

● The Crown Prince addresses officials and guests at the launch



Crown Prince launches jobs s

A scheme to put 4,500 university graduates struggling to find work in the private sector within two years has been launched by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

The Rehabilitation and Employment University Graduates Project will provide graduates, particularly women and job-seekers from the human and social sciences disciplines, the right tools to secure top job opportunities in the private sector.

It follows an order issued by the Crown Prince, who is Economic Development Board chairman, to set up a rehabilitation and unemployment committee for university graduates. The committee's duties include mak-

ing plans and securing the financial means to implement the programme targeting Bahraini graduates seeking jobs.

The scheme will run until September 2011, aiming to provide 4,500 graduates rehabilitation and ensure their employment in the private sector, at salaries of not less than BD400 a month.

It has been launched in partnership with the private sector, but it is up to graduates to seize the chance being offered, said the Crown Prince.

"You have to seize this unique opportunity, which is the fruit of hard-fought efforts to achieve the synergy between the public and private sectors," he said at the launch ceremony, held at the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) headquarters in Sanabis.

Those in the private sector are the pillars of the Bahrain's economic development and the graduates must not squander the opportunity, said the Crown Prince.

He said that the goal was to build a free economy based on competent human resources, which reflects the partnership between the public and private sectors.

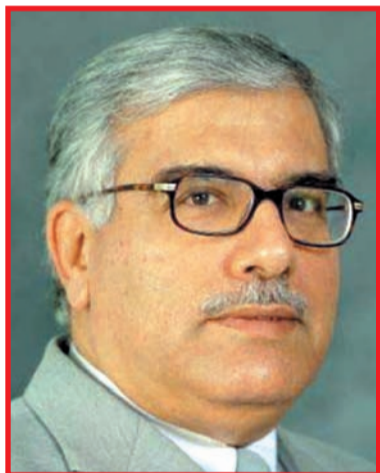
The objective is to enhance the economic momentum and meet the goals set in the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030, launched by His Majesty King Hamad, said the Crown Prince.

Labour Minister Dr Majeed Al Alawi said that the project relied upon close co-operation between the public and private sectors if job-seekers were to receive the

Massive push for the unemployed



● Dr Al Baharna



● Mr Al Qassimi



● Delegates at the growth conference

MASSIVE investment is being pumped into supporting small businesses, coupled with a masterplan to put 185,000 Bahrainis into jobs over the next five years.

The job of putting the nation to work by creating new opportunities for young Bahrainis, by retraining others to enhance their career prospects, nurturing new business or helping existing ones to expand, falls to Tamkeen, formerly the Labour Fund.

It works in partnership with the Labour Ministry, the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, which pumps in finances from labour fees for expatriate workers and the private sector, to create new opportunities and growth to meet the growing jobs demand.

Its role is a cornerstone of the Economic Vision 2030 masterplan for Bahrain's future, spearheaded by the Economic Development Board, which is chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Deputy Supreme Commander.

Tamkeen's blueprint to put 185,000 Bahrainis into jobs in five years was announced at the end of October.

This is in addition to action already launched

by Tamkeen to feed 20,000 Bahrainis into jobs by 2012.

The new strategy will target 185,000 youngsters as they leave schools, colleges or universities.

It includes training at least 35,000 Bahrainis in post-secondary, graduate and doctoral programmes to take the place of qualified expatriates.

Another 150,000 Bahrainis will be trained for entry-level jobs requiring only school-level education.

The masterplan focuses on 49 training programmes in eight fields, it was revealed by Tamkeen during a forum on its strategy, held at the Ritz-Carlton Bahrain Hotel and Spa.

Key decision-makers and practitioners in various sectors took part in the forum, including officials from consultants Charles River Associates International, which have operations in Bahrain.

Tamkeen, chaired by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Nazar Al Baharna, has been working since 2007 to train and place 20,000 Bahrainis in various fields by 2012.

"Tamkeen's work is vital to the realisation of

the leadership's Economic Vision 2030 development blueprint. We felt the timing was right for a review of our organisation's own vision on how we will reach our objectives," said chief executive Abdulrahman Al Qassimi.

"We are focused on empowering Bahrainis by giving them the right opportunities to stand out as employees of choice, who can power the growth of the country."

"Tamkeen used a comprehensive series of research, studies, economic mapping, expert consultations and other critical analytical tools to effectively present an accurate up-to-date picture of the economic, business and labour conditions of the country.

"This helped us identify and prioritise potential opportunities and areas of support."

Mr Al Qassimi said that the forum was shaped by inputs from representatives from the private and public sectors, whose work gives them a close understanding of prevailing economic conditions and human resources requirements.

"Studies indicated that Bahrain's overall productivity was low compared to international benchmarks and its expenditure on private sec-

tor development has been lower than other countries," he said.

"The updated strategy gives Tamkeen a distinct and critical role in the national economic development landscape.

"The strategy explicitly serves the requirements of the five-year National Economic Strategy and strengthens Tamkeen's position as a key player in realising Vision 2030.

"Furthermore, Tamkeen's strategy will create economic and social benefits supporting strong private sectors within the country.

"Tamkeen will play a critical role in each of these areas and will need to work in partnership with a range of other agencies to deliver successfully."

Tamkeen has developed its new strategy for the time frame 2010 to 2014, with 49 programmes in eight areas being planned.

"We believe that it will help us deliver a more effective series of initiatives to the public," said Mr Al Qassimi.

"We are confident that this forum will help us fulfil our role in the nation-building process under the Vision 2030 plan more effectively."

Tamkeen has already mapped out a six-track