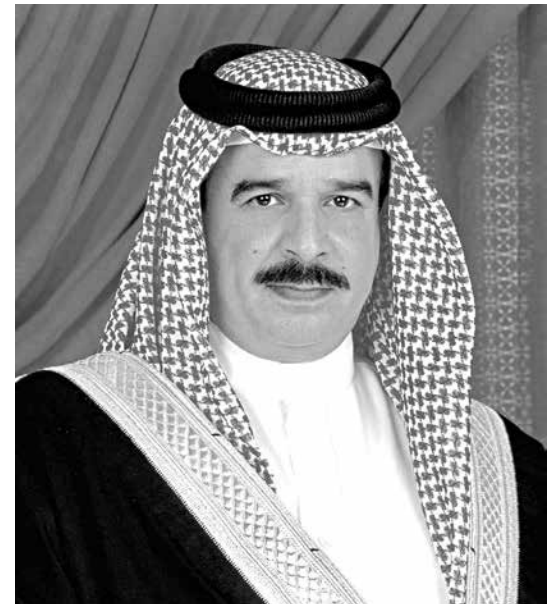


Lawmakers welcome King's 'pensions rethink' directive



HM the King

New Pension Law was rapped by MPs for going against the interests of citizens



His Majesty will not issue any order that isn't in the interest of the public as he is concerned about their welfare.

JIHAD AL FADHEL



His Majesty is the protector of people's rights and his directives is a reflection of his concern towards them.

JAMEELA AL SALMAN



His Majesty has always considered protecting people's rights. We are thankful to His Majesty for the directive.

DALAL AL ZAYED

● **MPs had unanimously voted against the amendments that would give the government authority absolute right to alter pension laws.**

● **Shura Council approved the bill last week; MPs say implementing the bill could lead to lack of accountability.**

TDT|Manama

MPs and members of the Shura Council have welcomed the directive issued by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to the government to reconsider the proposed pension laws in cooperation with the legislative branch.

They expressed their gratitude and appreciation to His Majesty for his initiative which aims at preserving citizens' rights and providing them with financial stability through their pension rights.

They added that His Majesty's wisdom has always aimed at looking after his people's interests and the directive to reconsider the proposed pension law is a reflection of His Majesty's concern towards improving the services provided to pensioners.

His Majesty earlier this week directed the government to reconsider the two bills of pension



House of Representatives had unanimously rejected the bill.

and retirement laws in cooperation with the parliament, taking into consideration all views and remarks expressed during discussions at the Shura and Representatives Councils as well as views expressed by citizens, columnists and journalists across various media.

His Majesty also emphasised the importance of benefiting from the values of Bahrain's democratic experience based on consultation and consensus on various national issues, calling for cooperation between the legislative and executive branches, allowing more opportunity to finalise the consultations regarding both laws without haste.

His Majesty also directed to reconsider the development of the pensions system in Bahrain in future to ensure preservation of citizens' rights, secure financial stability of pension funds through the enhancement of areas of investment to boost the diversification of sources of income that reflect in the improvement of standards of services provided to pensioners in future.

The parliament's First Deputy Speaker Ali Al Aradi praised the royal directive. He said

that common man's issues have been His Majesty's top priority, which he has always dealt with wisdom.

"The royal umbrella has always protected the gains of this nation and has listened to the voices of the people through their elected representatives and we are confident that we all continue to

progress under HM's wide leadership."

Al Aradi stressed that the royal directive places great responsibility on the executive authority, as well as the deputies, to exert utmost efforts that is worthy of the royal trust and fulfills the aspirations of His Majesty's vision to make the Bahraini citizen the

priority of this country.

Second deputy speaker of the Shura Council, Jamila Salman, welcomed the royal directive. "His Majesty the King is the protector of people's rights and his directives is a reflection of his concern towards all the issue that have impact on each and every Bahraini citizen."

Head of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee at the Shura Council Dalal Al Zayed also expressed gratitude towards His Majesty.

"The members of the legislative authority, whether voted for or against the proposed law all agreed that HM the King will be the guarantor of the law, as HM will always, mainly consider the public interest and protecting people's rights."

Head of the Advisory Committee of the Shura Council, Dr Jihad Al Fadhel, praised the decision of His Majesty the King for the government to re-examine the new proposed retirement law.

"His Majesty is keen to preserve the citizen's gains and rights and this has always been His Majesty's priority. His Majesty will not issue any order that isn't in the interest of the public, whether it is related to the pensioners or the general public."

MP Ghazi Al Rahma expressed his thanks and gratitude to His Majesty the King for issuing the directive to the government.

"His Majesty wants to achieve the aspirations of citizens and his directives is the strongest reflection of that."

Al Rahma stressed that His Majesty has always adopted the route of consensus and consultation, based on a firmly established approach in our pioneering democratic experience.

MP Mohammed Al Maarafi said this noble action reaffirms His Majesty's approach towards the reform process and that the people of this country will always remain to be a priority.

"We convey to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa the sincere thanks and gratitude for his guidance to re-examine the retirement law in cooperation and coordination with the legislative authority."



While MPs rejected the bill, Shura favoured the bill with many claiming that the bill was for people's betterment.