

Govt won't cut incentives, promotions

● CSB restructures 52 government agencies

● Opened doors for interdepartmental transfers

● To replace expatriates in govt jobs with Bahrainis

● Housing spending to increase by 20%



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MAHMOOD AL BAHRAINI

7000

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Bahrain will continue with its employee promotions and incentives programmes, given that it does not exceed the budgetary allocations, said parliamentarian Mahmood Al Bahraini.

MP Al Bahraini, also the head of the Parliamentary Financial and Economic Committee, revealed that the government would continue to provide annual increments for employees and allowances for workers in the public sector. "Government has no intentions to reduce it," Al Bahraini added.

Voluntary retirement scheme, Al Bahraini said, saved the government around BD125 million in expenditures. "This accounts for 16 per cent of manpower related expenditures in the Kingdom," he pointed out.

He also said the Civil Service Bureau has opened doors for interdepartmental transfers to fill vacancies and restructured 52 government agencies to cut costs.

In a statement to *Al-Ayam*, Al-Bahraini said that during the discussion of the upcoming general budget with the Civil Service Bureau, they emphasised the need to train Bahraini employee in the jobs currently occupied by expatriates. "This is to be done by increasing the budget for on-the-job training

and increasing programmes to empower Bahraini job seekers." "A programme is in place to accommodate temporary employees in the ministries of labour and justice," he added.

He further stressed that the government will not hire foreigners, except for in unique circumstances, and will not renew their contracts, expects in times of absolute necessity.

More than 7,000 foreign employees are there in the public

sector, of which 83% or 6,000 are working in the educational and health sectors.

A thousand others are working in the rest of the government sectors.

The Civil Service Bureau, he said, will coordinate with the Ministry of Finance to increase the training budget to raise the employment of Bahrainis in government sectors.

Al-Bahraini also said that the next budget would witness a

20% increase in housing projects. The budget for 2021 is estimated at 95 million. For 2022, that would reach 100 million dinars.

He further said that the Ministry of Housing, represented by Minister Bassim Al-Hamar, revealed a plan "to reduce expenses by employing new construction technologies in cooperation with the private sector."

The Ministry of Housing, he said, had drawn up plans for building apartments and housing units, expanding the "Mazaya" programme and financing schemes and new projects for land development.

Budget discussion: Housing in focus

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Housing plans and programmes for the fiscal years 2021 to 2022 were up for discussion yesterday during a joint meeting of Government, Shura and Parliament.

The meeting was to discuss the draft state budget for the two fiscal years (2021-2022) with the financial and economic affairs committees of the Shura Council and Parliament.

Discussions focused mainly on the budget for housing projects and manpower hiring supervised by the Civil Service Bureau.

The government team included Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, the Minister of Finance and National Economy, Bassim Al Hamar, the Minister



Participants during the meeting

of Housing, Ghanim bin Fadl Al Buainain, the Minister of Shura and Parliament Affairs, and Ahmed bin Zayed Al Zayed, the Chairman of the Civil Service Bureau. The meeting provided clarifications and responded to queries of the two committees and the importance of maintaining the sustainability of services provided to citizens with the utmost efficiency.

The budget includes housing projects in various governorates like the Deerat Al-Oyoun housing project in Diyar Al-Muharaq, the Mazaya project, and the East Sitra housing project.

The meeting affirmed that the government attaches prime priority for citizens to which directed all plans and programmes. "This is one of the main areas of focus despite the exceptional circumstances brought out by the Coronavirus (Covid 19) pandemic and the drop in oil prices."

Bahraini courts heard 64,179 cases in 2020

● Completes hearing in all cases

● Average duration of a case in progress was five months

● Resolved 67% of cases in less than three months

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Bahraini courts finished hearing in all cases came before them in 2020, notwithstanding challenges posed by the deadly coronavirus pandemic.

This was announced by Abdulla Al Buainain, the Cassation Court president and Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) deputy chairman, during a press conference.



The press conference

Courts in Bahrain completed hearing in 63,347 cases in the

year 2020. Including 832 pending cases from 2019, completed cases reached 64,179, creating

an annual achievement rate of 101%.

The average duration of a case

in progress was five months, said Al Buainain.

Court resolved 67% of cases in less than three months, and 87% in less than six months.

Only 21% of first-degree judgments, which amounted to (49,217), have been appealed.

Regarding execution courts, Al Buainain said more than 531,000 new applications were submitted, with them issuing more than 537,000 judicial decisions.

90% decision in 5 days

Enforcement courts made 90% of their decision within five working days and 75% within a day.

Counsellor Abdul Rahman Al-Sayed Al-Mualla, Undersecretary of the Court of Cassation and Head of the Judicial Inspection at the Supreme Judicial Council, said it prepared

78 technical inspection reports during 2020 and made seven surprise inspection reports as a result of the complaints received.

Judge Abd al-Rahman al-Mualla said that the Judicial Inspection Department investigated 354 complaints during the year.

The total training hours judges received during 2020 amounted to about 4415 hours in 2020, benefiting 120 judges, Judge Ali Ahmed Al-Kaabi, the Secretary-General of the Supreme Judicial Council, said.

New 13 judges went through two intensive training programmes, amounting to 594 training hours in 2020.

The Secretary-General stressing the Supreme Judicial Council's keenness to continue training for all judges in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.