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Cooperation needed to employ more Bahrainis

THE Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Abdul Nabi Al Sho'ala, stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination between the Ministry and the private sector in providing Bahraini citizens with more job opportunities.

The Minister called for diversifying and upgrading the training sources to meet the actual requirements of the labour market in light of the current economic, social and demographic variables, and in line with the directives of the State of Bahrain for the overall development of the country.

The Minister held extended talks with a number of businessmen and representatives of private companies and agencies at the Le Royal Meridien yesterday.

The meeting was held to discuss the resolution issued by the Cabinet to increase

Bahrainisation by 5 per cent per annum in private companies and establishments where Bahraini work force represent less than 50 per cent.

The purpose of the meeting is to enhance dialogue between the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the private companies and establishments as regards this resolution, said the Minister.

"We aim to establish a solid ground of understanding with them in order to achieve the desired goals," the Minister explained. He praised the businessmen for displaying understanding and awareness in this respect.

The Ministry has adopted a number of measures to boost Bahrainisation and qualify national employees. These measures were favoured by the concerned authorities in a number of Gulf and Arab states and

other friendly countries.

They were also praised at a number of reports recently issued by specialised international organisations, in addition to the World Bank.

"The Ministry cannot work in isolation and without the support of the private sector," he said. "The opinions, advice and direct contacts of the private sector are always appreciated by the Ministry."

The Minister said that such coordination greatly contributes to the adoption of sound decisions and policies to bolster the economic and investment activities of the country, in addition to fulfilling the actual requirements of national labour at the domestic market.

The Minister praised the positive attitude of the private establishments in helping solve local labour problem.