises play a large role in the economies of countries and are an important aspect for the development of Bahrain. Today, they represent 76 per cent of the total industrial establishments operating in the Kingdom".

The proposed law aims at contributing to the development of the national economy and the development of the private sector to make it an engine for

economic growth in the Kingdom.

The proposed law calls for the addition of a new item in Article 5, paragraph (a), of the Tamkeen's Formation Law, whereby the number of members of the Tamkeen's board of directors shall be increased to 12 instead of 9 members. The board of directors shall include three members who are selected from among candidates from civil society organisations that are concerned with micro, small and medium enterprises.

Tamkeen currently consists of nine members, two members nominated by the Council of Ministers, one member nominated by the Economic Development Board, three members nominated by the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, one member nominated by the Bahrain Bankers Association

and two members nominated by trade unions

For its part, the services committee of the House of Representatives recommended approval of the proposed law, while it is scheduled to be discussed in the House's next session to be held on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Tamkeen stated that the purpose of the proposed law is achieved on the ground through the balanced composition of its board of directors.

In its memo, Tamkeen said, "In view of Tamkeen's establishment law, it is ensured that all stakeholders are involved in the fund's operations and the achievement of its objectives in a balanced way.

"The organisation has decided that six members out of the nine of the board - two-thirds of the members - should be



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MR AL ARADI

from the private sector or from the civil society organisations. The board consists of three representatives from the commercial sector, two business owners (employers), and one member belonging to the financial investment sector.

"All of them run for the membership of Board of Directors of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen) in accordance with a mechanism that ensures the participation of the private sector and civil society organisations."

Tamkeen stated that the organisation ensured that all stakeholders were represented on the Board of Directors so that the resolution would be issued in a mixed manner that would realise the aspirations of all stakeholders through the work of the Fund.



The Filipino Creatives Bahrain, an all-Filipino visual arts group, held a general meeting in preparation for the upcoming Art Exhibit which will be held from 5-12 September 2018 at the Bahrain Financial Harbour. The exhibit is spearheaded by Philippine Ambassador to Bahrain, Alfonso A Ver. The theme of the visual arts exhibit is a celebration of the "40th Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations between Bahrain and the Philippines".