

Lawmakers in call to reserve govt jobs 'only for Bahrainis'

Rising unemployment among citizens cited reason behind the call

● 'Bahrain' parliamentary bloc has proposed a law in this regard.

● The proposal is expected to be debated in the upcoming sessions of the current legislative term.

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A parliamentary bloc in the Kingdom is planning to oblige the government to limit the majority of job categories in the public sector to Bahrainis, considering the growing numbers of unemployed citizens in recent years.

This came as the "Bahrain" parliamentary bloc announced that it has submitted a proposed law to allow only Bahrainis to work in government jobs in different sectors, including healthcare, hospitality, legal departments, aviation and more.

According to a statement that was recently issued by the nine-member group, the jobs include nurses, accountants, engineers, teachers, physician assistants, accountant assistants, nursing assistants, recruitment staff, recruitment directors, recruitment specialist, procurement specialists, procurement officers, auditors, hotel managers, reception managers, hotel chefs, flight attendants, receptionists,



The House is expected to discuss the bill in the coming session.

legal advisors, administrative jobs, dentists, dental assistants, maintenance specialists and maintenance technicians.

For his part, MP Ahmed Al Salloom, Bloc Chairman, emphasised on the importance of the group's proposal at a time when "the numbers of unemployed Bahrainis are rising and considering that the right of employment is guaranteed to them by the constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain".

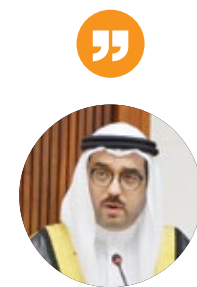
"It is necessary that we look into limiting government jobs to citizens," Mr Al Salloom commented.

He commented further: "There are many citizens who worked hard to obtain qualifications and were unable to find jobs in the same specialty, which they aspired to work in because of the lack of job opportunities in the government sector.

"As a result of this, many of them turned to work outside

their specialty to secure their source of living."

The proposal is expected to be debated in the upcoming sessions



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MR AL SALLOOM

of the current legislative term, as the MPs' holiday is scheduled to end by October this year.

In addition to Mr Al Salloom, the bloc, which was formed in last February, includes MPs Ammar Qambar, Ahmed Al Damestani, Hesham Al Asheeri, Ali Ishaqi, Ahmed Al Aamer, Hamad Al Kooheji, Zainab Abdulameer and Fadhel Al Sawwad.

Better loan schemes for pensioners urged

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Considering the continually increasing expense of living in the past few years, a Bahraini lawmaker has called for introducing easier banking procedures for pensioners, especially those from the limited income category.

MP Mohammed Buhamood said in a statement issued this week that he would submit a proposal to the parliament to allow pensioners to reschedule their loans, allowing them to reduce the monthly instalments they pay to banks.

Commenting on his proposal, Mr Buhamood said: "Many citizens are forced to take loans from banks or pension replacement loans to manage their basic family life, as the loan instalments are distributed over many years without considering the post-retirement period, which witnesses a sharp decline in their monthly incomes."

"The monthly loans deduction from retired citizens who have retired and still have



There has to be action to ease the financial burden faced by pensioners in the Kingdom.

MR BUHAMOOD

loans is more than 50 per cent of their income and this is contrary to the system of the Central Bank of Bahrain and its mechanisms to lend loans," he explained.

The lawmaker justified his proposal further stating that it allows granting citizens the opportunity to reschedule personal loans they borrowed from

commercial banks after they are retired, and benefit from decreased interest rates.

Mr Buhamood added: "This system is in force in a number of our fellow GCC States, which are allowing citizens to reschedule their loans without imposing any additional fees on them, considering their humanitarian conditions and aiming to ease the financial burdens on them, especially that this category has dedicated the best years of their lives to serve the homeland in both the public and private sectors."

Mr Buhamood's statement came a week after another MP, Adel Al Asoomi, urged the government of Bahrain to interfere and curb the high interest rates imposed by banks on its clients.

Mr Al Asoomi's demand came after a recent report showed that commercial banks in Bahrain have had an increase in profit by BD241.2 million this year.

He blamed the increase in profit to the high interest rates it imposes on its clients, especially traders.

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