

Qatar behind online hatred campaigns

Move aimed at damaging Bahrain-Saudi ties as well as destroying the Kingdom's economy

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● The ministry called upon citizens and residents to remain vigilant to such threats and advised them to be cautious from falling prey to similar hatred campaigns online.

TDI|Manama
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Qatar has been behind a handful of controversial cases stirred up in Bahrain through the different social platforms during the past few weeks, Interior Ministry confirmed in a statement yesterday.

The ministry affirmed that a number of sensitive matters raised on social media, mainly Twitter and Instagram, jeopardises the Kingdom's interests and harms its social unity.

This includes the naturalisation of citizens, the Bahraini-Saudi relations, the municipal and parliamentary elections, the new pensions law and other domestic issues of Bahrain.

"The monitoring of recent social media posts has shown a systematic targeting of Bahrain to compromise its national interests by influencing public opinion on various issues, including naturalisation," the ministry's statement read.

The ministry stressed in its statement that the posts are aimed at "damaging the close and special Bahrain-Saudi relations and hit the economy by circulating false information through fake accounts run from Qatar and by the wanted

fugitives facing justice".

Passport for sale?

One of the topics that were recently raised by several social media accounts, which were revealed to be backed by Qatar, was the alleged sale of Bahraini citizenships for BD35,000 to BD85,000 by Arab brokers.

The posts included a copy of a written advertisement allegedly posted on a regional advertising website where it was claimed that the Bahraini passport is being sold for SR350,000 (BD35,000).

Another post that raised controversy was a recording of a man, apparently a broker, speaking about "a new investment", with regards to selling the Bahraini citizenship for SR850,000 (BD85,000).

The posts raised a nationwide public outcry for a couple of weeks, with some accounts claiming that "the Bahraini naturalisation system is harming the interests of neighbouring countries, including Saudi Arabia".

This was until yesterday when the ministry's statement was released, clarifying that the rumours were created by the Qatari accounts and wanted fugitives to disturb the kingdom's public order and harm the strong Bahraini-Saudi relations.

"Interior Ministry clarifies that such accounts tend to instigate disturbances and sedition, and incite hatred, in an attempt to tear into Bahrain's social fabric," the ministry underlined.

The ministry also mentioned the campaigns targeting the upcoming municipal and parliamentary elections emerging recently, stating that



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INTERIOR MINISTRY



A copy of one of the ads posted online claiming that Bahraini passports are available for BD85,000 each.

such campaigns aim to "jeopardise the upcoming parliamentary elections by negatively focusing on a number of issues, including the new pensions scheme, to negatively swing the public opinion and distort the Bahraini identity to project it as having negative characteristics".

Vigilance

The ministry called upon citizens and residents to remain vigilant to such threats and advised them to be cautious from falling prey to similar hatred campaigns online.

"The Ministry urges everyone to assume responsibility to control the risks posed by the social media and reduce its negative impact. The current phase is crucial and requires everyone to remain firm in the face of threats and avoid drifting towards destructive ideas," the statement read.

"The ministry with a view to inform the public about the latest developments on the score of their

security and safety, and on account of its legal responsibility to maintain security and order, through the General Directorate of Anti-corruption and Economic and Electronic Security, continues to monitor the social media accounts that violate the law and harm civil peace and the social fabric. Legal action has also been taken in this regard."

"These threats constitute a purposeful assault against the citizens, although they are immune to the risks such attempts pose and have proven through history their firm stand on national values, thanks to their awareness and sincere determination to foil all attempts targeting security and social peace," it was added in the statement.

Rumours

The ministry also underscored in its statement the importance of avoiding rumours, which harms the civil peace and security of Bahrain.

It called upon the public to "be cautious and avoid recirculating false reports, as the current stage requires joint efforts, unity and awareness to protect the nation's supreme interests and civil peace", stressing that "the strengthening of national unity is the responsibility of all".

The ministry said, "Interior Ministry affirms the constitutional principles that protect the citizens' rights, especially their freedom of expression, and urges them to follow the laws relating to such rights and ensure that the information they circulate is credible by obtaining it from official sources. They should not post malicious rumours that go against security and civil peace."

The ministry concluded its statement by advising citizens, journalists, media figures and all organisations in the Kingdom to "perform their role in spreading awareness to protect the society from the threats posed by the social media and ensure positive public opinions that challenge such campaigns through the commitment to the law and consideration for the Arab values and traditions of the Bahraini society".

