

New tech for faster building permits

BIM pilot targets automated checks and improved engineering accuracy

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The Kingdom launched the pilot phase of a Digital Building Information Modelling (BIM) project to develop and streamline the building permit process, announced Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Eng. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak announced.

The project, launched in co-ordination with the Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA), will use digital building models to improve the accu-

racy and efficiency of building permit reviews and approvals.

Al Mubarak said the initiative is part of Bahrain's digital transformation efforts and aims to accelerate procedures, reduce time and costs for investors and developers, and improve the quality of engineering data and outputs.

The Ministry is working to integrate BIM with the "Benayat" building permit system, with the aim of incorporating the technology into a unified licensing system and enabling faster and more accurate permit issuance.

The pilot will initially cover selected government and private projects in Diyar Al Muharraq, Salman City and the Bahrain International Investment Park (BIIP). The results will be assessed before developing a national roadmap



The BIM project represents a strategic step in developing Bahrain's building permit system.

ENG. WAEL BIN NASSER AL MUBARAK, MINISTER OF MUNICIPALITIES AFFAIRS AND AGRICULTURE



The project reflects government integration in adopting advanced digital technologies to improve services and accelerate procedures.

MOHAMMED ALI AL QAED, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, INFORMATION & EGOVERNMENT AUTHORITY

to expand the system across Bahrain.

iGA Chief Executive Officer Mohammed Ali Al Qaed said the project reflects government co-operation in adopting advanced digital technologies to improve services and support urban and investment development.

He said the system will contribute to faster electronic re-

views and approvals while improving data accuracy, transparency and information sharing between relevant authorities.

Al Mubarak said the project represents a strategic step in developing Bahrain's building permit system and supporting the objectives of Bahrain Economic Vision 2030.



9km Coastal Stretch Proposed for Public Use

Council says coast should stay open to families and fishermen while protecting village ties to the sea

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Mohammed Darwish

A 3.9km public sea-front stretching past four Northern Governorate villages is being sought as an open shore for families, fishermen and visitors, after years of calls to protect access to the coast.

The proposed strip would run past Karranah, Jid Al Haj, Janusan and Barbar along Al Nakheel Highway, Northern Municipal Council chairman Sayed Shubber Al Wadaei said.

'People have a right to access the coast under the law,' he told The Daily Tribune, adding that the council wanted future plans to keep the area's ties with fishing, pearl diving and village life.

A government reply sent to the council in September 2021 said a public coast about 3,900 metres long had been proposed, with service areas expected for residents and visitors.

The push to protect the shore-



Barbar beach

line dates back years. Fishermen once used it as a launch point for fishing grounds and pearl-diving sites, while nearby villages relied on the sea for work and income.

Al Wadaei described it as 'a historic stretch of coast long tied to village life'.

Community groups from Karranah, Jid Al Haj, Janusan and Barbar met at the municipal council in June 2018 and drew up a 14-point document covering public access, local services and protection of the villages' coastal identity.

The Northern Municipal



Sayed Shubber Al Wadaei, Northern Municipal Council Chairman

Council later adopted the findings and has continued to press for leisure areas, public access and space for fishermen.

Environmental studies are also being carried out along the Al Nakheel Highway shoreline. A specialist company has met the council and gathered information on the coast, its natural features and nearby communities.

But there is still no firm date for work to begin.

Al Wadaei said the scheme was classed as a major government project, with decisions on funding, timing and delivery resting with the government.

The council is also dealing with rubbish, stranded boats, fishing gear and sand deposits around Barbar's boat anchorage and fishermen's channel.

Fishermen agreed to form a local watch group to report littering and other breaches, while other steps included removing boats left on the shore, organising fish traps, providing waste bins and putting up warning signs.

The council has also asked the Supreme Council for Environment to discuss a fishermen-led plan to clear sand deposits that hinder boat movements.

Al Wadaei said residents had waited years to see the shoreline brought back into public use.

The aim, he said, was to give families room by the sea while preserving the villages' long ties to fishing and the coast.

