

Bahrain



■ Mr Al Sho'ala, fourth from left, and Mr Raees, standing, with club members at the event

Outstanding staff honoured at club function

TWO outstanding employees were honoured at a lunch held by the Sulmaniya Rotary Club at the Hilton Hotel yesterday.

Abdulla Haidari from the Gulf Hotel and Khulood Yousef from Jawad Cold Stores were presented

awards at a luncheon ceremony by Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdalnabi Al Sho'ala.

The event, part of the club's vocational services month activities was attended by 80 Rotarians and their guests.

"The Rotarians were asked to nominate outstanding employees from their respective companies, who had achieved something in their careers and risen through the ranks," said club president Aqeel Raees.

Ten employees were selected, out of which two were chosen for their outstanding performance.

Mr Al Sho'ala also presented the other eight nominees with prizes and certificates.

'Think tanks' to boost jobs drive

MANAMA: Special 'think tanks' are being created to add impetus to Bahrain's jobs drive, it was revealed yesterday.

Top brains from private and government sectors will be pooled for advice on how best to use the country's precious human resources, said Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdul Nabi Al Sho'ala.

He told Sulmaniya Rotary Club's weekly luncheon meeting at the Hilton Hotel that the input of private professional organisations and firms was crucial.

"Such interaction is the only way to achieve purposeful objectives. Human resources development affects every area and is the cornerstone of our planning. Without the private sector a collective campaign will be impossible," he said.

So far the government was achieving its targets with impressive results. More than 300 companies now employ a 70 per

cent Bahraini workforce.

But on the downside, Mr Al Shoala revealed that of a total 4,191 businesses - 2,329 employed 'zero' Bahrainis!

"We are doing our best to ensure both locals and expatriates take their rightful places, without affecting productivity or confidence. Its a very big challenge,

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but with private sector help I am sure we will win," he said.

More sophisticated equipment and sources were now being used to obtain accurate and up-to-date labour market figures.

"If the facts are incorrect we are only creating bigger problems for ourselves". On the 'think tanks', Mr Al Sho'ala said these would be up and running in a couple of weeks.

"They will tap knowledge from professional organisations, private companies and every

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Boost for jobs drive

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ministry. Such an input will create a partnership effort. There will be no commands from the top to do this or that," he said.

One test-case employment scheme involves 120 newly-graduated engineers.

"The Ministry of Labour is contributing half of their salaries during their apprenticeships up to a maximum of BD150. Each will be subject to review and fine-tuning", he said, stressing that other key professions were also being focused in a similar way.

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DEVELOPMENT PACT IS AGREED

LABOUR and Social Affairs Minister Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala returned home from Muscat yesterday, after heading Bahrain's delegation to the 4th meeting of the GCC ministerial committee for economic and social planning.

Mr Al Sho'ala told the *Gulf News Agency* that the meeting was fruitful.

He said an agreement was reached on the possibility of adopting and unifying development plans in the GCC

member states.

Mr Al Sho'ala said the ministers stressed the necessity of consultation, co-ordination and exchange of information on such plans and to develop mechanisms and strengthen bonds among the concerned bodies in member states.

He said they agreed to formulate principles for the population strategy, and adopting an information programme that spreads awareness on the importance of planning for the

individual and for society.

They also encouraged the holding of more scientific meetings on issues related to planning and development, including the future of joint Gulf projects and the World Trade Organisation convention.

The ministers also discussed the GCC Supreme Council's resolution on employment and easy movement of GCC national manpower, for work in the production and services sectors.