

# Health rights on the table

MPs to discuss constitutional amendment for free healthcare

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MPs are expected to discuss a proposed constitutional amendment regarding the provision of free healthcare services in the upcoming session.

The proposal has already been approved by the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee and has been referred to the Speaker's Office.

The proposed amendment seeks to replace Article 8(a) of the Constitution, which currently states: "Every citizen has the right to free healthcare, and the State shall care for public health

and ensure the means of prevention and treatment by establishing various types of hospitals and health institutions."

The explanatory memorandum accompanying the proposal states that the "right to health" is considered a fundamental right that imposes a positive obligation on the state to ensure that all citizens have access to comprehensive healthcare coverage without any financial barriers to obtaining treatment.

The memorandum further explains that free healthcare services should include the complete range of necessary and quality health services, from



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health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and care.

## Positive impact

The proposed constitutional amendment is deemed a necessary choice to guarantee that Bahraini citizens have access to free healthcare, which would have a positive impact on both the individual and the community.

By providing a suitable health environment with a package of preventive, educational, and curative services, the state can ensure the overall health and well-being of the citizens,

as mandated by the Constitution, the memorandum points out.

"Moreover, the provision of free healthcare services for citizens is expected to alleviate the state's burden of caring for the elderly, as they would have access to appropriate free treatment for their simple and non-costly health issues throughout their lives. This, in turn, is seen as a cornerstone of long-term economic development, which would help protect and stabilise the social and economic conditions of Bahraini families," the memorandum further explains.

## Online lecture on Filipino hero legacy

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The Embassy of the Philippines has commemorated the 160th Birth Anniversary of Apolinario Mabini by participating in a live streamed lecture by Dr. Ambeth Ocampo entitled, "Apolinario Mabini: Conscience of the First Republic".

The event was organized by the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs. Mabini was the first Secretary of Foreign Affairs from 23 June 1898 to 1900.

After the lecture, a bust of Mabini was installed at the Conference Room of the Embassy, which has been named Apolinario Mabini Hall.

Two paintings of Mabini by Mr. Butch Paje, a Filipino artist and member of Filipino Creatives Bahrain, were also unveiled on the occasion.

Her Excellency Ambassador Anne Jalando-on Louie conveyed the Embassy's appreciation to Mr. Paje for the paintings that he has donated to the Embassy.

## Scholarships for top graduates approved



H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma speaks at the event

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

The Minister of Education, His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, has approved the scholarship and grant results for the outstanding high school graduates of the 2023-2024 academic year.

These results are now accessible on the Ministry's website for students and parents.

The Minister expressed his thanks to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for their support for education and their continued assistance to students within



1,500 students from government and private schools applied for scholarships, with 1,200 (80% of the applicants) securing their first or second choices.

Bahrain's educational system, as demonstrated by various

government initiatives prioritising education.

This announcement came during the Minister's reception for the top students from both government and private schools in Bahrain, along with their parents.

He personally met with the top 30 students from private schools, government boys' schools, and government girls' schools.

The Minister congratulated these top students, expressing pride in their achievements, which earned them scholarships.

He also acknowledged the essential role of parents in supporting their children's educational journey.

## Derasat: Industrial and academic cooperation key to energy transition



Derasat report

## Innovative solutions for water management presented in report

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The Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat) has issued a report titled, "Industry - Academia Collaboration: Towards Advancing Energy Transition".

The report examines the role of collaboration between the industrial and academic sectors in advancing the energy transition in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

It was prepared by Dr. Abdulla Isa Al-Abbasi, Director of the Energy and Environment Program at Derasat's Studies and Research Directorate, and Eng. Sabeka Khalid Mohamed Ismaeel, Analyst in the same directorate.

The report is the result of Derasat organizing a series of discussion panels that included a diverse group of stakeholders, experts in the energy

field, academics, and researchers.

The purpose was to study the challenges and opportunities in this vital area for achieving sustainable development goals and arriving at economic solutions to support the transition and adoption of clean technologies.

## Non-conventional energy resources

The report further highlights the importance of non-conventional energy resources in meeting growing energy demands, and presents innovative solutions for water management.

It calls for enhanced collaboration between relevant sectors, and stresses the importance of collaborative frameworks between academia and industry for driving innovation and progress.

Derasat aims to contribute to supporting stakeholders and enhancing dialogue to address topics of national importance.

The report presents a number of recommendations to support efforts in the field of energy transition.

## Bahraini research paper supports climate action

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Bahrain made a noteworthy contribution to the 30th United Nations/Austria Symposium on "Climate Action: Transforming space-based technology projects into sustainable services that support policy-making," held in collaboration with the Austrian Space Agency.

Representing the National Space Science Agency (NSSA), researcher and engineer Aisha Al Muhannadi presented her pioneering research on using Earth observation technology to analyse chlorophyll levels in vegetation, an essential step towards promoting sustainable agricultural management in Bahrain.

Al Muhannadi's research paper was selected from thousands of submissions for its scientific merit and practical application of advanced space technology in support of climate action.

This selection reflects Bahrain's resolve to tackle climate change through inventive solutions and its involvement in the global conversation on this crucial issue.

Commenting on her participation, Al Muhannadi expressed her pride in representing Bahrain at this esteemed event: "I am incredibly proud to be part of this UN event



Engineer Aisha Al Muhannadi

and to represent Bahrain with a research paper chosen by the symposium organisers from among thousands of submissions. My paper was selected for its scientific merit and its application of advanced sciences in support of climate action."

The symposium provided a valuable platform for experts, policymakers, and stakeholders from around the world to discuss the essential role of space applications in addressing climate change challenges.