

# Parliament to vote on national leadership training for young Bahrainis

Proposal aims to prepare youth for senior roles in public and private sectors

- **MPs say structured training will widen the pool of future leaders**
- **Existing programmes like Lamea, Bader, and NLDP already provide leadership skills**
- **Initiative targets both government employees and private-sector youth through accredited courses and workplace training**

**Mohammed Darwish**  
TDT | Manama

A proposal to create a national leadership training track for young Bahrainis will be debated and voted on in Parliament on Tuesday, with MPs arguing it would broaden

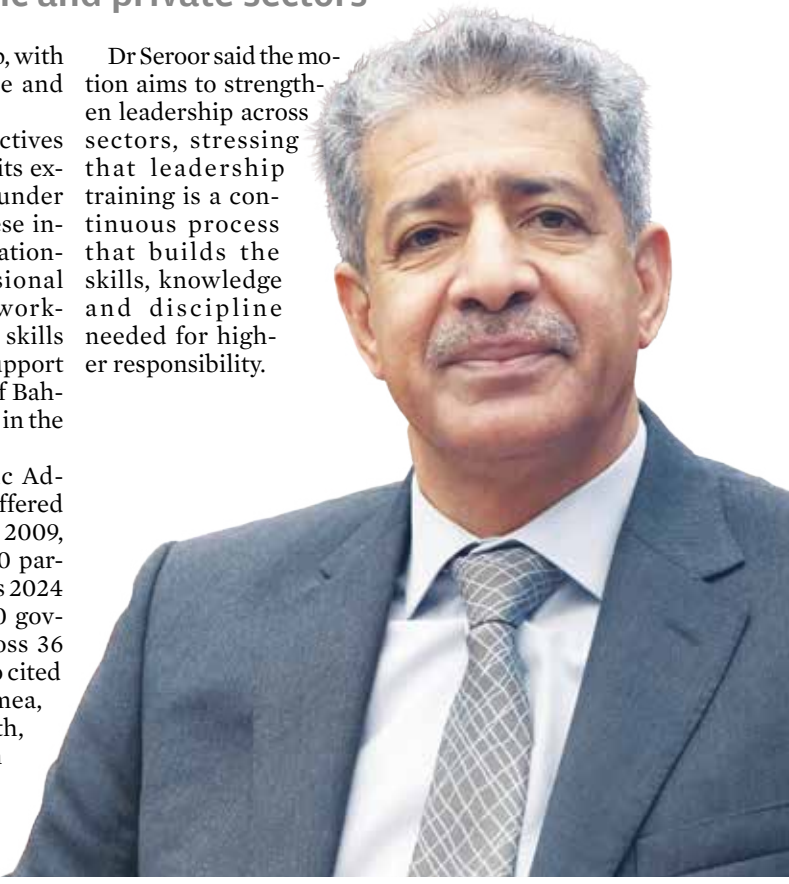
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The motion aims to prepare young people for leadership posts and strengthen leadership roles across both sectors  
DR MUNIR SEROOR, MP

the pool of candidates ready for senior roles in both the public and private sectors. The motion calls for stronger, more structured preparation to build leadership capacity and equip young people to carry forward future state plans. It was submitted by MPs Dr Munir Seroor, Mohammed Jannahi and Mohammed Al Ahmed, and has been backed by Parliament’s Services Committee on public-interest grounds. In responses to Parliament,

government bodies said many of the proposal’s goals are already being met through existing programmes. The ministry pointed to initiatives such as Lamea, Youth City and the Bader programme, which offer leadership training, accredited courses and specialist workshops aimed at preparing young Bahrainis for responsibility in both sectors. The Civil Service Bureau said leadership training in government is already anchored in law. It cited the Civil Service Law and its executive rules, which require government bodies to identify training needs linked to career paths, performance reviews and budgets, and to work with the bureau on leadership preparation plans. It also highlighted the National Leadership Development Programme (NLDP), delivered with the Institute of Public Administration, which is built around the idea that leadership exists at every job level. The programme runs through five tracks, from foun-

