

# Number of pending cases before judiciary 'dropped 56pc' last year

60pc of total cases were settled by the judiciary in three months time

● The number of appealed judgments reached 14,655, which is 25 per cent of the total judgments issued by lower courts.

● One of the major developments in the judicial system last year was the introduction of alternate penalties to convicts.

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The number of cases pending before courts in the Kingdom has dropped by 56 per cent last year, according to judicial indicators.

In the beginning of 2019, there were over 26,000 pending cases before courts, which has now come down to 15,000.

"These statistics speak volume of achievements in terms of disposal of cases quickly and in record time," said Abdullah bin Hassan Al Buainain, President of the Court of Cassation and Vice-President of the Adviser to Supreme Judicial Council, on the sidelines of the Press conference held at the Council's premises.

"The automation of systems and restricting the maximum case duration to six months have helped in achieving the targets set by the courts. The average age of cases has seen significant progress in courts of all levels.

"The average age of a case stood at six months, while 60 per



A file picture showing one of the training programmes for judges.

cent of the total cases were settled in less than three months."

The General Statistics for the Performance of Courts in 2019 revealed that civil, criminal, and Shari'a courts of all levels considered 101,167 cases, while the number of settled cases reached a total of 85,717 cases.

The number of appealed judgments reached 14,655, which is 25 per cent of the total judgments issued for the first degree.

"With regard to the performance indicators of the enforcement courts, the statistical data showed that the number of applications submitted in the year 2019 amounted to 496,160 and the enforcement courts took 519,000 decisions, which include the requests received for the year 2018.

"The statistical figures also showed that the current applica-

tions at the beginning of the current year amount to 4,686, which marks a significant decrease in the number of applications in progress from the previous year by 80pc and an increase in the completion rate in the enforcement courts," he said.

"The Supreme Judicial Council will continue, in co-operation with the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, to develop new initiatives aimed at ensuring the continued development of the court performance and the supporting entities through expansion of electronic services, and the use of the private sector.

"We are meeting with all stakeholders in the judicial process with the aim of developing new initiatives that continues to develop the judicial system in a way that is responsive to



the needs of users and society, which includes lawyers, the business sector, real estate and bankers," he added.

Judge Abdul Rahman Al Sayed Al Mulla and Chief of Judicial Inspection told the Press conference the judicial inspection, in co-ordination and co-operation with the supervising judges, works continuously to enhance the quality of judge-

ments, through constant monitoring and inspection as well as ensuring the attendance of the judges to specialised training programmes.

"In the year 2019, the number of reports prepared by the Judicial Inspection Department reached 101 in various court departments. In 2019, supervising judges dealt with 537 complaints received by litigants and lawyers. Around 48 training programmes were implemented in the last year through the Institute of Judicial and Legal Studies, with a total of 3,600 training hours, in which various judges of all civil, criminal and Shari'a courts participated," Mr Al Mualla said.

Judge Ali Ahmed Al Kaabi, Secretary-General of the Supreme Judicial Council, said that in continuing to develop

the judicial system, many laws were passed, most notably the alternative to imprisonment law aimed at promoting the application of alternative penalties to imprisonment within the society, rehabilitating the person who committed the crime and creating an effective member of society by assigning him to one of the community services, instead of imprisoning him.

"There was also amendment to some provisions of the Civil and Commercial Procedures Code, which stipulated a fundamental and important change. The judgment in civil cases will be final if the value of the claim does not exceed BD1,000." "The issuance of the law of reorganisation and bankruptcy established a new system that aims to reorganise debts and avoid liquidation of the assets of the debtor whenever possible, and to allow the possibility of continuing to operate while adjusting certain practices and thus preserving the interests of all creditors," he pointed out.

"This included the issuance of a decree on mediation for settlement of disputes, which adopted the mediation system in civil, criminal, and Shari'a cases prior to and during court proceedings, thereby enhancing the application of alternative means of dispute resolution.

"A decision was also issued to specify the types of small claims that are managed by electronic means, which includes all of the telecommunications companies' claims, the Social Insurance Authority, the Electricity and Water Authority and the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, health care fees, credit cards, and bank loans," the judge said.

## Key academic role for Bahraini woman at UK university

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The prestigious British University of Leeds has announced the selection of human resources consultant, Bahraini Abeer Al Matoq, as a member of the Executive Education Programmes of the University's Business School, to be the first Bahraini to hold membership of this programme.

Under this selection, Ms Al Matoq will work side by side with a group of her colleagues from various countries around the world to spread the best global human resources practices to institutions, companies and organisations around the globe, including the Kingdom. Her selection in this programme membership is based on her experience, which extends for about twenty years in the field of human resources, individuals development and employee empowerment.

Ms Al Matoq expressed her pride in this choice, which



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MS AL MATOQ

comes to confirm once again that the Bahraini national cadres are indeed worthy of the attention of the prestigious international institutions, corporates and organisations, after those cadres have proven themselves and their capabilities in various local, regional and international forums, and this represents a natural result of the national efforts working to empower the Kingdom's hu-

man wealth. Ms Al Matoq said that she will do her utmost to transfer advanced academic knowledge and practical professional experiences at the British University of Leeds in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and make it available to extend various students, employees, pioneers, business owners and others, and in different professional and scientific fields.

## Expat Protection Centre 'dealt with over 25,000 cases since inception'

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The Expat Protection Centre and Shelter of the LMRA has dealt with over 25,000 cases since its inception, according to officials.

The LMRA has been vital in the regulation of the workforce. Its important role has seen it help thousands of expatriates over the years since its inception in 2006.

In 2015, it launched Expat Protection Centre and Shelter which was designed to help expats in need.

Bahrain's dedication to the preservation and protection of the rights of all who work and live in the country led to the establishment of the Expat Protection Centre.

In line with its 2030 Vision to cull the crime of trafficking in persons, a cross-border crime, the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) has spearheaded the administration of the protective services offered to migrants in Bahrain based on the fact that all declared victims of trafficking have been migrant

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workers.

According to officials, a large number of the 25,000 cases was out of labour issues. Officials said that most cases involved workers from Asian nationalities.

"Most cases were filed by Asian nationalities, this is understandable due to the large number of Asians living in the Kingdom who are part of the workforce."

However, cases involving African nationalities have proven tricky due to some of the African countries not having embassies in the Kingdom, the

officials added.

The Expat Protection Centre (EPC) was set up to identify, support, and follow up the cases of victims of trafficking in the Kingdom.

It is a collaborative framework through which stakeholders fulfil their obligations to protect, recover, and promote the human rights of the trafficked -or vulnerable- person in a timely manner co-ordinating all the efforts in a strategic national partnership.

The centre provides complete services to victims or potential victims from the instance they approach it. It also offers medical services, mental health services (in co-operation with social researchers), legal counselling (providing legal advice to the resident, introducing him to his rights and methods of obtaining them, assisting him in reaching a settlement, or initiating legal proceedings in courts).

In 2017, the "NIHR" opened an official branch at the "Expat Protection Centre and Shelter".