

No Court Challenges

MPs approve decree placing citizenship decisions beyond court review

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

MPs approved a decree-law classifying nationality decisions as sovereign acts, effectively placing them beyond judicial review.

Decree-Law No. 13 of 2024 amends Article 7 of the Judicial Authority Law so that nationality matters fall outside the courts' jurisdiction. It also repeals provisions of the 1963 Bahraini Nationality Law that previously allowed related legal challenges.

Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf Minister Nawaf Al



Maawda told lawmakers the legislation was introduced in a specific 2024 context and its discussion at this stage completed the legal process.

He said nationality decisions were sovereign in nature and linked to national security and

“Nationality matters are not punishments in the legal sense. They are sovereign decisions taken by the state based on higher considerations”

H.E. NAWAF AL MAAWDA, MINISTER OF JUSTICE, ISLAMIC AFFAIRS AND WAQF

higher state interests, stressing they were administrative decisions rather than legal penalties.

“Nationality matters are not punishments in the legal sense,” he said, adding that many countries allow governments discretion over granting or with-

drawing citizenship.

During the debate, some MPs backed the move, describing nationality as a matter of loyalty and national belonging, particularly concerning security.

MP Mohammed Al Ma'arfi said nationality was a sensitive



Jameel Mulla Hassan, MP



Mohammed Al Ma'arfi, MP

sovereign issue directly tied to state stability and security, noting that existing law already provides grounds for revocation in cases involving threats to national security.

The approval marks a shift reinforcing executive authority over nationality decisions, offering no judicial avenue for challenge under the amended framework.

Tightens company liability rules

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Parliament has approved major amendments to the Commercial Companies Law, introducing stricter accountability for company managers and expanding digital business practices, as the kingdom moves to strengthen its regulatory framework ahead of an international review.

The changes were passed on Tuesday through Decree-Law No. 38 of 2025, following approval from the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee.

The government said the reforms aim to modernise company legislation, enhance transparency, and close legal loopholes in preparation for Bahrain's evaluation by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in March 2026.

Industry and Commerce Minister, His Excellency Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, said the



H.E. Abdulla Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce

amendments respond to rapid economic and technological developments and are designed to make Bahrain's business environment more competitive and investor-friendly.

A key provision expands liability under Article 18 to include individuals who effectively manage companies, even without holding official positions.

Those involved in gross negligence, misconduct, or legal vi-



Ahmed Al Salloom, MP

olations may now face personal or joint liability.

Meetings

The law also allows companies to hold general meetings and voting sessions electronically, provided identity verification and proper documentation are ensured.

Additional reforms permit the establishment of single-shareholder closed joint-



Reforms allow single-shareholder closed joint-stock companies and give partners 90 days to decide business continuity after major changes.

stock companies and extend the period to 90 working days for partners to decide the future of a business following major structural changes such as death, insolvency, or withdrawal.

MPs back Bahrain-Pakistan inmate transfer agreement



Ahmed Qarata, Parliament's Second Deputy Speaker



Mohammed Salman Al Ahmed, MP

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helping reduce enforcement costs.

A new legal framework will allow Bahrainis and Pakistanis convicted in each other's countries to serve their prison sentences in their home nations, following the ratification of a prisoner transfer agreement between Bahrain and Pakistan.

The agreement, linked to Decree No. 19 of 2026, sets out procedures for transferring sentenced individuals to complete custodial terms closer to their families, while ensuring continued enforcement of judicial rulings.

The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf said the arrangement establishes a structured legal pathway that supports rehabilitation and reintegration into society, without requiring amendments to existing Bahraini legislation.

It added that the receiving country will bear most enforcement costs.

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) expressed support for the measure, saying it is consistent with constitutional principles and Bahrain's international human rights commitments.

Lawmakers described the agreement as a step with both humanitarian and practical benefits, noting that it eases the burden on inmates and families while

At the same time, MPs called for broader judicial cooperation frameworks, including extradition treaties and mechanisms for enforcing court rulings across borders, particularly with countries hosting large expatriate communities in Bahrain.



“The draft aligns with constitutional principles and Bahrain's international human rights obligations”

NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The agreement comprises 22 articles and allows transfer requests to be submitted by the convicted person or a representative, subject to conditions including final sentencing, consent, and nationality requirements.

It also stipulates that transfers must not affect the national security or legal interests of either country.

Under the terms, sentences will continue to be enforced according to the laws of the receiving country, while preserving their legal effect. Once completed, the sentence is considered served in the country where the conviction was originally issued.

MP calls for review after 6,640 power cuts

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Parliament member has urged a review of electricity disconnection policies after 6,640 Bahraini residential accounts were cut off for non-payment, according to figures presented to Parliament.

MP Hassan Ebrahim said the data, provided in a written response by the Electricity and Water Affairs Ministry, showed a wider issue in how overdue bills are handled before supply is disconnected.

According to the ministry, 15,554 electricity accounts across all categories were disconnected between November 2025 and February 2026 due to unpaid bills.

The MP also questioned the effectiveness of current warning systems and payment arrangements, noting that the authority issues up to six notices and allows 53 days before disconnection.



H.E. YASSER HUMAIDAN, MINISTER OF ELECTRICITY AND WATER AFFAIRS

“Overdue electricity and water bills have reached BD84.01 million”

Despite this, arrears and disconnections remain high, he said.

According to ministry figures, overdue electricity and water bills totalled BD84.01 million, with Bahraini households



HASSAN EBRAHIM, MP

“The total number of disconnections across all categories is high enough to require a full policy review”

accounting for a significant share.

The ministry said electricity production, transmission and distribution cost BD550.8 million in 2024, with government support covering around 32 per



Electricity generation, transmission, and distribution cost BD550.8 million in 2024, with the government covering about 32% of the total.

cent of the total cost.

MP Ebrahim called for faster rollout of energy-saving initiatives and renewable energy programmes, particularly ahead of peak summer demand.