

# Private sector key to food self-sufficiency

A 'key partner' in implementing His Majesty the King's royal directives to ensure sustainable food security for all

## Al Amin speaks at Derasat forum

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The private sector is a key partner in implementing the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to achieving self-sufficiency in the field of food security.

This was emphasised by Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) Food Wealth Committee Chairman Khalid Al Amin who praised the initiatives of the government headed by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince Prime Minister.

The initiatives include working to establish a government company that incubates food security projects, the development of a marine aquaculture centre in Ras Hayyan, allocating 26 sites for soilless farming and fish farming.

In his statement on the eve of the Fourth Annual "Derasat" Center's Forum: "Strategies to Attain Food Security", Al Amin said: "All stakeholders working



Food stocks in Bahrain are sufficient

in the food industry and trade sector in Bahrain are sufficiently ready to contribute efficiently to achieving the government's ambitious goal declared by Deputy Prime Minister HE Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa during the forum, regarding moving Bahrain from the 49th rank in the year 2020 on the Global Food Security Index, to the 25th rank by 2030."

Al Amin expressed the Bahraini private sector's keenness to draw inspiration from all the directives of the government and to include them in its scope

of work, to achieve sustainable food security in Bahrain, and support qualitative initiatives in the field of agriculture and fishing, as well as advance its contribution to the Kingdom's non-oil GDP.

In this context, he pointed out that His Majesty's directives on promoting food security during the pandemic were a national responsibility carried out by the stakeholders in the food trade sector and were implemented to the fullest, as food stocks in Bahrain became sufficient for no less than six months.

Al Amin praised what the Deputy Prime Minister has revealed during the forum regarding the approval of HRH the Crown Prince Prime Minister to establish a national committee for food security to follow up on the implementation of food security strategies.

He expressed his confidence in the ability of this committee to implement the national vision related to food security.

"The forum received a high-level attendance especially by Representatives Council Speaker Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal, Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh and Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, in addition to several ministers and officials," said Al Amin.

"This confirms the seriousness of the Kingdom of Bahrain in achieving food security and heralds a new phase of cooperation between the various stakeholders to ensure the sustainability of food security in Bahrain."

Al Amin affirmed the need to build on the outcomes of this



- KHALID AL AMIN, BAHRAIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (BCCI) FOOD WEALTH COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

**"The level of food security in Bahrain is reassuring, and the Bahraini markets are linked to a reliable and active regional and global supply chain. There is a great abundance in various food items that are not affected by seasons or other events such as the holy month of Ramadan and the COVID-19 pandemic, which proves Bahrain's readiness to provide food to the population sustainably and at all times and circumstances."**

forum to integrate and develop all elements of food security, including agricultural and livestock production, fish farming, and national food supply.

This is in addition to developing national capacities in the field of food industries, boosting the national production rate, employing modern technology, securing food sources, and benefiting from the expertise of brotherly countries to achieving the desired national goals.

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## Former LMRA Chief Executive receives top Philippine award

### In appreciation of Al Absi's role in protecting human rights and combating trafficking in persons

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Osama bin Abdullah Al Absi, former CEO of the Labor Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) and the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons, has been honoured with the highest recognition of diplomatic merit by the Philippines.

President Rodrigo Duterte issued a decree conferring Al Absi with the Order of Sikatuna, the highest decoration granted to non-citizens of the Philippines.

He became only the second Bahraini to receive the top accolade after the late Prime Minister His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa was bestowed with the same award in 2001.

This high medal at the international level comes in appreciation of the distinguished partnership between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Philippines in protecting human rights and combating trafficking in persons.

The Order of Sikatuna has four categories and Al Absi has received the second class, Silver Grand Cross, with the rank of Datu.

