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**Amendments to the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain Promulgated in 2012**

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

Having reviewed the Constitution;

The Shura Council and Council of Representatives have approved the following constitutional amendments, which we have ratified and enacted:

**Article One**

The texts of Articles (42 Clause c), (52), (53), (57 Clause a), (59), (65), (67 Clauses b,c,d), (68), (83), (85), (86), (88), (91 first paragraph) and (92 Clause a),(102) ,(103), (109 Clauses b, c), (115) and (120 Clause a) of the Constitution shall be replaced by the following texts:

**Article (42) clause (c):**

The King may dissolve the Council of Representatives by a Decree stating the reasons for the dissolution, after taking the Opinion of the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives and the President of the Constitutional Court. The Council may not be dissolved for the same reasons again.

**Article (52):**

The Shura Council consists of forty members who are appointed by royal order, in accordance with the procedures, controls and method determined by a royal order.

**Article (53):**

A member of the Shura Council is required to be Bahraini, and at least ten years have passed since he acquired the Bahraini nationality, and he does not hold the nationality of another country, with the exception of those who hold the nationality of one of the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, provided that his Bahraini nationality is original, and he enjoys all his civil and political rights, and that his name is included in one of the electoral lists, and that his age on the day of appointment is not less than thirty-five full years old, and that he is among those who have experience or who have performed great services to the country.

**Article (57) clause (a):**

A member of the Council of Representatives must:

a)Be Bahraini, and that at least ten years have passed since he acquired the Bahraini nationality, and he does not hold the nationality of another country, with the exception of those who hold the nationality of one of the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, provided that his Bahraini nationality is original, and he enjoys all his civil and political rights, and that his name is included in one of the electoral rolls.

**Article (59):**

If the position of a member of the Council of Representatives becomes vacant before the end of his term, for any reason whatsoever, his replacement shall be elected within two months from the date on which the Council announced this vacancy, and the term of the new member shall be till the end of term of his predecessor.

If the vacancy is due to the resignation of the member, he may not run for the membership of the Council during the legislative term in which he submitted his resignation.

If the vacancy occurred during the six months preceding the end of the legislative term of the Council, no replacement member shall be elected.

**Article (65):**

It is permissible, based on a request signed by at least five members of the Council of Representatives, to direct interpellations to any of the ministers on matters within their competencies.

The interpellation is conducted in accordance with the terms and conditions determined by the internal regulations of the Council of Representatives.

The interpellation shall be discussed in the Council unless the majority of its members decide to discuss it in the competent committee, after at least eight days from the date of its submission, unless the Minister requests to expedite this discussion.

The interpellation may lead to the issue of confidence in the Minister being raised to the Council of Representatives in accordance with the provisions of Article (66) of this Constitution.

**Article (67) Clauses (b, c, d):**

b)If at least ten members of the Council of Representatives submit a reasoned request that it is not possible to cooperate with the Prime Minister, and the majority of the Council members agree to that, the request is referred to the Bureau of the Council for consideration and referral to the Council within a period not exceeding two weeks from the date of its submission.

c)The Council of Representatives may not promulgate its decision on the issue of the impossibility of cooperation with the Prime Minister before seven days from the date of its referral to it by the Bureau of the Council.

d)If the Council of Representatives decides, by a two-thirds majority of its members, that it is not possible to cooperate with the Prime Minister, the matter is referred to the King for a decision, by relieving the Prime Minister and appointing a new ministry, or by dissolving the Council of Representatives.

**Article (68):**

a) The Council of Representatives may express written wishes to the government in public matters, and the government must respond to the Council in writing within six months, And if it is not possible to take it, the reasons must be indicated.

b)Based on a request signed by at least five members of the Council of Representatives, it is permissible to put forward a general topic for discussion in order to clarify the government’s policy and to exchange opinions in this regard, in accordance with the controls determined by the internal regulations of the Council.

The Bureau of the Council includes the request for general discussion in the agenda of the first session following its submission, so that the council decides on it without discussion.

**Article (83):**

If the Council of Representatives accepts the draft law as received by the Shura Council, the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall refer it within a period not exceeding two weeks to the Prime Minister to submit it to the King.

**Article (85):**

If the two Councils differ on any draft law twice, the National Assembly shall meet under the chairmanship of the President of the Council of Representatives to discuss the disputed articles. For the draft to be accepted, the decision of the National Assembly shall be passed by a majority of the members present. When the draft is rejected in this manner, it shall not be submitted a second time to the National Assembly in the same term.

