

# Lawmakers asked 75 questions to ministers in the last session

Housing, Health Ministers receive maximum questions from the part of MPs

● Ten ministers attended the last session before the first recess of the Fifth Legislative Term.

● Many bills and proposals generated heated arguments between the lawmakers during the term.

TDT | Manama  
Mohammed Zafran

As many as 75 questions were asked by the parliamentarians to the ministers during the fifth legislative term, it emerged.

This was revealed by an official statistics.

Housing Minister Baseem Al Hamer and Health Minister Faeqa Al Saleh received the maximum number of questions.

Majority of the questions addressed to the Housing Minister were related to housing needs of different constituencies while the



Ministers had to face many questions over different policies during the term from the part of MPs.

Health Minister received questions regarding the functioning of health centres in various constituencies.

Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Essam Khalaf also received a good number of questions.

Both Education Minister Majid Al Nuaimi and Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel Humaidan received nine questions each. All of them were related to Bahrainisation.

Dr Abdulhussain Mirza, the Minister of Electricity and Wa-

ter Affairs, was presented with four questions by the lawmakers during the term.

Shura Council and Parliament Affairs Minister Ghanim Al Buainain also received four questions while the Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Minister

Shaikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa and Finance Minister Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa received three questions each.

The lawmakers only had two questions to ask to Transportation and Telecommunications Minister Kamal Ahmed. Infor-

ation Affairs Minister Ali Al Rumaihi, Oil Minister Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa and Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa also received a few questions.

Ten ministers attended the last session before the first recess of the Fifth Legislative Term, which saw 23 questions being presented by the lawmakers to the ministers.

During the last session, the Minister of Education received maximum number of questions (six), followed by Housing Minister (four) and Works Minister (three) respectively.

Many bills and proposals generated heated arguments among the lawmakers during the term.

**23** questions were presented to the ministers by the MPs during the last session of the Fifth Legislative Term.

## Online employment application launched



Mr Al Zayed, Mr AlQaed with other CSB and iGA officials at the launch.

Manama

Civil Service Bureau (CSB) President Ahmed Al Zayed and Information and eGovernment Authority (iGA) Chief Executive Officer Mohammed Ali AlQaed yesterday inaugurated the "employment application" service package.

The implementation of the scheme will begin today through the national portal (Bahrain.bh). The new service reflects the government's keenness represented by the Civil Service Bureau and the Information and e-Government Authority in the development of government services provided to the citizens.

The CSB Chief said the "Employment Application" service package will prove out to be time efficient for applicants. The time needed for the submission of applicants will be reduced to seven minutes compared to at least 35 minutes needed to visit the Job Information Unit at the CSB. He said that the launch of the new eSer-

vices package will contribute to dispense of paperwork, adding that the Job Information Unit in the Civil Service Bureau, which used to receive the applications manually, will be closed by the end of July, and that the applications will be received in full electronic form thereafter.

"The e-service was developed in line with the CSB strategic plan to improve government performance according to best practices, and to attract national cadres and create a competitive work environment to achieve the vision of the Kingdom and promote its sustainable development," he said.

He stressed the importance of the new electronic service, which facilitates the employment application process, enabling applicants to submit their applications electronically instead of personally attending to the CSB Job Information Unit. Furthermore, the employment application is valid for two years, according to the regulations in force in the civil service and

must be updated with information and experience after this period.

Mr AlQaed said that the new e-service aims to increase the efficiency of the services provided by the CSB and to reduce the workload of employees and facilitate service for jobseekers. "The IGA has re-engineered the operations for the service, which resulted in facilitating procedures in the application mechanism, noting that the new mechanism will allow the submission of the application and uploading the required documents electronically," he said.

"This will so allow the integration of data with relevant government systems, where CSB employees will be able review the application and communicate with applicants electronically," he added.

The services are available around the clock, supporting the electronic transformation process in the Kingdom as well as preserving the environment.

## 'Technical glitch' leads to high water and electricity bills

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Aburdly high water and electricity bills have been received by many citizens and residents in recent weeks owing to a technical glitch, it has emerged.

Some residents have been faced with preposterously high bills this month, much to their surprise, sources said.

It is learnt that the errors were caused by water meter readers following the digital update process.

Speaking to Tribune, a citizen, who doesn't want to be identified, said his electricity bill was in the normal range while the water bill was absurdly high.

"The water bill was extremely high and I contacted the authorities regarding this. I was told that the issue arose due to a technical glitch, which will be rectified soon.

"The bill I received was for my office. Later, I would find that all the offices in the building received similar amounts in water bills," he said.

"I found out that the issue was due to a glitch in the water meter reader. Apparently, it counted the units, not in a linear manner, rather in a haphazard way.

"This led to a massive uptick in the water bill. My electricity bill was in the normal range."

"I contacted the authorities and they are investigating the issue," he added.

Another Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) customer

Electricity and Water Authority Kingdom of Bahrain

BILL FOR THE MONTH OF: Jun 2019  
DATE OF ISSUE: 19/06/2019

Customer Account No. [REDACTED]

Dear Customer  
You can pay your monthly bills through the Authority Website www.ewa.bh or Bahrain Portal www.bahrain.bh by credit cards or ATM cards.

Call center: Comprehensive Services for Electricity and Water Emergencies, Repairs and Customer Services 17515555  
E-mail: customercare-ewa@ewa.bh

Services	Meter ID	Multiplier	Current Reading	Previous Reading	Usage
Electricity	141839 A	1	15062019	140138 A	12052019

Services	Description	Units	Government Subsidy Amount(BD)	Total(BD)	Price(BD)	Amount(BD)	Total(BD)
Water	Administrative Fees	3 months		1,000	1,000		1,000
	Water - 1. threshold, blended	503.014	0.750	377.260	0.750	377.260	754.520
	Water - 2. threshold, blended	614.795	0.750	461.096	0.750	461.096	922.192
Electricity	Water - 3. threshold, blended	20117.606	0.750	15088.204	0.750	15088.204	30176.408
	Administrative Fees	1 months		1,000	1,000		1,000
Rate	Electricity - 1. threshold	1791	22.113	0.016	27.216	27.216	27,216
	Rate charge	30 days			20,000		20,000
			<b>Total(BD)</b>	<b>22,113</b>		<b>15975,780</b>	

Dear Customer, we noticed abnormal consumption on your account, kindly contact our call center on 17515555, to verify and review your consumption.

Bill for the month of: Jun 2019 Account No.: [REDACTED]

Payment due date by: 04/08/2019 Amount Due (B.D.): 16014.510

An absurdly high bill received by one of the EWA customers for May.

said that he received a high bill despite being outside the country.

"I was not at all at home last month and in spite of this I received a huge bill. I can't believe this as I am someone who keeps control on the use

of electricity and water," the customer said.

Many other EWA customers from across the Kingdom have received high improper bills though the authority hasn't come up with an official statement on the issue.