

iGA, EWA
integrate
services app

● MyGov App

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The Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) and the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) announced that the Electricity & Water Services App will be officially discontinued starting from tomorrow, following the successful integration and transfer of all its services to the unified MyGov app.

This step supports the commitment towards the government's mobile apps merger plan, which aims at integrating existing government apps into three main platforms: MyGov app for individuals, Al Tajir app for businesses and investors, and Bahrain app for visitors.

The electricity and water eServices now available on MyGov app include bill and connection fee payments, inquiries and payments for current and past bills, viewing of previous payments, consumption summaries, average consumption calculations and comparisons, and access to EWA service center locations.

MPs back medicine price cap proposal

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Parliament yesterday approved a proposal to fix medicine prices, backing the Services Committee's recommendation even as the regulator said pricing is already set in law and pharmacy owners pointed to falls of up to 70 per cent since 2014.

The measure seeks firmer control so patients pay broadly in line with prices in other Gulf states, with import costs taken into account.

Bader Al Tamimi said many citizens and residents struggle with rising and uneven prices, especially those with chronic conditions.

"We have gone 25 years without revising medicine prices. Is it reasonable that prices stay unchanged for a quarter of a century," he said. "Prices for the



Image used for illustrative purposes only

same item can differ between pharmacies, even paracetamol. Many patients cannot find their medicines at health centres, so they buy from private pharmacies, and many cross to Saudi Arabia because prices there are lower."

MP Al Tamimi also set out margin comparisons.

"In Bahrain, medicine profit margins run between 25 and 30 per cent. In the UAE they are 20 to 28 per cent, in Oman 19 to 24 per cent, and in Jordan 19 per cent. Is it reasonable for

“Many citizens and residents struggle with rising and uneven prices, especially those with chronic conditions.”
- MP BADER AL TAMIMI



a small market like Bahrain to have higher margins than these countries," he said.

The National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) says the plan is difficult to apply because Bahrain already prices medicines under Article 86 of Decree-Law No. 18 of 1997 and Decision No. 32 of 2020.

Those rules link profit to import cost, set ceilings by price band and rely on unified GCC lists or official import invoices.

The authority says it sets prices through a published guide, inspects public and private pharmacies and requires the same shelf price across outlets, taking into account whether a product is originator or generic and when it was registered.

The proposal was put forward by MPs Al Tamimi, Hamad Al Doy, Najeeb Al Kuwari and Mohammed Al Rafai.

The government will now consider the proposal.

MPs demand ‘urgent’ infrastructure fix for Muharraq’s Block 254



Al Shorouq area in Muharraq

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Years without sewerage or streetlights have pushed Parliament to demand urgent infrastructure upgrades in Muharraq's Block 254.

MPs yesterday approved an urgent proposal asking the government to instruct the relevant

authorities to begin a full overhaul of sewerage, street lighting and internal roads in Al Shorouq's Block 254.

The request was submitted by Khalid Buanaq with the support of four other MPs.

Buanaq said the proposal centres on directing the competent bodies to start comprehensive works in the neighbourhood.

MPs cited the near absence of basic services and years of delay, which have left residents relying on temporary, unhealthy stopgaps in place of a sewer network.

They also pointed to safety issues on the roads, weak lighting after dark and a single entrance that can slow emergency access.

Parliament backs 10-year utility bill instalments

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Ten-year instalments for overdue utility bills won urgent parliamentary backing yesterday, in a recommendation urging the ministry to lift the current four-year cap.

The non-binding move was proposed by MP Abdulhakim Al Sheno with four colleagues, asks the Ministry of Electricity and Water to offer longer repayment plans to citizens' homes and to keep power on where settlements are in place.

"Electricity and water bills can pile up to the point that families have no choice but to pay by instalments; in many cases an heir pays the bill simply to keep services running without interruption," Al Sheno said.

Foundation

He cited Article 5(a) of the

“The ministry should put forward more solutions that serve citizens and avoid resorting to cutting off electricity.”
- MP ABDULHAKIM AL SHENO



Constitution, which sets the family as the foundation of society, and argued that policy should protect household stability and avoid extra costs.

He also urged practical steps that trim bills, including easier rooftop solar installation and steady advice on peak hours, noting that summer charges often jump compared with other months.

"The ministry should put forward more solutions that serve citizens and avoid resorting to

cutting off electricity," he said, adding that a 10-year schedule would help households settle what they owe over time.

Approach

Under the approach outlined, arrears would be repaid on an agreed timetable between the ministry and the customer until the full amount is cleared.

It is now for the government and the ministry to decide whether and how to carry the recommendation into effect.

Celebrating resilient voices of Filipino educators



The Philippine Teachers Association Bahrain (PTAB) hosted its 7th Educators' Convention and Awards Night at the Ramada Hotel, Seef bringing together 90 Filipino educators, school leaders, and distinguished guests from various educational institutions. The event was held to mark the global celebration of World Teachers' Day.