NATIONAL HOTELS COMPANY (B.S.C)

INTERIM CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 30 JUNE 2018 (REVIEWED)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION				STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS				STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS						
	30 June 2018	31 December 2017		Three months ended 30 June	Three months ended 30 June	Six months ended 30 June	Six months ended 30 June	2018	2017	2018	2017			
	Reviewed	Audited		Reviewed	Reviewed	Reviewed	Reviewed	Reviewed	Reviewed	Reviewed	Reviewed			
ASSETS														
Non-current assets														
Property, plant and equipment	72,617,632	70,621,555	Gross operating revenue	1,545,858	2,152,646	3,003,347	4,045,483	358,765	1,343,964	1,016,780	1,027,473			
Investment in an associate	7,314,647	7,709,859	Gross operating costs	(1,141,879)	(1,303,010)	(2,242,706)	(2,456,787)	(882,028)	(774,151)	(682,028)	(774,151)			
Non-current investments	4,519,669	4,458,312	GROSS OPERATING PROFIT	403,780	849,636	760,641	1,588,696							
Total non-current assets	84,451,948	82,789,726	Net investment income:											
Current assets			Share of profit from an associate	312,433	302,177	682,028	774,151							
Inventories	75,285	90,846	Dividend income	556	558	108,927	106,205							
Current investments	45,002	44,233	Interest income	26,613	40,954	58,785	66,351							
Trade and other receivables	818,453	1,027,929	Fair value gain on investments at fair value through profit or loss - net	211	1,158	769	2,934							
Bank balances and cash	745,820	3,188,049	Miscellaneous income	339,813	344,845	850,509	969,641							
Total current assets	1,684,560	4,351,057	Depreciation	77,797	86,633	160,322	131,596							
TOTAL ASSETS	86,136,508	87,140,783	General and administration expenses	(508,468)	(517,538)	(1,016,780)	(1,027,473)							
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES														
Equity														
Share capital	11,025,000	11,025,000	Financial charges	(16,433)	(30,437)	(26,199)	(66,276)							
Treasury shares	(94,726)	(94,726)	PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD	127,905	623,528	358,765	1,343,964							
Statutory reserve	5,512,500	5,512,500	BASIC AND DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE (in file)	1	6	3	12							
General reserve	2,190,079	2,190,079	STATEMENT OF OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME											
Revaluation reserve	31,206,911	31,206,911	Three months ended 30 June				Six months ended 30 June							
Investment revaluation reserve	1,902,457	1,841,100	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017				
Share of reserves of associate	72,786	7,183	Reviewed	Reviewed	Reviewed	Reviewed	Reviewed	Reviewed	Reviewed	Reviewed				
Retained earnings	30,684,102	30,368,180	BD	BD	BD	BD	BD	BD	BD	BD				
Proposed dividend	-	1,091,747	127,905	623,528	358,765	1,343,964	12,931	1,088,634	12,931	1,088,634				
Total equity	82,499,109	83,147,974	STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY											
Non-current liability														
Employees' end of service benefits	310,962	431,406	Share capital	11,025,000	11,025,000	Treasury shares	(94,726)	(94,726)	Statutory reserve	5,512,500	5,512,500			
Total non-current liability	310,962	431,406	General reserve	2,190,079	2,190,079	General reserve	2,190,079	2,190,079	Revaluation reserve	31,206,911	31,206,911			
Current liabilities														
Trade and other payables	2,162,976	2,318,188	Investment revaluation reserve	1,841,100	1,841,100	Investment revaluation reserve	1,841,100	1,841,100	Share of Reserves of associate	7,183	7,183			
Current portion of term loan	1,163,461	1,243,215	Retained earnings	30,368,180	30,325,337	Retained earnings	30,325,337	30,325,337	Retained earnings	30,368,180	30,325,337			
Bank overdraft	1,163,461	-	Proposed dividend	1,091,747	-	Proposed dividend	1,091,747	-	Proposed dividend	1,091,747	-			
Total current liabilities	3,326,437	3,561,403	Total equity and liabilities	86,136,508	87,140,783	Total equity and liabilities	86,136,508	87,140,783	Total equity and liabilities	86,136,508	87,140,783			

Mr.Faisal Ahmed Al Zayani (Chairman)

Mr.Adel N Hamadah (Vice Chairman & Managing Director)