**Article (86):**

In all cases in which the draft law is approved, the President of the Council of Representatives shall refer it within a period not exceeding two weeks to the Prime Minister to submit it to the King.

**Article (88):**

The Prime Minister may deliver a statement before the Council of Representatives or the Shura Council or one of their committees on a subject within his competence, and he may delegate one of the ministers to do so. He shall also discuss the statement with the Council or committee and state his observations regarding it.

**Article (91) First Paragraph:**

Every member of the Council of Representatives may address written questions to the ministers to clarify matters within their competence, and the questioner alone has the right to comment once on the answer. If the minister adds something new, the member’s right to comment is renewed.

**Article (92) clause (a):**

a) Fifteen members of the Shura Council or the Council of Representatives have the right to request a proposal to amend the constitution, and any of the members of the two Councils has the right to propose laws, and each proposal is referred to the competent committee in the council in which the proposal was submitted to express an opinion. If the Council accepts the proposal, it refers it to the government to draft it in order to amend the constitution or a draft law, and submitting it to the House of Representatives within a maximum of six months from the date of its referral to it.

**Article (102):**

The President of the Council of Representatives presides over the meeting of the National Council, and in his absence, the President of the Shura Council, then the first deputy of the president of the Council of Representatives, then the first deputy of the president of the Shura Council.

**Article (103):**

In cases other than those in which the constitution requires a special majority, the sessions of the National Assembly are not considered legal unless attended by the majority of the members of each of the two councils separately, and if the quorum of the council is not completed twice in a row, the meeting is deemed valid, provided that the attendance of the council is no less than a quarter of its members. Decisions of the committee are promulgated by the majority of its members, and when the votes are equal, the side from which the president belongs will prevail.

**Article (109) Clauses (b, c):**

b) The government shall prepare a draft annual budget law comprising the state's revenues and expenditures, and submit it to the Shura Council and the Council of representatives at least two months before the end of the fiscal year. After submitting the draft, the two committees concerned with the financial affairs of each of the two councils meet in a joint meeting to discuss it with the government. After the discussions are over, each committee submits a separate report to the council to which it belongs, and the draft law is presented to the Council of Representatives for discussion and referral to the Shura Council for consideration in accordance with the provisions of the constitution. Any amendment to the draft budget law in agreement with the government may be made.

c)Discussion of the draft budget law shall be on the basis of the classification contained therein. The budget may be prepared for a maximum of two fiscal years, and no revenue from the public revenues may be allocated to a specific aspect of expenditure except by the law.

**Article (115):**

The government shall submit to the Shura Council and the Council of representatives, accompanied by the draft annual budget, a statement on the financial and economic situation of the state, and the measures taken to implement the applicable budget appropriations, and the effects of all of this on the new draft budget.

**Article (120) clause (a):**

a) To amend any of the provisions of this Constitution, it is required that the amendment be approved by a two-thirds majority of the members of whom the Shura Council and the Council of representatives are composed, and that the King ratifies the amendment, as an exception to the provision of Article (35 Clauses b, c, and d) of this Constitution. If neither of the two Councils agrees to the principle of the amendment or to the text proposed to be amended, the National Assembly meets in the presence of two-thirds of its members to discuss the draft amendment, and the approval of the draft amendment is required by the approval of two-thirds of the members of the Council.

**Article Two**

A new paragraph shall be added to Article (46) of the Constitution, which reads as follows:

**Article (46) new paragraph:**

The Prime Minister presents the government's program within thirty days of taking the constitutional oath to the Council of Representatives, or at its first meeting if he is absent. If the Council does not approve this program within thirty days by a majority of its members, the government shall resubmit it to the Council after making whatever amendments it deems necessary within twenty-one days from the date of the council’s rejection of it. If the Council of Representatives insists on rejecting the program for the second time within a period not exceeding twenty-one days by a majority two-thirds of its members, the King shall accept the resignation of the ministry. If the Council does not approve the program of the new ministry with the same previous procedures and terms, the King may dissolve the Council or accept the resignation of the Ministry and appoint a new one. The Council must issue a decision to accept or reject the government’s program within the stipulated periods. If one of these periods elapses without a decision being issued by the Council, this shall be considered as acceptance of the program.

**Article Three**

These constitutional amendments shall be published in the Official Gazette, and shall come into effect from the date of their publication.

**King of the Kingdom of Bahrain**

**Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa,**

Issued at Riffa Palace:

On:

Corresponding to: