

779 inspections, 103 violations recorded at tourist venues in Capital constituency



Hassan Eid BuKhammas, MP  
TDT | Manama

Tourism inspectors carried out 779 visits to hotels, furnished flats and tourist restaurants in the Capital Governorate's fourth constituency this year, issuing 103 violations, the Ministry of Tourism has told Parliament.

The figures were given in a written reply to MP Hassan Eid Bukhammas, who asked what the ministry was doing about clubs, restaurants and furnished accommodation operating among residential streets and near places of worship in Juffair and Adliya, and what plan it had to avoid such siting in future.

In its response, the ministry said activity linked to tourist furnished flats is subject, from the outset, to planning rules and zoning conditions set by the relevant public bodies. It said the commercial licensing system, Sijilat, does not grant licences for tourist furnished-flat activity in areas classed as residential under the laws and zoning decisions in force.

Action against breaches can range from a warning to fix matters within a set period, to a fine. Where breaches recur, the authority can suspend the activity, or close an establishment for a period if it fails to correct its position.

For the fourth constituency of the Capital Governorate, the ministry listed 106 tourist restaurants, 39 hotels and 45 furnished flats. Over the year, it said inspectors made 779 visits and recorded 103 violations.

Violations include failing to hand over hotel service charges or failing to submit an audited financial report, and licensing breaches, including subletting, changing management without the authority's approval, or altering how parts of a venue are used against the terms of its licence. Other cases related to tourist restaurants not sticking to approved opening hours.

Violators are summoned by judicial enforcement officers. A recommendation is then made, which can include referral to the Public Prosecution, an administrative penalty, or both.

In closing, the authority said work is under way to increase tourism areas and sites in a way that reduces pressure on residential districts and supports investment.

# MPs push to demolish temporary flats in Muharraq

Plan aims to replace old buildings with modern housing units to reduce waiting lists

● **Focus on Block 207 (Fourth Constituency) and Block 221 (Second Constituency), with most flats already cleared.**

● **Services and Environment Committee says each site can accommodate over 100 new homes.**

● **MPs argue existing flats no longer meet family needs and propose housing for eligible applicants.**

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Demolition of disused temporary flats in Muharraq will be on the agenda when parliamentarians meet this Tuesday. The proposals aim to

clear old buildings in Block 207 and Block 221 to make way for new housing units, helping to reduce the housing waiting lists in the governorate.

The sites, largely cleared already, have the backing of the Services and Environment Committee, which says each location

could accommodate more than 100 units. Speaker Ahmed Al Musallam referred the proposals to the committee in letters dated 20 and 26 January 2025, and the committee combined both into a single report under Article 99 of Parliament's rules.

MPs Hisham Alawadhi, Ham-

ad Al Doy, Abdulwahid Qarata, Second Deputy Speaker Ahmed Qarata and Dr Hisham Al Asheeri recommended the plan for Block 207, while Block 221 was proposed by MPs Hamad Al Doy, Abdulwahid Qarata, Hisham Alawadhi, Mohammed Mousa Mohammed and Dr

Hisham Al Asheeri.

## Needs of families

The committee noted that the land occupied by temporary flats could now be used for housing projects, helping to reduce waiting lists under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning. It also highlighted that the existing flats no longer meet the needs of families.

MP Hisham Alawadhi said the buildings had stood for years and should be demolished to make room for modern homes for families. "These flats no longer suit Bahraini citizens who need housing for their families," he said, adding that each plot could host more than 100 new units.

MP Hamad Al Doy said most flats in Block 221 had already been emptied, with only a few residents remaining. He said those residents also wished to move into proper housing, and the plan would replace the temporary flats with new homes for eligible applicants from the constituency.

Hamad Al Doy, MP

Hisham Al Awadhi, MP



# No more free rides

Parliamentarians target unpaid service charges

● **Proposal aims to empower associations and the Ministry to enforce payments for shared building services**

Mohammed Darwish  
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Lawmakers are issuing a stern warning to residents who avoid paying service charges. Those who fail to pay fees for shared corridors, lifts, and building upkeep, MPs say, should be held accountable.

A new proposal, set for discussion this Tuesday, focuses on beneficiaries' associations that manage common areas in these buildings. Lawmakers note that there are currently no clear, practical steps to address breaches, particularly non-payment Hassan Ebrahim, MP

of association subscriptions.

The motion was submitted by MPs Hassan Ebrahim, Bader Al Tamimi, Hamad Al Doy, Abdulwahid Qarata, and Maryam Al Sayegh.

"The Constitution guarantees decent housing for citizens on low incomes," Hassan Ebrahim said. "To make that right work in practice, shared parts of these buildings must be managed, maintained, and paid for fairly. The time has come for real amendments that give the Ministry and associations clear tools to deal with breaches, especially when some residents refuse or delay paying

what they owe."

## 'Etihadat' scheme

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning said it has worked in recent years to improve beneficiaries' association systems for managing shared areas in vertical housing projects. In 2018, it introduced the 'Etihadat' scheme, bringing Eskan Properties Company into the management and maintenance system for shared areas to improve performance. Participation was optional and trial-based, with more than 100 buildings joining the scheme.

## Eskan Bank

The Ministry added that it and Eskan Bank regularly review shared-area management. Since the second half of 2023, they have been reviewing all rules and standards linked to beneficiaries' associations to identify areas for change and improvement. Newer tower projects, including a residential building in Madinat Salman, will be used to test parts of the planned changes before an updated regulatory decision is issued.

The Council's Public Utilities and Environment Committee, which studied the motion, recommended approval, citing the public-interest grounds presented.

# Nowhere to run when it rains cats and dogs



Strays brave the elements, but still need human help

Ghadeer Alkumaish  
TDT | Manama

Yesterday morning, heavy rain swept through the city, leaving streets soaked and highlighting the plight of stray animals.

Small, thin cats huddled on sidewalks, their fur wet and bodies shivering, while some squeezed under parked cars or hid in building corners. Others had no choice but to sit in puddles, struggling to find shelter.

The contrast was striking, with humans taking cover under awnings or umbrellas while the cats searched for even a dry spot. Some pedestrians offered scraps of food or pieces of cardboard to give the animals temporary warmth.

The scene served as a reminder of the daily challenges faced by stray cats and how small acts of care can make a significant difference during harsh weather.