ation to senior leadership, with entry based on job grade and available funding. Tamkeen said the objectives of the motion align with its existing support schemes under Law No. 57 of 2006. These include funding for internationally recognised professional certificates, overseas workplace training, specialist skills programmes and wage support to encourage the hiring of Bahrainis into executive roles in the private sector. The Institute of Public Administration said it has offered leadership training since 2009, training more than 10,500 participants over the years. Its 2024 plan targets at least 1,130 government employees across 36 cohorts. The Institute also cited programmes such as Lamea, Kheberat and Hypo Youth, alongside newer youth leadership courses for the private sector introduced after its mandate was expanded in 2022.

Dr Seroor said the motion aims to strengthen leadership across sectors, stressing that leadership training is a continuous process that builds the skills, knowledge and discipline needed for higher responsibility.



## MPs push for higher social support for widows and divorcees



**Dr Ali Al Nuaimi, MP**  
**Mohammed Darwish**  
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MPs will debate on Tuesday a proposal to increase support for widows, orphans and divorcees, building on the existing BD110 monthly cost-of-living allowance provided under social security. The amended motion was submitted by MP Dr Ali Al Nuaimi and has received backing from the Services Committee. The Financial and Economic Affairs Committee said additional support would particularly benefit low-income women and noted that the motion aligns with ongoing discussions between Parliament and the government on state welfare policies. Currently, social security provides BD77 for a single

person, BD132 for a two-person household, and BD28 for each additional family member. The Ministry of Social Development said these measures already cover the groups mentioned in the motion, including widows and divorcees with no other income sources. Beneficiaries also receive monthly discounts on electricity and water bills, and an extra payment during Ramadan. The ministry highlighted a 10 per cent increase in social assistance from January 2022, which raised monthly support to BD110, BD77 and BD55 for three eligibility categories, up from BD100, BD70 and BD50. The Services Committee has recommended approval of the amended motion when it is presented to Parliament.

## Bahrain Tourism lists 17 major festivals from 2023 to 2025

Events range from food and cultural festivals to New Year’s Eve fireworks

- **Festivals include Bahrain Food Festival, Manama Nights, Summer Toy Festival, and Celebrate Bahrain events**
- **Authority also supported exhibitions such as Jewellery Arabia, Bahrain Coffee Festival, and World Travel Awards**
- **Organising firms are chosen based on experience, past performance, technical scoring, and expected audience turnout**

**Mohammed Darwish**  
TDT | Manama

Seven festivals and events, from the Bahrain Food Festival to New Year’s Eve fireworks, have been held be-

tween January 2023 and December 2025, the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority told Parliament in response to MP Basema Mubarak’s questions. The ministry provided details on the number of festivals, budgets, total funds, and the process for selecting organisers. In 2023, highlights included Festival City in January, the Bahrain Food Festival in February, Manama Gold in April, and December’s Celebrate Bahrain events ending with New Year’s Eve fireworks. For 2024, key events included the Bahrain Food Festival, Manama Nights during Ramadan, the Bahrain Summer Toy Festival, Manama Retro, and December Celebrate Bahrain festivities. In 2025, the schedule featured the Bahrain Food Festival, Manama Nights, Eid celebrations, the Summer Toy Festival, Royal Bahrain Concours in November, Hawa Al Manama, and year-end Celebrate Bahrain events with fireworks. The ministry said the Authority also supported other events and exhibitions with financial backing and practical assistance, including media promotion. Examples included Jewellery Arabia, the Autumn Fair, FIBA 3x3 World Tour, Rashid Equestrian Club season, Bahrain Coffee Festival, World Travel Awards, and the Bahrain International Golf Championship. Event funding is linked to yearly objectives and reviewed based on each event’s value and expected visitor turnout from Bahrain, the Gulf, and beyond. Organising firms are selected under Decree-Law No. 36 of 2002 on tenders and government procurement, along with executive rules and related circulars. Selection considers the organiser’s sector, legal and

financial status, permissions, technical and financial scoring, reputation, experience, past events, planned media work, and expected crowd size. Cost calculations factor in the event’s duration and audience.

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