

Call for urgent action against park vandalism

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Children arriving at parks are now met with broken benches, damaged walkways, and neglected corners before they even find a place to sit.

Public spaces across the Northern Governorate continue to suffer from repeated acts of vandalism.

This growing reality pushed Abdulla Al Qubaisi, Northern Municipal Council member for the Ninth Constituency, to demand urgent action to stop what he described as ongoing misuse and destruction of public facilities.

He warned that the problem is no longer about maintenance, but about protecting public money and community spaces.

Raising the issue during a question presented in the council's remote session on maintenance budgets for parks and walkways, Al Qubaisi stressed that increasing spending alone will not resolve the issue, cautioning against allowing vandals to continue unchecked while public funds are repeatedly spent on repairs that do not last.

From the municipality's side, Director-General Mohammed Al Sahli acknowledged the scale of the challenge, stating that while the government remains committed to delivering quality services, weak public compliance continues to undermine these efforts.

Price transparency

MP Al Doy files instalment sales bill setting prison term and BD5,000 fine for unlicensed traders

Protecting buyers from concealed charges in payment plans

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Hidden mark-ups in instalment deals would face new checks under a bill by MP Hamad Al Doy requiring sellers to disclose the original price, the final instalment price and the yearly interest rate, with unlicensed traders facing up to one year in prison and fines of up to BD5,000.

The draft law would bring instalment sales under a dedicated legal framework in Bahrain, covering goods and services sold on deferred payment terms, even where the deal is described as a lease.

Sales of real estate by instalments would remain outside its scope.

Any company or sole trader wishing to carry out instalment sales would need a licence from the ministry concerned with trade.

Transactions

Sellers would also have to keep a special register for those transactions in a form to be set by the ministry.

The bill would require each contract to spell out the seller's



Image used for illustrative purposes only



trade name, address, commercial registration number and contact details, along with the buyer's name, nationality, occupation, address and contact details.

It would also have to identify the product, state the cash price, the instalment price, the down payment, the deferred balance, the true annual interest

rate, how that rate is worked out, when interest starts, the repayment term, the number and value of instalments, payment dates, penalties for delay, and the rights and duties linked to ownership of the product during the repayment period. Contracts could also be made electronically.

Al Doy said Bahrain still



Any company or sole trader wishing to carry out instalment sales would need a licence from the ministry concerned with trade.

lacked a full legal framework for a type of sale that had become common.

He said there was "no integrated regulation" for instalment sales despite their importance and wide use among contracting parties.

The lawmaker said court cases had exposed a gap in the law, with some contracts failing to state the original price of the product or the amount added through interest, and instead showing only one total figure divided into monthly instalments.

"The practical application has revealed a legislative shortcoming in regulating this type of commercial sale," he wrote.

That gap, he said, left courts to rule on the figure written into the contract even where it was well above the market price.

Worth

He added that this had led to products sold by instalments being priced above their real worth because of high interest charges, and argued that new rules were needed to "protect and balance the relationship between the contracting parties".

The bill would also curb a seller's power to cancel a sale after missed payments.

A court would not be allowed to rescind the contract if the buyer had already carried out 75 per cent of their duties.

If the sale were cancelled, the seller would have to return the instalments already paid after deducting an amount for use of the item and compensation for damage caused by abnormal use.

Agreement

Any agreement placing a heavier burden on the buyer would be void.

Another clause would stop the full unpaid balance from becoming due after a single missed instalment.

That would be allowed only if the buyer had failed to pay at least two instalments in a row.

Right

Buyers would also be given the right to settle early and receive a reduction equal to the interest due for the period cut short by early payment.

Any agreement denying that right would be void.



GULF INTERNATIONAL BANK B.S.C. - RETAIL BRANCH

Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	31.12.25 BHD	31.12.24 BHD
ASSETS		
Cash and other liquid assets	2,317,361	1,448,495
Placements	19,999,083	24,600,000
Loans and advances	2,788,343	4,149,444
Due from related parties	97,333,258	54,212,343
Equipment	45,082	77,005
Other assets	52,655	128,070
Total assets	122,535,782	84,615,357
LIABILITIES		
Deposits from banks	26,131,726	-
Deposits from customers	68,076,798	47,982,596
Due to related parties	6,673,783	14,644,080
Other liabilities	1,935,959	786,297
Total liabilities	102,818,266	63,412,973
HEAD OFFICE ACCOUNT		
Capital funds	20,000,000	20,000,000
(Accumulated losses) / Retained earnings	(282,484)	1,202,384
Total Head Office account	19,717,516	21,202,384
Total liabilities and Head Office account	122,535,782	84,615,357

