

Housing relief

MPs seek urgent change to Mazaya loan instalment formula

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Five MPs have lodged an urgent proposal calling for monthly instalments under the Mazaya housing programme to be worked out using only basic pay and the social allowance, excluding other allowances and bonuses.

In the memo, the MPs say instalments are now calculated on total salary, including allowances and bonuses, and that this can leave some beneficiaries with repayments above what they



MP Khalid Buanaq

can keep up with on a reliable basis.

They argue that basing instalments on basic pay plus the social allowance would better match repayments to income that does not change month to month, easing pressure on household budgets.

Calculations

The memo says the change would support fairer instalment calculations, help strengthen financial and social stability for Bahraini families on the scheme, and lower the risk of missed

payments by making repayment more manageable for beneficiaries and financing bodies.

The proposal was submitted by MPs Khaled Buanaq, Zainab AbdulAmeer, Ahmed Al Salloom, Hisham Al Awadhi and Mohammed Al Maarafi.

The MPs say the adjustment does not need a legal overhaul and could be made through an administrative direction resetting the basis used to calculate instalments, arguing that urgent action is needed to curb rising burdens on beneficiaries and to support the programme's goals.

Deep pride for royal confidence

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Her Highness Shaikha Shaima bint Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa has expressed her deep pride and appreciation for the royal confidence bestowed upon her by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The statement followed the decision of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Humanitarian Foundation, appointing her as Chairperson of Humanitarian Volunteer Initiatives at the Foundation.

HH Shaikha Shaima affirmed that this royal trust serves as a strong motivation to continue developing humanitarian and volunteer work in ways that enhance its sustainable social impact.

Her remarks came as she chaired the first meeting of the Humanitarian Volunteer Initiatives at the Foundation, in the presence of team members.

She emphasized that the upcoming phase will focus on teamwork and the launch of several purposeful initiatives aimed at strengthening the role of volunteerism as a key pillar in supporting citizens



HH Shaikha Shaima

across various segments of society.

Efforts

HH Shaikha Shaima noted that these efforts will help reinforce the values of giving and national responsibility.

During the meeting, several volunteer initiatives for the holy month of Ramadan were approved.

These include organizing humanitarian visits to hospital patients to provide moral support and promote community solidarity.

Social initiatives dedicated to senior citizens were also endorsed, featuring regular visits and social engagement activities to foster a spirit of compassion and connection.

Additionally, community events targeting school students will be held as part of Ramadan celebrations.

Domestic worker wage hike 'voluntary'

● From \$400 to \$500

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The increase in wages for domestic workers from the Philippines - from \$400 to \$500 - is entirely voluntary and is at the discretion of the employer.

This was emphasised by the

Bahrain Recruitment Offices Association.

In an official statement, the association noted that some recruitment offices have raised wages without any mandatory directive, stressing that the right of choice belongs to the citizen, who bears the financial responsibility.

No office is permitted to unilaterally impose a wage increase

that the employer has not approved.

The association criticised offices that have generally adopted the \$500 wage as mandatory, describing it as a violation of the official circular and an infringement on the employer's right to choose.

It also highlighted that the official stance of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, as

expressed in ministerial meetings, rejects converting this increase into a universal obligation.

Any individual action contrary to this unified approach is considered unacceptable. The association reiterated that the standard wage remains \$400, and any increase to \$500 is a personal decision agreed upon by both the employer and the worker.

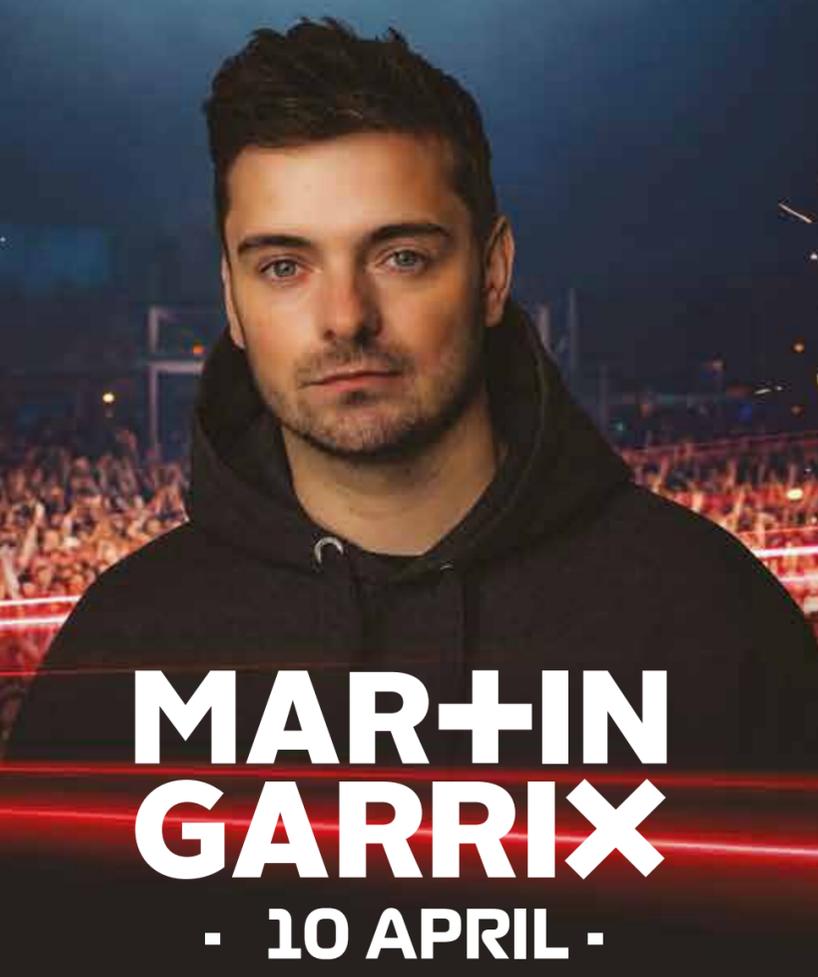


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