Al Absi implemented several initiatives in cooperation with the Filipino officials, especially coordinating in cases of cross-border human trafficking and the protection of victims, as well as attending international forums on migration issues,



Al Absi, second from right, with, from left, Philippine Ambassador to Bahrain Alfonso Ver Borje and Philippines Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs Sarah Arriola



The Order of Sikatuna medal

in particular the International Covenant on Migrants at the United Nations.

Al Absi received the medal from President Duterte's Special Envoy and Presidential Assistant on Foreign Affairs Robert Borje in a special ceremony held on Monday at the Riyadh Marriott Hotel in Saudi Arabia.

Al Absi was honoured by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, who granted him the Efficiency Medal, for his efforts in strengthening the Kingdom's

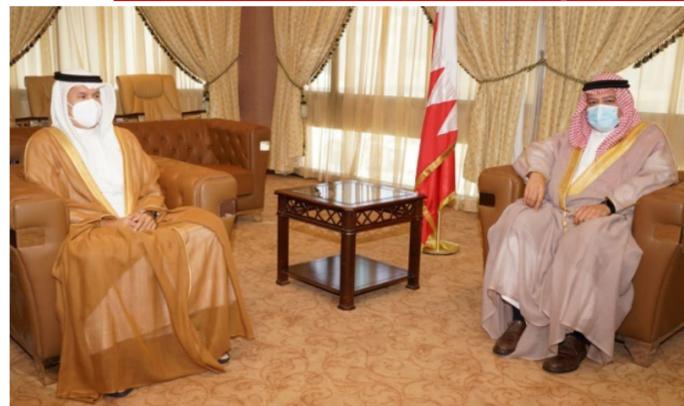
leading position in the region and the world, especially related to labour market reforms and combating trafficking in persons.

He was also honoured by the US State Department in 2018 being among 10 international figures who made outstanding efforts in combating trafficking in persons. With this honour, Al Absi is considered the first official Gulf figure to have such an international status in this field.



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## Justice Minister receives Capital Governor



Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, Shaikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa, received yesterday Capital Governor, Shaikh Hesham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa. They discussed cooperation between the Ministry and the Capital Governorate to improve services for citizens. Shaikh Khalid bin Ali praised the efforts of the Capital Governorate to develop services and promote community partnership.

## Financial support for 12 sectors

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Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan issued an edict announcing COVID-19 affected sectors which will benefit from the Government's payment of insured Bahrainis' salaries through the Insurance Against Unemployment Fund for a three-month period running from June to August 2021.

The sectors affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- Travel and aviation
- Hospitality and restaurants
- Personal services (salons,

- gymns, games and entertainment)

- Industrial sector
- Health sector
- Transport
- Rehabilitation and training
- Retail sector (food products not included)
- Administrative services (public relations, media and events management)
- Real estate, engineering, technical and contracting bureaus
- Local newspapers and magazines
- Any other affected sectors,

- except big companies, insurance sector

The Minister said that the Government's support package would benefit 10, 880 companies and establishments operating in the private sector and 58, 298 citizens, costing up to BD60 million-BD30 million for June and BD15 million each for July and August.

Humaidan also hailed the directives issued by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to extend a number of initiatives as part of the financial and economic stimulus package aimed to mitigate the COVID-19 fallout.

## Ex-Minister jailed for issuing dud cheque

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The High Appeals Court has confirmed the six-months' imprisonment issued against a former minister who was held guilty of issuing a dud cheque with bad faith.

The defendant is said to have issued a cheque worth BD18,300 for a commercial company in return for offering a service.

However, when the owners of the company wanted to encash the cheque, it was discovered that his account balance was nil. The company reportedly demanded him to pay the amount, but he kept stalling.

"We thought he was trustworthy, therefore we accepted a cheque from him. We delivered the service to him, and to

our surprised his account was empty. We requested him to pay the money and he kept ignoring us," the owners of the company told prosecutors.

The defendant was earlier sentenced to six months in absentia. He was arrested and appealed the sentence. He, however, lost his appeal and now will have to serve six months behind bars.