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	Year ended 31.12.25 BHD	31.12.24 BHD
Interest income	3,877,086	3,000,579
Interest expense	2,203,691	1,386,351
Net interest income	1,673,395	1,614,228
Net fee and commission income	63,007	473,786
Foreign exchange income	529,362	483,169
Other income	41,170	27,678
Total income	2,306,934	2,598,861
Staff expenses	397,564	368,061
Premises expenses	38,410	37,419
Depreciation and amortisation	31,922	75,926
Other operating expenses	518,291	718,145
Head office charges	1,850,774	-
Total operating expenses	2,836,961	1,199,551
Net (loss) / income before provisions and tax	(530,027)	1,399,310
Provision release / (charge) for expected credit losses	247,543	(196,926)
Net (loss) / income for the year	(282,484)	1,202,384
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	(282,484)	1,202,384

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN HEAD OFFICE ACCOUNT	Capital funds BHD	Retained earnings BHD	Total BHD
At 1st January 2025	20,000,000	1,202,384	21,202,384
Transactions with Head Office:			
Transfer of profit to Head Office	-	(1,202,384)	(1,202,384)
Total transactions with Head Office	20,000,000	-	20,000,000
Comprehensive income:			
Net loss for the year	-	(282,484)	(282,484)
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income	-	(282,484)	(282,484)
At 31st December 2025	20,000,000	(282,484)	19,717,516
At 1st January 2024	20,000,000	972,034	20,972,034
Transactions with Head Office:			
Transfer of profit to Head Office	-	(972,034)	(972,034)
Total transactions with Head Office	20,000,000	-	20,000,000
Comprehensive income:			
Net income for the year	-	1,202,384	1,202,384
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income	-	1,202,384	1,202,384
At 31st December 2024	20,000,000	1,202,384	21,202,384

The financial statements have been approved on 29th March 2026 and signed by:-

Mushari AlOtaibi Acting Head of Retail Banking
Asif Saherwala Chief Financial Officer - GIB B.S.C. (Retail Branch) & Group Head of Financial Control

The statement of financial position, statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in head office account and statement of cash flows have been extracted from the financial statements of GIB's B.S.C. Retail Branch for the year ended 31st December 2025 which were audited by KPMG Fakhro who have expressed an unqualified audit opinion on 29th March 2026.

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Gulf International Bank B.S.C. - Retail Branch is licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain as a conventional retail bank

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS	Year ended 31.12.25 BHD	31.12.24 BHD
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net (loss) / income for the year	(282,484)	1,202,384
Adjustments for:		
Provision (release) / charge for expected credit losses	(247,543)	196,926
Depreciation and amortisation	31,923	75,926
Operating income before changes in operating assets and liabilities	(498,104)	1,475,236
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Statutory deposit with the Central Bank	(319,000)	(580,000)
Loans and advances	1,608,644	7,631,042
Due from related parties	(43,120,915)	(31,547,592)
Other assets	75,415	44,248
Deposits from banks	26,131,726	-
Deposits from customers	20,094,202	18,833,296
Due to related parties	(7,970,297)	(11,458,919)
Other liabilities	1,149,662	(397,270)
Net Cash flows used in operating activities	(2,848,667)	(15,999,959)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Capitalised work in progress	-	(1,541)
Net cash flows used in investing activities	-	(1,541)
FINANCING ACTIVITY		
Transfer of profit Head Office	(1,202,384)	(972,034)
Net Cash flows used in financing activity	(1,202,384)	(972,034)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(4,051,051)	(16,973,534)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1st January	25,039,495	42,013,029
Cash and cash equivalents at 31st December	20,988,444	25,039,495

Below is a reconciliation between cash and other liquid assets as presented in the statement of financial position to the cash and cash equivalents balances:

	31.12.25 BHD	31.12.24 BHD
Cash and cash equivalents	2,317,361	1,448,495
Less: statutory deposits with central banks	(1,328,000)	(1,009,000)
Add: placements with original maturities of less than three months	19,999,083	24,600,000
Cash and cash equivalents at 31st December	20,988,444	25,039,495