Night Building Curbs Urged After Daily Complaints



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Mohammed Darwish

Students, workers and elderly residents are losing sleep to late-night building work, leading to calls for strict limits on when contractors can use noisy machinery.

Abdulla Abdul Latif, chairman of the Southern Municipal Council, told The Daily Tribune that complaints over night-time construction noise reach him daily. He said builders who break the rules should face proposed fines of up to BD5,000.

He named Blocks 914 and 934 among areas where residents have complained and proposed limiting noisy work in housing areas to 6 a.m. to noon and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

'Every day I receive complaints,' Mr Abdul Latif said. 'Students and employees need to sleep, and this affects the quality of their work.'

He said drilling, breaking concrete, heavy machinery use, and roadworks late at night leave families struggling to rest.

Some asphaltting is carried out around 1am to avoid traffic, he said, but the noise from machinery can still carry into nearby homes.

Mr Abdul Latif said the strain is especially hard on older people, patients and workers returning home tired after night shifts.

He wants construction permits to specify exactly when work can take place, with separate hours where needed during the summer and the same rules applied by every municipality.

Those who break the rules should face a proposed BD5,000 fine, he said.

Municipal inspectors should also be able to place a violation sticker on a site and



Abdulla Abdul Latif, Chairman of the Southern Municipal Council

record the building number as being in breach. Permit suspension should be available for serious or repeated cases.

'Stopping the licence is the solution,' he said.

Mr Abdul Latif argued that much of the change could be made through a ministerial decision rather than waiting for Parliament to pass a new law.

He said working hours could become another condition attached to a building permit, much like rules requiring sites to be fenced before work starts.

He also called for municipalities to have clear power to decide when building, demolition, digging and other noisy work must stop in housing areas.

Some road, utility and emergency jobs will still need to be carried out at night, he said, but those cases should require prior permission and clear limits.

'The aim is not to stop construction, but to regulate it,' Mr Abdul Latif said. 'The contractor has the right to finish his project, the worker has rights, and the citizen has a basic right to rest and sleep inside his home.'

Residents can send complaints and written requests to the municipal council, which can pass them to the complaints and inspection section for follow-up, he added.

4,500 Workers Benefit from ICRF Summer Drive

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Pradeep Puravankara

The Indian Community Relief Forum (ICRF) Bahrain successfully concluded its annual "Thirst-Quenchers 2026" summer awareness campaign yesterday, marking the completion of its 11th consecutive year.

Organized in alignment with the Ministry of Labour's summer safety initiatives, the final event took place at a major worksite in Sitra, where cold water, juices, fresh fruits, laban, and ice cream were distributed to over 500 outdoor workers.

Supported by the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Labour, the Labour Market Regulator



Authority (LMRA), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the 2026 campaign reached over 4,500 workers across 11 weekly sessions. Since its inception in 2016, the initiative has directly impacted more than 26,000 outdoor

workers across the Kingdom.

Addressing the workers at Sitra, Eng. Hussain Al Husaini, Head of Workers at the Ministry of Labour, highlighted the government's ongoing measures and support to ensure a safe working environment during



the peak summer months. ICRF Advisor Dr. Babu Ramachandran also provided crucial advice on heat safety, hydration, and preventing heat-related illnesses.

"The scorching summer months present significant chal-

lenges for outdoor laborers," said ICRF Chairman Adv. V. K. Thomas. "Through this campaign, our goal is to offer both immediate relief and essential education on health, hydration, and safety precautions. We extend our sincere gratitude to

the Ministry of Labour, LMRA, IOM, and our dedicated volunteers for making this effort a continuous success."

Campaign coordinators Chemban Jalal and Ruchi Chakraborty noted the program's steady expansion over the past decade into a major community outreach model.

The concluding event saw participation from ICRF Vice Chairman

Pankaj Nallur, Advisor Aruldas Thomas, Joint Secretary Javad Pasha, Treasurer Uday Shanbhagh, alongside representatives from the Bohra community, the ICAI Bahrain Chapter, Science of Spirituality, and student volunteers.