

BIG STORY

big story

Jobs bill a 'boon for Bahrainis'

MPs say the bill provides a single remedy to fix several problems faced by citizens



“There has been a significant increase in the number of expatriate workers, despite Bahrainisation efforts by Labour Ministry.”
MR MILAD



“Most of the unemployed Bahrainis have university degrees and this draft proposal aims to end unemployment among citizens.”
MR HAMEED



“Bahraini employees aren't given priorities in the private sector, which is leading to high levels of unemployment among citizens.”
MR AL RAHMA

● According to the Central Informatics Organisation, the number of foreign residents in Bahrain has reached more than 823,000, almost 55 per cent of the total population.



● In the public sector, the Ministry of Finance said that the government paid BD186 million in salaries to non-Bahraini employees last year.

TDI/Manama

Abbas Al Mughanni

A list of jobs will be reserved for Bahrainis if the draft proposal that was unanimously approved by the House of Representatives

great significance in light of expatriates earning over BD\$4.2 billion in salaries last year alone. MP Mohammad Milad said yesterday that the draft proposal will be submitted to the Government to prepare a draft law within six months. This draft law will be then submitted back to the Council for final approval. “There is a significant increase in the number of expatriate workers and a lack of job opportunities for Bahrainis, despite the Ministry of Labour’s efforts to give Bahrainis a priority in the job market in certain professions,” he said. According to the Central

823,000, accounting for 55 per cent of the total population.

The number of expatriate workers officially registered at the General Organisation for Social Insurance (GOSI) stand at 504,000, all working in the private sector and their salaries last year exceeded BD1.4bn. According to GOSI, more than 18,000 expatriate employees receive a monthly salary of BD1,000 or above.

In the public sector, the Ministry of Finance said that the government paid BD186 million in salaries to non-Bahraini employees last year.

According to the statistics supplied by the Central Bank of Bahrain, the remittances from the kingdom amounted to more than BD927m (equivalent to US\$2.4 billion) last year.

MP Adel Hameed said most of the unemployed Bahrainis have university degrees and this draft proposal has measures to tackle the problem of unemployment among citizens.

Training gun on the private sector, MP Ghazi Al Rahma said Bahraini employees aren't given priorities in the private sector.

“There should be incentives given to companies in the private sector to employ more Bahrainis. It is time to limit some professions to Bahraini nationals only. There should be a legislation that gives Bahrainis priorities in some sectors in the face of unfair competition they face with expatriate workforce.”

“Many companies are controlled by non-Bahrainis, who are in charge of employment, and Bahrainis are the least of their concerns. What makes things worse is that locals end up being employed at lower positions and lower pay-

ment ceilings. This is why some professions should only be restricted to capable and qualified Bahrainis.”

MP Mohammed Al Ahmed said Bahrainis should be provided all the support and qualifications they require to fit into many jobs and to become the best option in the labour market.

“When highly qualified, Bahrainis end up getting better jobs

and the result will have an extremely positive impact on the country in general. They are simply given the chance to be more productive.”

MP Jalal Kadhem said differentiating between expatriate workers and locals shouldn't be at the expense of citizens who should always have the priority. “This is unacceptable and unfair.”

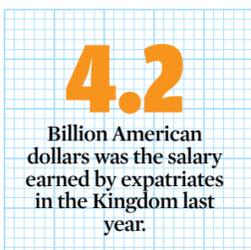
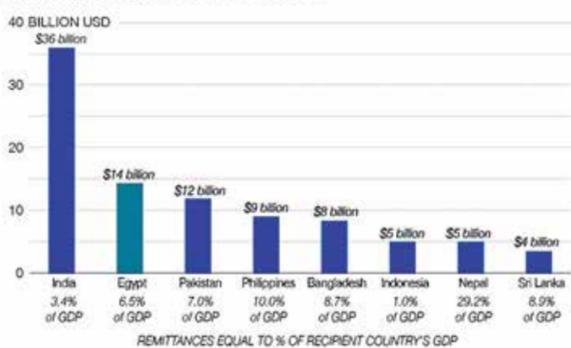


“Bahrainis should be provided all the support and qualifications they require to fit into many jobs that exist in the labour market.”
MR AL AHMED



“Differentiating between expatriate workers and locals shouldn't be at the expense of citizens who should always have the priority.”
MR KADHEM

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