

Nationwide Labour Crackdown Launched

Crackdown spans every governorate this week

● 1,728 inspections in one week

● 24 irregular workers detained

● 83 violators deported

Mahir Haneef
TDT | Manama

The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) has launched its most extensive inspection drive of the year, conducting 1,728 campaigns and visits across Bahrain from August 17 to 23. The effort covered all governorates and resulted in the detention of 24 irregular workers and the deportation of 83 violators.

Nationwide coverage

According to the LMRA, the crackdown included 1,715 shop inspections alongside 13 joint campaigns. These were distrib-



uted across the Kingdom with five in Muharraq, four in the Northern Governorate, and four in the Southern Governorate, ensuring that no part of the country was left unchecked.

Joint coordination

The campaigns drew on the

cooperation of several government bodies, including the Ministry of Interior's Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA), the respective Police Directorates in each governorate, the General Directorate of Civil Defence, the Social Insurance Organisation,

the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. This broad collaboration underscored the government's commitment to upholding the stability of the labour market.

Public reporting call

The LMRA stressed that inspections would continue in coordination with partner agencies to curb practices that undermine the Kingdom's economic and social security. The Authority urged members of the public to support these efforts by reporting illegal labour activity through its website, call centre (17506055), or the government's Suggestions and Complaints System (Tawasul).

Protecting stability

Officials said that targeting violations linked to the LMRA and Residency Laws was essential to preserving fair competition and safeguarding social stability. The Authority reiterated its pledge to intensify inspection campaigns across all governorates

'Unrealistic plan'

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

"Unrealistic for Bahraini families," said MP Hamad Al Doy of the Philippines' plan to set a \$400-500 minimum for Filipino domestic workers within 60 days and to require pre-contract video interviews and digital welfare checks.

He said the move would add to household costs and unsettle the domestic labour market, warning that some families might forgo hiring or turn to irregular recruitment.

Review

Al Doy added that MPs are preparing to review parts of the Domestic Work Law to balance worker protections with Bahraini family interests.

The Philippines' Department of Migrant Workers has notified recruitment offices in Bahrain and other Gulf states of the new package.

The department has asked that the higher wage be written into all contracts it processes, saying the new floor recognises domestic work as work of equal value that merits fair pay.

Contract

Annual medical examinations and treatment for work-related accidents or illnesses are also required, alongside continued enforcement of the Standard Employment Contract, which guarantees housing, suitable living conditions and at least one full day of rest each week.

The measures will apply to newly hired workers, those on leave and returnees on renewed contracts after the 60-day window.

A compulsory 'Know Your Employer' step will introduce a video call between the prospective worker and the employer before any contract is signed so the worker understands duties, workplace conditions, family make-up, rest periods and accommodation, and gives full, informed consent before deployment.

Responses

A digital care-monitoring system will see designated social-welfare case officers check in by call or message, assess responses for welfare concerns and refer cases for legal, medical, psychosocial or financial help, or for reintegration where needed.

The department also plans stricter standards for accommodation facilities run by agencies, including safe lodging, food, mattresses and internet access, and says it will coordinate with host governments to observe local laws.



"The move would add to household costs and unsettle the domestic labour market."

- MP HAMAD AL DOY

"A rise would be a 'shock' for citizens and would chiefly hit families."

- MONA AL MULLA, BAHRAIN ASSOCIATION FOR RECRUITMENT AGENCIES

Mona Al Mulla of the Bahrain Association for Recruitment Agencies said a rise of about 26 per cent in recruitment costs for Filipino domestic workers, roughly \$100, would be a 'shock' for citizens and would chiefly hit families.

Costs

She said other nationalities might follow suit, pushing costs higher.

Al Mulla noted that Bahrain records relatively few disputes involving domestic workers thanks to strict labour laws, hotlines run by the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) and awareness sessions provided by the Philippine embassy on arrival.

Al Mulla questioned the basis for such a steep rise and pointed out that the new conditions add duties such as an end-of-service gratuity while Bahraini employers already pay for housing, living costs, clothing and care.

