

Enduring strength

Kingdom's Future Generations Fund grows assets despite temporary market slump in 2022

● Long-term and conservative approach pay off

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Future Generations Reserve Fund recorded asset growth from 2020 to 2024 despite a temporary global market dip in 2022, the Finance Ministry told Parliament yesterday.

Undersecretary Yusuf Al Hammoud said the fund's 2022 losses were unrealised.

He noted that global markets fell by about 22 per cent that year, while the fund eased by 11 per cent, which he said points to careful management.

Approach

Al Hammoud added that the fund follows a long-term, con-



Yusuf Al Hammoud

servative approach and avoids speculation and short-term bets.

The ministry is seeking approval of the final accounts to complete the financial and oversight framework for the fund's work.

Al Hammoud said the overall picture is steady: assets have risen and no realised losses have been booked.

On the pharmaceutical plant

owned by the fund, he said medicines face strict regulatory control.

The fund has secured approvals for the full product list, pilot production has begun after all licences were issued, and full output is due to start very soon.

He said the project is on track to create new jobs for Bahrainis as production scales up. All fund staff are Bahraini, 100 per cent,



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- YUSUF AL HAMMOUD, UNDERSECRETARY AT FINANCE MINISTRY

with a current headcount of 14.

Completion

Al Hammoud said the Future Generations Fund Tower is scheduled for completion by the end of May 2026.

Leasing has started, demand from investors is high, and full take-up is expected once operations begin.

He said the fund's approach is long term and measured, asset growth has continued, and the current course supports financial durability for future generations.

MPs back urgent study of Gulf Air part-sale proposal

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Parliament yesterday backed an urgent recommendation for the government to study selling a minority stake in Gulf Air to outside investors while keeping a 51 per cent holding with Mumtalakat.

The move was tabled by MP Khalid Buanaq and supported by MPs Hesham Al Awadhi, Mohammed Al Ahmed, Dr Ali Al Nuaimi and Zainab Abdulameer.

It asks the government to look into a part-sale to test if bringing in fresh capital and know-how could strengthen the airline while the state stays in control.

Urgency

"This proposal asks the government to study, as a matter of urgency, selling part of Gulf Air's shares to investors while retaining 51 per cent for Mumtalakat," said MP Buanaq. He said the call stems from



MP Khalid Buanaq

repeated support from the general budget and the direct strain on the public purse, with current economic conditions pointing to the need to shift aid to where it gives better value for money.

"Allowing investors in while the state keeps 51 per cent would inject new funds and attract seasoned commercial and operational expertise. That, in turn, could lift performance, improve services and sharpen the airline's regional competitiveness," he said.

'Safeguarding rights, promoting stability'

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The launch of the upgraded Wage Protection System (WPS) reflects the Kingdom of Bahrain's commitment to building a fair and transparent labour market that safeguards rights and promotes long-term stability.

This was emphasised by His Excellency Yousif bin Abdulhussein Khalaf, Minister of Legal Affairs, Acting Minister of Labour, and Chairman of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA).

The system, part of Bahrain's



H.E. Yousif bin Abdulhussein Khalaf key national initiatives, enables private sector companies to process and document wage pay-

ments electronically through secure banking channels, ensuring accuracy, transparency, and alignment with international standards.

Khalaf indicated that the upgraded system places particular focus on protecting Bahraini workers and supporting a safe, equitable work environment.

By adopting advanced digital tools, it provides reliable oversight of wage payments, helps enhance job security, and supports both employees and employers in maintaining sustainable operations.

The Minister highlighted the

close cooperation between the LMRA, the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), BENEFIT, and private sector partners in developing the system. He described the initiative as a model of institutional collaboration that reflects Bahrain's proactive approach to modern governance.

He noted that the upgraded Wage Protection System represents a significant milestone in improving human resource management within the private sector and reinforces Bahrain's position as a regional leader in labour market development and sustainable economic growth.

LMRA launches Enhanced Wages Protection System



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The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) has launched the enhanced version of the Wages Protection System (WPS), aimed at safeguarding the rights of all work parties and ensuring that employee wages are paid on time, supporting contractual stability in the private sector.

H.E. Mr. Nibras Talib, Chief Executive Officer of LMRA and Chairman of the National Committee for Combatting Trafficking in Persons, affirmed that the Authority, in cooperation with the Central Bank of Bahrain, Bahrain's Electronic Network for Financial Transactions (Benefit),

and private sector partners, enhanced the WPS to meet the evolving needs of the labour market and enable private sector establishments to facilitate and documenting wage payments without the need for investment in separate financial systems.

He explained that the enhanced version of the system prioritizes the protection of employees' rights and ensures their stability in a fair and safe work environment.

It also supports national companies in managing their financial and administrative operations, contributing to human resource management efficiency, reducing operational costs, and promoting the sustainability in private sector.

'Young Parliamentarian 2025' program first phase successful

Specialized workshops to enhance participants' competencies conclude event



Academics and experts with other participants

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The Youth Pioneer Society concluded the first phase of the "Young Parliamentarian 2025" program, which featured a series of specialized training workshops delivered by a group of academics and experts, aiming to empower participants with leadership and cognitive skills.

The workshops covered a range of topics, including lead-

ership skills and the foundations of teamwork, focusing on building leadership personalities, strengthening team spirit, and encouraging initiative and responsibility.

A workshop on communication and presentation skills addressed effective public speaking, audience engagement, and the development of impactful communication strategies.

Another workshop on decision-making, analysis, and research explored methods of

critical thinking and the formulation of decisions based on methodological and logical analysis.

The program also witnessed the launch of its first dialogue session, which served as an interactive platform that enabled participants to present their ideas and discuss diverse youth and community issues.

In this context, Ms Jawaher Alsenan, General Coordinator of the program, emphasized that these workshops represent a key

milestone in preparing participants who have demonstrated a high level of seriousness, competence, and eagerness to learn — reflecting the program's success in achieving its objectives.

Participants will move on to the second phase, which includes a series of roundtable discussions designed to highlight the skills they acquired during the first phase, such as analytical thinking, effective communication, and policy formulation.