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New drive to find jobs for more Bahrainis

A NEW drive has been launched to encourage private employers to hire more Bahraini workers.

Companies are to work closely with the Ministry of Labour, and two special working committees have been set up to develop ways of maximising the employment of Bahrainis.

The challenges were identified by employers at two working symposiums held earlier this year by the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala.

The latest partnership emerged after employers who were asked for their cooperation offered their help in finding solutions which they felt would achieve the Ministry's objectives.

Twenty-eight employers who had volunteered their services at the symposia formed two committees at a meeting held in the Ministry of Labour premises in Isa Town, which was attended by the Minister.

"Commencing a dialogue with private sector employers has helped create a new era of cooperation. For the first time employers and Ministry personnel have come together in a cohesive partnership using their joint expertise for the benefit of the whole community," the Minister said.

He added: "Our Ministry is open to suggestions from employers and welcomes the time and commitment they are now giving to help provide opportunities for Bahrainis in

the workforce."

Two committees have been formed, the first to work on changing attitudes and improving private sector human resource management processes. The second will evaluate the labour law Interpretation and Bahrainisation Percentage Requirements and Policies.

Attending the meeting were Abdul Hussain Faraj, Abdulla Al Ansari, Ahmed Al Dain, Shukri AW Qarooni, Stephen Ide, Maurice Burke, Bharat Jashenmal, Moh'd Janahi, Tariq Al Saffar, E. Peter Hansen Chris Jenkins, Adel M. Mattar, Sylvia Burdon, Afnan Al Zayani, Aqeel Raees, Mohammed Mansour, Yousif Awadi, Ali Birch, Jan Byland, Mohammed Hassani, Aziz Juma, Zwnat Dawani, Mazen Al Umran, Siddharth, Kishore Mathur, Samir Engineer and Ismail Kazerooni.

The committees will hold regular meetings to discuss the issues identified. They have been offered the full cooperation of the Labour Ministry staff, and any facts and figures which they require will be made available to them.

They have been asked to prepare a draft report by the end of September for presentation to the overall working group on 12 October. It is intended that a report of the complete findings will be presented to the Minister on 26 October.