

Nine in ten civil servants are Bahraini, bureau tells Parliament

Outlines workforce makeup, hiring rules and reliance on temporary foreign specialists

● **Bahrainis make up 87% of civil servants, with nearly all on permanent contracts.**

● **All non-Bahrainis are hired on temporary terms, mainly in health and education.**

● **Recruitment prioritises Bahrainis, with limited exceptions for specialist roles**

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Nearly nine in ten civil service employees are Bah-

raini, the Civil Service Bureau has told Parliament, putting the national workforce

at 36,292.

In a written reply to MP Abdulwahid Qarata, the bureau said Bahrainis make up 87% of staff across

ministries, authorities and government institutions covered by the Civil Service Law. Almost all are on permanent

contracts, with 36,180 employees, or 99.7% of Bahraini civil servants, holding permanent posts.

112 Bahrainis

Only 112 Bahrainis are employed on temporary terms, representing 0.3% of Bahraini civil service staff. These roles span several sectors, with the highest number at the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, which has 34 temporary employees linked to the term of municipal councils. The bureau said temporary staff are covered by the pensions and retirement law for government employees.

Non-Bahrainis account for 5,361 employees, or 13% of the civil service workforce, and are all employed on temporary contracts. Hiring is done at the request of the relevant entity, subject to approved staffing lev-

els and budget allocations. Contracts typically run for one to two years and may be renewed to ensure continuity of services.

The bureau said most non-Bahraini employees work in specialised fields, including health, education and higher education, which together account for 91% of non-Bahraini staff. Their number stood at 5,180 at the start of the current legislative term.

241 advisers

There are 241 advisers across government bodies covered by the law, all appointed during the current session. Of these, 203 are Bahrainis (84%) and 38 are non-Bahrainis (16 per cent), with expertise spanning law, planning, management, health, media, finance, education and culture.

The bureau said recruitment

is governed by Civil Service Instructions No. 3 of 2014, which aim to ensure fairness and equal opportunity. Entities must notify the bureau of vacancies and conduct interviews under its supervision. An internal job advertising system, Shawaghir, was also launched to allow civil servants to apply for higher posts through an online portal.

non-Bahrainis

Recruitment is restricted to Bahrainis, with temporary appointments of non-Bahrainis allowed only when no qualified Bahraini is available, in line with the Civil Service Law. During such contracts, Bahrainis must be trained. Examples include specialist medical roles, engineering, environmental studies, surveying, groundwater work and major infrastructure projects.



Abdulwahid Qarata, MP

Training @ sea sparks dispute

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MPs will vote on Tuesday on proposed changes to fishing laws that centre on how trainees are allowed aboard commercial fishing vessels, following amendments introduced by the Shura Council.

The Public Utilities and Environment Committee has urged Parliament to retain its original wording, with the disagreement limited to Article One of the bill, which amends Article 3 of Decree-Law No. 20 of 2002 regulating marine resources.

Both chambers agree on the bill's title, preamble and implementing clause, as well as a technical update replacing the term "State of Bahrain" with "Kingdom of Bahrain" throughout the law.

Under Parliament's version, the ban on non-Bahrainis practising commercial fishing would remain, with an exception for



Mohammed Moosa, Chairman of Parliament's Public Utilities and Environment Committee

citizens of the Gulf Cooperation Council. Existing licensing

requirements would also stay unchanged, including rules on

vessel specifications, fishing methods, crew size, permitted areas and seasons, types of catch, and the requirement for a Bahraini captain.

Parliament's draft allows vessel owners or Bahraini fishermen to take relatives or other Bahrainis aboard commercial fishing vessels for training, under conditions to be set by ministerial decision.

The Shura Council proposed removing this provision from Article 3 and introducing it as a separate clause. Under its version, a Bahraini captain could take any Bahraini trainee on board, subject to employer consent and approval from the competent authority, provided the trainee does not exceed the vessel's approved crew limit.

The bill aims to preserve the fishing profession, pass skills to future generations, encourage Bahraini participation in the sector, and provide a legal framework for training at sea.

Eight Bahrainis take early retirement at Information Ministry

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Eight Bahraini employees at the Ministry of Information have taken early retirement since the start of the current legislative term, after submitting requests to do so, the ministry has told Parliament.

In a written reply to MP Jameel Mulla Hassan, the ministry said each case was processed at the employee's request to allow them to benefit from the state pension scheme. The decisions were handled in line with civil service and pension laws applied across government bodies.

The MP had asked for details on the number of Bahrainis placed on early retirement, their academic qualifications, the reasons behind the move, and the measures in place to ensure fair treatment. He also sought clarification on whether the vacated posts had been filled and whether the ministry had a restructuring plan.

The ministry did not disclose the academic qualifications of



Jameel Mulla Hassan, MP

the eight employees and said no replacement appointments had been named so far. It added that it is coordinating with the Civil Service Bureau to fill vacancies based on operational needs and available budgets, prioritising candidates whose skills and qualifications align with the ministry's objectives.

On restructuring, the ministry said it is reviewing its organisational structure following Decree No. 9 of 2024, which reorganised the Ministry of Information. The review is still under way.

The ministry said it applies all laws and regulations in force and aims to improve performance in line with the Government Programme.

Salon job promise led to forced prostitution, court told

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Two people accused of trafficking an Asian woman into prostitution have been referred to the High Criminal Court, with the case set for 21 December.

Prosecutors say the pair brought the woman to Bahrain after promising her work in a

women's salon, then seized her passport and phone, controlled her movements and exploited her by forcing her into prostitution. She was moved between flats and entertainment venues, including nightclubs, to find clients.

The Public Prosecution alleges the defendants used threats, coercion and deception, including forcing her to

repay an alleged debt, unlawfully deprived her of her freedom, lived off her earnings and kept her passport.

In her statement, the woman said she agreed to travel believing she would continue salon work, but was instead confined, stripped of her documents and forced to service multiple clients. She said she was beaten when she refused

and later managed to escape and report the case.

Investigators said evidence supported her account, including monitoring of her movements, repeated assaults and the defendants collecting payments. During questioning, the first defendant admitted bringing her to Bahrain for prostitution and receiving money on her behalf.

Bahrain hails US lifting of Syria sanctions

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Bahrain yesterday welcomed the United States' decision to lift sanctions on Syria under the Caesar Act.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed appreciation for the move and commended the efforts of US President Donald Trump.

The ministry also congratulated the Syrian leadership,

noting that the decision is expected to support stability, recovery, reconstruction, and development in the country.

Bahrain reaffirmed its solidarity with the Syrian people and reiterated support for efforts to maintain Syria's security and stability, safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and advance the aspirations of its citizens for peace and prosperity.