**Disclaimer: The official version of the law and any amendments thereto is published in Arabic in the Official Gazette. This version of the law, including amendments thereto, is provided for guidance and easy reference purposes. The Legislation & Legal Opinion Commission does not accept any liability for any discrepancy between this version and the official version as published in the Official Gazette and / or any inaccuracy or errors in the translation.**

**For any corrections, remarks, or suggestions, kindly contact us on translate@lloc.gov.bh**

**Published on the website on April 2025**

**Legislative Decree No. (20) of 2016 Amending Some Provisions of Law No. (26) of 2014 Establishing the National Institution for Human Rights**

We, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Having reviewed the Constitution, in particular Article (38) thereof,

And Law No. (26) of 2014 Establishing the National Institution for Human Rights

And upon the submission of the Prime Minister,

And after the approval of the Cabinet,

Hereby Decree the following Law:

Article One

The texts of Articles (3), (5) Clauses (a) and (b), (6) Clause (b), (11), (12) Clause (g), (14) Clause (a), (20) the first paragraph of Clause (a) and the second paragraph, and (21) of Law No. (26) of 2014 Establishing the National Institution for Human Rights shall be replaced with the following texts:

"Article (3):

a. The Institution shall have a Council of Commissioners composed of eleven members, including the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, who are individuals of acknowledged competence and integrity.

b. Members of the Council of Commissioners shall be selected from advisory and academic bodies, civil society institutions, unions, social, economic, and professional entities, as well as human rights defenders, ensuring fair representation of women and minorities. Members may also be selected from the legislative authority, provided they do not constitute a majority within the Council of Commissioners. Such members may participate in discussions but shall not have voting rights.

c. A Royal Order shall be issued to specify the mechanism, procedures, and controls for selecting the members of the Council of Commissioners.

Article (5) Clauses (a) and (b):

a. A Royal Order shall be issued for the appointment of the members of the Council of Commissioners for a term of four years, renewable for similar periods, following consultations with relevant civil society institutions and other diverse groups. The Royal Order shall specify the full-time and part-time members, and the members shall perform their duties in their personal capacity.

b. The Council of Commissioners shall convene its first meeting under the chairmanship of the eldest present member to elect a Chair and Vice Chair from among the full-time members, for the duration of their appointment, by a relative majority of the attending members. In the event of a tie, the selection shall be determined by drawing lots. If the number of candidates matches the required number, they shall be declared elected by acclamation.

"Article (6) Clause (b):

b. Notwithstanding the provisions of Clause (b) of Article (3) of this Law, the meeting of the Council of Commissioners shall be valid with the presence of the majority of its members, including the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman, and its decisions shall be issued by a majority of the votes of the attending members. In case of a tie, the side of the Chairman of the meeting shall prevail.”

"Article (11):

A Royal Order shall be issued to determine the remuneration of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the full-time members, and the remuneration of the part-time members.

"Article (12) Clause (h):

h. Conducting announced and unannounced field visits to monitor the status of human rights in correctional institutions, places of detention, labour gatherings, health and educational institutions, or any other public place suspected of being a site of human rights violations.”

"Article (14) Clause (a):

a. The Institution may request any information, data, or documents it deems necessary to achieve its objectives or exercise its mandates from the ministries and relevant authorities in the Kingdom. These ministries and authorities shall assist the Institution in performing its duties, facilitate the execution of its mandates, provide the requested materials, and prepare responses and comments on the recommendations contained in the Institution's reports, in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations of those entities.

"Article (20) First Paragraph Clause (a) and Second Paragraph:

First Paragraph Clause (a)

a. The financial allocations required by the Institution shall be designated under a distinct item in the State’s general budget issued by law.

Second Paragraph

The Institution shall manage its financial resources independently and shall have full control over them, and its financial accounts shall be subject to the audit of the National Audit Office.

Article (21):

The Council of Commissioners shall prepare an annual report on the Institution’s efforts, activities, and all its work, which shall include a section clarifying the level of progress in the status of human rights in the Kingdom, along with any proposals and recommendations within its competencies. It shall identify performance obstacles and the solutions adopted to overcome them, and the Council of Commissioners shall submit its report to the King, the Cabinet, the Council of Representatives, and the Shura Council. It shall also present its report to the public concurrently.”

Article Two

The phrase "internal regulation" shall be replaced with the phrase "implementing regulation" in Article (8), and with the phrase "implementing regulation" in Clause (c) of Second in Article (10) of Law No. (26) of 2014 Establishing the National Institution for Human Rights. The phrase "implementing regulation" shall also be replaced with the phrase "internal regulation" in Article (18) of the same law.

Article Three

Two new clauses, numbered (i) and (j), shall be added to Article (1) of Law No. (26) of 2014 Establishing the National Institution for Human Rights, along with the addition of a new phrase to the end of the first paragraph of Article (2), a new Article numbered (5 bis), and a new paragraph titled "First" added to Article (10).

The remaining paragraphs of this Article shall be reordered, and a new clause, numbered (j), shall be added to Article (12). The remaining paragraphs of this Article shall also be reordered. The texts are as follows:

“Article (1) Clauses (i) and (j):

i. Full-time member:

A member who is fully dedicated to fulfilling their mandate within the Institution and is not required to engage in any other work or profession while carrying out their membership duties.

j. Part-time member:

A member who undertakes their mandate within the Institution alongside their commitment to another work or profession.”

“Article (2) (New Phrase Added to the End of the First Paragraph):

The building shall be designed to accommodate persons with disabilities.

"Article (5 bis):

Except for the rights and benefits stipulated for a member of the Council of Commissioners in this Law, a member is prohibited from receiving any financial amount in return for providing any service or work – in their capacity – for the benefit of the Institution.

"Article (10) First Paragraph:

First:

Members of the Council of Commissioners are not subject to dismissal, and their membership shall not end except in the cases and according to the procedures stipulated in this Article.”

"Article (12) Clause (j):

j. Holding meetings and joint events; cooperating, coordinating, and consulting with relevant civil society institutions, non-governmental organisations, diverse groups, and human rights defenders; directly communicating with individuals claiming to have been subjected to any form of violation; and submitting reports on such matters to the Council of Commissioners.

Article Four

A title shall be assigned to each Article of Law No. (26) of 2014 establishing the National Institution for Human Rights, in accordance with the sequence of the articles of the Law, as follows:

"Definitions, Establishment of the Institution, Composition of the Council of Commissioners, Membership, Appointment and Representation of the Council of Commissioners, Conflict of Interest, Meetings of the Council of Commissioners, Specialised Committees, Internal Regulations, Immunity, Termination of Membership, Members' Remuneration, Powers of the Institution, Examination of Referred Matters, Information Requests, General Secretariat, Secretary-General, Duties of the Secretary-General, Implementing Regulations, Confidentiality of Information, Financial Resources of the Institution, Annual Report."

Article Five

The Prime Minister and the Ministers—each within their jurisdiction—shall implement this Law, and it shall come into force from the day following the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

King of the Kingdom of Bahrain

Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

Prime Minister

Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa

Issued at Riffa Palace:

On:

5 Muharram 1438 AH

Corresponding to:

6 October 2016