

# Fines, jail for insulting public servants

Parliament considers higher penalties for insulting public service employees

- **Bill proposes raising fines for insulting public service employees from BD50 to BD500**
- **Stricter penalties apply for insults made in court, with jail terms of at least three months or fines of BD1,000 or more**
- **MP Ali Al Nuaimi said the law aims to protect public employees**

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Higher fines and possible jail terms could soon be imposed on anyone who insults a public service employee, under a draft bill referred to the Foreign Affairs, Defence, and National Security Committee.

The proposed amendments to Article 222 of the Penal Code would raise the maximum fine for such offences from

Dr Ali Al Nuaimi,  
MP



BD50 to BD500. The law covers insults delivered through gestures, speech, writing, or any other means against a public employee—or anyone performing a public service—while carrying out their duties.

Stricter penalties are also proposed for insults made in court, directed at the judiciary as a body or at individual judges. In such cases, offenders could face at least three months in prison or a fine of no less than BD1,000.

MP Ali Al Nuaimi, who submitted the draft, emphasised the importance of safeguarding public employees, describing them as “the main pillar



Representative picture

on which the state is built” and essential to implementing government programmes and policies. He noted that Article 222 had been in force for decades,

but the existing penalties had not provided sufficient deterrence, prompting the proposed increase in fines and tougher legal consequences.

## Jid Ali sewer project to serve 274 properties as works near completion

- **Large parts of the Capital Governorate, including the Seventh Constituency, have been covered by sewer networks**
- **About 90 per cent of Block 721 has already been connected to the sewer network**

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Sewage services for properties in Block 721 in Jid Ali are set to be completed under a sewer network project that will eventually serve around 274 properties, the Ministry of Works has said.

In a reply to a question from MP Zainab Abdul-

lAmeer, the ministry confirmed that detailed designs for the project are ready and the necessary work permits have been secured. It noted that about 90 per cent of Block 721 has already been connected to the sewer network.

The remaining works will be implemented in a single phase, with the project expected to be put out to public tender in 2026.

The ministry said that large parts of the Capital Governorate, including the Seventh Constituency, have been covered by sewer networks in recent years. It added that infrastructure projects are being carried



**A modern sewer system does more than carry away wastewater – it plays a crucial role in public health by preventing the spread of water-borne diseases and protecting groundwater and coastal areas from contamination.**

ried out across Bahrain in line with approved priorities.

These priorities take into account factors such as the level of urban development, technical feasibility, the importance of the service and the approved budget, with ongoing coordination between the Ministry of Works, the Capital Municipal Council and the three municipal councils.

The ministry also said its wider work programme includes constructing sewer networks, paving unpaved roads and maintaining existing roads, alongside other infrastructure services.



## Half-fine traffic deal hits another roadblock in Shura

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A proposal allowing traffic offenders to settle violations by paying half the minimum fine within 30 days has returned to the Shura Council, but a key committee is urging members to block it once again.

The Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee has recommended that the chamber uphold its earlier

decision to reject the draft law in principle, ahead of a scheduled discussion on Sunday.

The move follows a renewed vote in the Council of Representatives on November 11, 2025, when MPs reaffirmed their support for the amendment and referred it back to the upper chamber under Article 84 of the Constitution.

The draft seeks to amend Article 56 of the Traffic Law by introducing a single settlement rule under which offenders who accept a compromise would pay an amount equal to half the minimum fine within 30 days of the offer.

The committee noted that Article 56 already permits settlement for a specified list of traffic offences, allowing the General Direc-

Dr Ali Al Rumaihi,  
Head of Shura's  
Foreign Affairs,  
Defence and National  
Security Committee



torate of Traffic to close cases before they reach the Public Prosecution. Under the current law, a reduced settlement amount is linked to payment within seven days, creating an incentive for early compliance.

It warned that removing the seven-day provision and replacing it with a uniform 30-day window would weaken this incentive.

The committee also pointed to Decree-Law No. 30 of 2025, which amended the same law and increased fines, adding new offences to the list eligible for settlement. It said the proposed amendment would not align well with those recent changes.

In its report, the committee stressed the need for penalties to remain proportionate to offences, noting that fines serve as a deterrent against repeat violations and dangerous driving that can result in serious injury or death.

The Shura Council had previously rejected the draft at its April 13, 2025 session, but the elected chamber's insistence has brought it back for reconsideration.

## Final arguments set in false news and foreign state insult trial

Rehab Mohammad  
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The Fourth Lower Criminal Court has adjourned a case involving a defendant accused of broadcasting false news and insulting a foreign state to December 29 for final arguments.

At a previous hearing, the Public Prosecution presented its written and oral submissions and called for the maximum penalty to be imposed.

According to court records, the defendant appeared in a televised interview during which

he allegedly made statements calling for chaos and inciting instability. Prosecutors said he urged Bahraini and Arab citizens to revolt against their governments, describing them as submissive, and accused several Arab states of collusion and conspiracy against the Pal-

estinian cause, while claiming that others remained silent and inactive.

The case stems from a report received by the Cybercrime Directorate, which monitored the televised interview and related social media content in which the defendant alleg-

edly made false and offensive statements.

The Chief Prosecutor told the court that while the Constitution guarantees freedom of opinion and expression, this right is subject to the law and does not extend to acts that undermine national unity, incite

division or violate legal provisions. He stressed that broadcasting false news, spreading inflammatory propaganda and rumours, and insulting states are criminal offences punishable under the law, and fall outside the scope of constitutionally protected expression.