Sourcing

She urged the authorities to widen sourcing to countries comparable to the Philippines.

A missing agreement with Ethiopia has halted direct recruitment from Addis Ababa and forced agencies to route workers through third countries, adding time and expense.

She called on the LMRA and the Foreign Ministry to conclude an agreement with Ethiopia quickly to ease recruitment and reduce burdens, and pressed for talks with the Philippine side so any rise is moderate, well considered and does not harm Bahraini families.

Ethiopian Consulate Invites Public to New Year Festivities

Consulate in Bahrain opens doors to all for Enkutatash celebrations

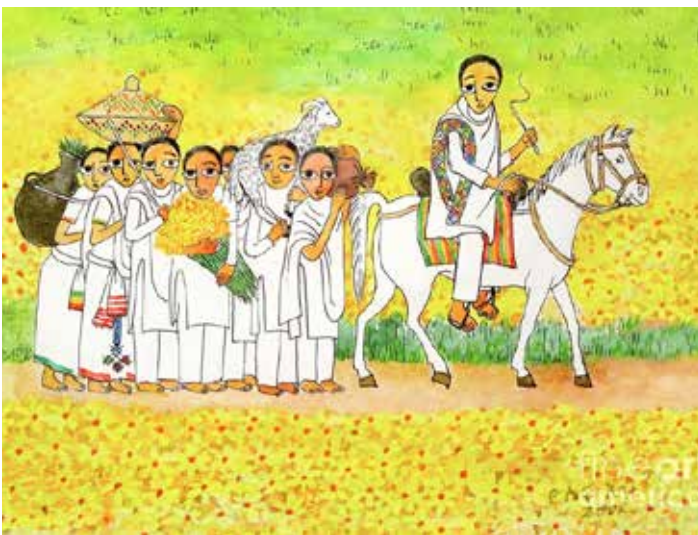
● Ethiopian calendar runs seven years behind

● New Year falls in September each year

● Public invited to Adhari Park event

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The Consulate General Office of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Bahrain has invited the public to join Enkutatash celebrations at Adhari Park on September 5th, starting from 3 PM. The cultural evening will feature traditional Ethiopian dances, the renowned coffee ceremony, and other highlights



A unique traditional celebration

aimed at showcasing the country's heritage.

Unlike much of the world

that ushers in the New Year on January 1, Ethiopia follows its own ancient calendar. Known as

Enkutatash, the Ethiopian New Year falls in September, marking the end of the rainy season and the beginning of sunshine and prosperity. This year, Ethiopia will celebrate the arrival of 2018 on September 11, while the Gregorian calendar marks 2025.

The seven-year gap is rooted in differing calculations of the birth of Jesus Christ. While the Roman Church fixed the year in AD 1, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church placed it in 8 AD, resulting in Ethiopia's calendar running about seven years behind.

Enkutatash, which means "gift of jewels," is also tied to seasonal blooms of the yellow "Meskel Flower," symbolizing hope and renewal. For Ethiopians, it is a time of reflection, forgiveness, and fresh beginnings.

MP welcomes move to end 16-year wait for labour and Waqf staff

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Forty-seven Bahrainis working on temporary contracts at the Labour Ministry and 20 at the Jaafari Waqf have been made permanent after more than 16 years of petitions and delay.

MP Jalal Kadhem welcomed the move, announced by Acting Labour Minister Yusuf Khalaf



MP Jalal Kadhem

and Jaafari Waqf Council Chairman Yusuf Al Saleh.

He said the decision ended years of insecurity for workers and would bring relief to their families after long uncertainty.

Kadhem called on all ministries and government bodies to close the file of temporary contracts and switch them to permanent terms.

Royal patronage drives success

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Her Excellency Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfiqi, Minister of Youth Affairs, highlighted the successes of Youth City 2030 this year, attributing them to the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The Minister added that the



H.E. Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfiqi

directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad

Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, has provided a foundation for youth initiatives, positioning young people as a cornerstone of sustainable development in Bahrain.

She hailed the vision of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of HM the King for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs and Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, whose directives focus on providing quality training.