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**Legislative Decree No. (27) of 2021 amending Some Provisions of the Judicial Authority Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (42) of 2002**

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

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

And Judicial Authority Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No.(42) of 2002, as amended;

And upon the submission of the Prime Minister;

And after the approval of the Council of Ministers,

**Hereby Decree the following Law:**

**Article One**

The text of Articles (4) and (22), clause (a) of the Judicial Authority Law, promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (42) of 2002, shall be replaced with the following text:

**Article (4):**

The Arabic language is the official language of the Courts.

The court shall hear the statements of litigants or witnesses who do not know the Arabic language through an interpreter after taking the oath or making an official statement of truth.

However, the parties to the dispute may mutually agree in writing, before filing the lawsuit, on selecting a language other than the Arabic language from among the languages that can be used before the courts.

The Minister concerned with Justice Affairs shall issue a Decision, following the approval of the Supreme Judicial Council, to specify the languages that can be used before the courts, other than the Arabic language. The Decision shall outline the mechanism and scope of application with regard to the lawsuits in which an agreement can be reached to use a language other than the Arabic language, in accordance with its significance, subject matter or parties, along with the conditions for such an agreement as well as the requirements that must be met in the language of the contract subject of the dispute and the rules governing translation and the hearing of witnesses.

**Article (22) clause (a):**

a- To be Bahraini; and it shall be permissible to appoint someone holding the citizenship of another state.

**Article Two**

The Prime Minister and the ministers - each within his jurisdiction - shall implement the provisions of 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**

**Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa**

Issued at Riffa Palace:

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