

Banks Asked To Help Repair Unsafe Homes

More than 2,000 completed homes reflect the state's commitment to supporting low-income citizens

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

A fund to repair homes at risk of collapse has cleared a parliamentary committee, despite a Finance Ministry warning that it would repeat work already handled by state bodies and add costs to the budget.

The plan, put forward by MPs Hassan Ebrahim, Mohammed Al Balooshi, Eman Shuwaiter, Khalid Buanaq and Mohammed Al Olaiwi, calls for the government to launch a fund paid for by the state and banks to rebuild and repair unsafe homes.

A joint committee made up of Parliament's financial and economic affairs committee and its public utilities and environment committee has urged MPs to pass

the plan.

The Finance and National Economy Ministry said unsafe and run-down homes were already dealt with by the Housing and Urban Planning Ministry, the Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Ministry, municipal councils and Eskan Bank.

It said their work covers town and village development schemes, the repair of old homes and housing finance for repair work.

The ministry warned that a new fund would overlap with work already being carried out. It also said the proposal did not say where the money would come from.

Should the fund draw all or part of its money from the state budget, it would add new spend-

ing as the government seeks to cut costs, raise income and reach fiscal balance, the ministry said.

It added that a new body would need its own structure, staff, technical team and running costs, and called for the plan to be reconsidered.

The Housing and Urban Planning Ministry said repair finance is already offered under housing rules issued in 2015 and 2022.

It said the service covers renewal, upkeep and repair of structural or urgent faults, as well as needed additions or changes to homes.

More than 8,000 citizens have used repair finance since 2011, with help worth over BD80 million, the ministry said.



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Providing suitable housing strengthens both the economic and psychological stability of low-income families

HASSAN EBRAHIM, MP

Commerce and Industry, allowing a wider range of firms to take part, including builders, engineers, furniture sellers and home appliance firms.

The chamber said it supported the plan as part of its social role and was ready to urge its members to take part, so long as this did not breach chamber law.

It also called for one shared social and charity fund, rather

er than separate funds for each cause.

The Central Bank of Bahrain said the idea was sound in principle and worth studying, but any voluntary payments from financial firms would be left to their boards.

The explanatory note says the fund would deal with urgent cases where aid has stopped, add new eligible cases and form a committee made up of the Housing Ministry, the Municipalities Ministry and participating banks to identify homes and monitor the work.

Under the plan, banks would make yearly payments that could be renewed through their social programmes, as part of a public-private partnership for housing and infrastructure work.

Bahrain Space Agency Links Universities with Axiom Space

Collaboration supports Bahrain's ambition for a sustainable national space sector

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

The Bahrain Space Agency (BSA) organized a meeting bringing together representatives from U.S.-based space company Axiom Space and higher education institutions across the Kingdom, with broad participation from academics, faculty members and students.

The event aimed to explore opportunities for cooperation between Axiom Space and Bahrain's universities, while strengthening research and development efforts within the Kingdom's growing space sector.

During the meeting, participants were introduced to Axiom Space's University Alliance initiative, which provides member universities with access to unique opportunities in space-related research, education and training. Discussions focused on potential collaboration in scientific research, the development of specialized academic programmes and curricula, student training opportunities and initiatives to prepare national talent for careers in the space industry.

The meeting also highlighted opportunities for Bahraini students and researchers to engage in international space projects and benefit from global expertise

in the field.

Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Al Aseeri, Chief Executive Officer of the Bahrain Space Agency, said the agency remains committed to building partnerships between national academic institutions and leading international organizations in the space sector.

He emphasized that investing in scientific research and developing national talent are key pillars for building a sustainable space sector, noting that participation in global initiatives such as the University Alliance would create new opportunities for Bahraini students and researchers to contribute to pioneering space projects.

Dr. Al Aseeri added that such collaborations support Bahrain's future aspirations and strengthen the Kingdom's role as an active contributor to the global scientific and research community.

Space Engineer Yaqoob Al Qassab said the event reflected the agency's belief that research and development are essential foundations for establishing a competitive and sustainable national space sector.

He noted that partnerships between academic institutions and leading international companies play a crucial role in transferring knowledge, localizing advanced technologies and enhancing the contribution of the space



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Partnerships between universities and leading international companies are essential for knowledge transfer, technology localization, and advancing the space sector in support of Bahrain Economic Vision 2030

SPACE ENGINEER YAQOOB AL QASSAB

sector to achieving the goals of Bahrain Economic Vision 2030.

