

Khalid Engineer calls for sustainable solutions to support SMEs

Manama

Board Member of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Khalid Ali Yousif Engineer, affirmed that small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are among the key drivers of Bahrain's economy due to their vital role in supporting growth, stimulating commercial activity, fostering innovation, and creating business opportunities.

He highlighted that advanc-



ing SMEs is not limited to addressing challenges individually but requires building an integrated ecosystem that is closer to business owners, understands market needs directly, and transforms challenges into practical and implementable solutions.

He explained that the Board of Directors of the Bahrain Chamber, chaired by Mr. Nabeel Kanoo, places special im-

portance on this area. In line with this direction, the Chamber established a specialized department dedicated to SMEs to enhance responsiveness to business needs and provide more effective communication channels.

He added that the success of SME support systems should be measured not by the number of initiatives introduced, but by their ability to reach business

owners, understand their needs, and create tangible impact. He stressed that the next phase requires more flexible approaches based on direct communication, effective partnerships, and modern solutions.

He further noted that SMEs today operate in a rapidly changing economic environment, making it essential to strengthen their adaptability, enhance managerial and technical capabilities, and

leverage opportunities in digital transformation and innovation to improve competitiveness and sustainability.

He emphasized that building a more competitive economy begins with empowering SMEs and creating a business environment that supports their growth and development, given their role as a key partner in economic development and market vitality.

Al Salam Bank reinforces partnership with Mazad

Strengthens financing solutions through public auctions

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Al Salam Bank has announced the reinforcement of its strategic partnership with Mazad, Bahrain's leading digital auction and marketplace platform and a Mumtalakat portfolio company, marking one year since the launch of their collaboration to offer innovative financing solutions facilitating the purchase of properties through public auctions, alongside the introduction of a special discounted financing offer for customers wishing to purchase properties through Mazad, available for a limited period until the end of June 2026. This step reflects both parties' commitment to advancing the property ownership experience and enhancing service efficiency within this vital sector.

Al Salam Bank initially launched this collaboration in January 2025, becoming the first bank in the Kingdom of Bahrain to introduce dedicated financing solutions for property purchases through public auctions. The initiative targets



individuals, small and medium enterprises, and corporate entities, contributing to accelerating ownership procedures while offering flexible and sustainable financing options that support the growth of the commercial sector and strengthen

the Kingdom's investment environment.

Over the past year, the Bank has successfully built a strong financing portfolio within this segment, reflecting the growing demand for such innovative solutions and highlighting

the importance of this model in addressing market needs. The partnership continues to provide effective alternatives for those seeking to invest in real estate through auctions, while also aiming to spotlight key achievements and further

promote the services offered.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Anwar Murad, Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer – Banking at Al Salam Bank, said: "We take pride in continuing our partnership with Mazad, which has resulted in delivering an innovative model of financing solutions that support the development of the real estate sector in the Kingdom. Since its launch, this initiative has contributed to simplifying property ownership through public auctions and has provided our clients with flexible financing options that meet their aspirations, reflecting our ongoing commitment to delivering innovative banking solutions that support economic growth and sustainability."

For his part, Mr. Nezar Habib, Chief Executive Officer at Mazad Bahrain, said: "We are proud to renew our collaboration with Al Salam Bank, which has played a key role in responding to a growing demand for accessible financing solutions for property purchases through public auctions. Through this partnership, Mazad has been

able to offer customers more practical and flexible financing options. We believe this next phase will further strengthen the real estate auction ecosystem in Bahrain and support more buyers in participating with confidence."

Al Salam Bank and Mazad also extend their sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs for its efforts in updating and enhancing the execution mechanisms related to real estate auctions, which directly contributed to enabling this innovative financing model and enhancing the efficiency and flexibility of property ownership procedures through public auctions in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

This renewed collaboration underscores Al Salam Bank's commitment to delivering integrated financial solutions that cater to the evolving needs of its clients, while reinforcing its position as a strategic partner in supporting initiatives that drive the development of key economic sectors in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

BisB partners with Al Bilad Media and BDSME's Society to launch "Sustaining the Promising Sector" initiative supporting Bahraini entrepreneurs and SMEs

Manama

Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB) has announced the signing of a cooperation agreement with Al Bilad Media Network and the Bahrain Small and Medium Enterprises Development Society (BDSME's Society). The partnership established a comprehensive national initiative under the theme "Sustaining the Promising Sector," designed to provide urgent support to Bahraini entrepreneurs and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) within business incubators affected by recent events in the Kingdom. Additionally, the initiative aims to incentivize Bahraini entrepreneurs to launch new commercial ventures, join business incubators, and benefit from the dedicated support and facilities provided throughout the campaign.

This initiative represents an advanced model of integration and corporate social responsibility, bridging the banking sector, media institutions, and civil society organizations. Through this collaboration, the partner entities will combine efforts to provide flexible, Shari'a-compliant financing solutions and banking facilities delivered by BisB. These efforts will be backed by



extensive media coverage and marketing campaigns across Al Bilad Media Network's various platforms, while BDSME's Society will handle executive and administrative oversight to ensure support is directed efficiently and transparently to eligible beneficiaries.

Commenting on the strategic dimension of the initiative and the Bank's pivotal role in supporting the entrepreneurial ecosystem, Ms. Fatma Al Alawi, Chief Executive Officer of BisB, stated:

"Empowering the startup sec-

tor and business incubators is a core pillar of our sustainability strategy, as these incubators form the foundational nucleus for nurturing and developing innovative national talents that feed into the economy. At BisB, we recognize that supporting entrepreneurs and providing them with the necessary financial flexibility and solutions under various circumstances is a long-term strategic investment. This contributes to enhancing financial inclusion and developing the business environment. This initiative stands as a practical

step confirming that our efforts directly align with the sustainability goals the Bank strives to achieve, ensuring the empowerment of Bahraini enterprises, building resilient national value chains, and naturally aligning with global trends and national visions aimed at achieving comprehensive and sustainable economic growth."

From her side, Ms. Dalal Al Arnaut, Chief Executive Officer of Al Bilad Media Network, remarked:

"This agreement reflects the depth of national partnership

and social responsibility that unites us with the banking sector and civil society organizations. It stems from the vital need to join forces to maintain the stability and sustainability of affected companies. At Al Bilad, we are fully committed to leveraging all our editorial capabilities and digital and print platforms to back this qualitative initiative, thereby enhancing the resilience of the national economy in facing various challenges."

Mr. Ahmed Al Saloom, Chairman of the Bahrain Small and

Medium Enterprises Development Society (BDSME's Society), praised the importance of this joint cooperation, stating:

"This agreement comes within the framework of national and social responsibility aimed at supporting affected institutions and companies. The private sector has once again proven its ability to stand together and cooperate in facing the exceptional challenges and circumstances the Kingdom goes through. SMEs represent a fundamental pillar of the national economy and a major driver for growth and job creation. This necessitates providing them with the required support and assistance to sustain their business continuity and enhance their capacity to overcome the economic repercussions resulting from the blatant Iranian aggression that Bahrain was subjected to."

Through this collaboration, the partner entities look forward to presenting an exemplary model of active corporate citizenship, reaffirming their shared commitment to fostering a cohesive economic environment that drives the development march of the Kingdom of Bahrain and achieves sustainable prosperity.