The initiative forms part of the Bahrain Space Agency's broader efforts to foster innovation, strengthen research capabilities and create pathways for Bahraini talent to participate in the rapidly evolving global space industry.

Egg production doubles in Bahrain over decade

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Bahrain's egg output hit its highest level in a decade last year, reaching 139.7 million eggs after farm upgrades and new work in the poultry trade.

- Recent hatchery expansion has boosted Bahrain's poultry capacity.
- Egg production growth has accelerated in recent years.
- Farm investments are driving higher local output.
- Increased production is strengthening domestic food security.



million eggs. By 2025, that had risen by 76.5 million eggs, or about 121pc.

The fastest gains have come in recent years. Output rose from 80.4 million eggs in 2021 to 139.7 million in 2025, an increase of 59.3 million eggs in four years.

The pace has picked up since 2022. Production rose from 91.9 million eggs that year to 139.7 million in 2025, adding 47.8 million eggs in three years, or nearly 52pc.

The decade falls into three clear stages. From 2015 to 2019, output rose from 63.2 million eggs to 90.3 million. It then fell to 82.943 million in 2020 and 80.4 million in 2021. From 2022, it climbed again, passed 100 million in 2023, reached

The 2025 total was up from 126.4 million eggs in 2024, a rise of 13.3 million eggs, or 10.5pc. It came after output had already climbed from 100.8 million eggs in 2023, showing the rise was not a one-off.

The figures point to a sharp change in a key food line. In 2015, Bahrain produced 63.2

126.4 million in 2024, and then hit the latest peak in 2025.

The rise has run alongside expansion work at the General Poultry Company, which comes under Bahrain Food Holding Company. Since 2020, the company has worked on higher egg output through upgraded barns, automated gear, wider capacity, and new packing, sorting and storage work.

The company has also been preparing newer poultry farms for table egg output, with systems aimed at lifting yields, cutting waste and raising the quality of local eggs.

The second phase of the company's expansion aims to lift the local share of table eggs to 63pc and raise the company's own output by a further 50pc.

The work forms part of a wider push to raise Bahrain's home-grown food supply and reduce its need for imports in basic goods. Higher local egg output is also meant to shield the market from swings in overseas prices, freight costs and supply delays.

Ministry Issued 8,000 Licences for Sales and Draws

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Bahrain issued more than 8,000 licences for promotions, sales and commercial draws in 2025 as the Ministry of Industry and Commerce kept a closer watch on shop offers and prize campaigns.

The ministry granted about 2,590 licences for promotional campaigns, 5,150 for sales and 500 for commercial draws, according to Fatima Ahli, senior consumer protection specialist at the ministry.

Ahli said the Consumer Protection Directorate requires shops and firms to seek approval before they run any campaign or advertise price cuts, with checks aimed at fake discounts, misleading adverts and unfair trade practices.

She said the process is handled online through the ministry's website or the national portal.



Ministry of Industry and Commerce

Traders must give details of the campaign, the length of the offer and price lists showing goods before and after the discount, along with the papers needed for approval.

The ministry then follows up through planned and surprise field visits to check that shops are abiding by the rules, she said. Legal and administrative steps are taken against breaches, including sham discounts and misleading claims.

Commercial draws face further checks. Ahli said each draw is held under the watch of an approved internal auditor, an outside auditor acting as a neutral



Shoppers have the right to know the actual price of products both before and after any discount or promotional sale. Businesses are also required to display the official sales campaign licence prominently at the shop entrance.

third party, representatives from the Consumer Protection Directorate and other public bodies.

Ahli said consumer protection is a shared duty between public bodies, traders and shoppers, adding that clearer rules help keep the market fair for both buyers and sellers.

Coast Guard Launches Marine Survey Safety Drive



The Bahrain Coast Guard, in cooperation with BAPCO Energies, organized an awareness campaign at the Muharraq fishing port to educate fishermen, boat owners, and sea users about the ongoing marine survey project in the northern waters of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The campaign aimed to high-

light the updated operational area for the survey, which will be in effect for two months as per the announced maritime chart, ensuring safe navigation and smooth execution of the project. Officials emphasized the importance of maintaining safe speeds near the work zone and avoiding any approach to survey equipment.

Authorities also urged all fishermen to refrain from fishing activities or using fishing gear within the designated project area. The initiative included the distribution of awareness leaflets and direct engagement with sea users to address their queries and strengthen maritime safety compliance.