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**Law No. (18) of 2018 amending certain provisions of the Civil and Commercial Procedures Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (12) of 1971**

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

Having reviewed the Constitution;

Civil and Commercial Procedures Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (12) of 1971, as amended;

Legislative Decree No. (3) of 1972 with respect to the Judicial Fees as amended;

Lawyering Law promulgated by the Legislative Decree No. (26) of 1980 as amended;

Law of Evidence in Civil and Commercial Matters promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (14) of 1996 as amended;

Legislative Decree No. (28) of 2002 with respect to Electronic Transactions as amended;

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

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

**Article One**

A new Article No. (7) bis shall be added to the Civil and Commercial Procedures Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. 12 of 1971, as follows:

**"Article (7) bis:**

a) An office shall be established in the Ministry concerned with Justice Affairs to prepare the lawsuit and prepare it for pleading, called (Case Management Office). It shall compose of a president whose rank is no less than a judge in the High Civil Court, who shall supervise the work of the office, and a sufficient number of members including judges, jurists and technicians.  A sufficient number of employees shall be attached to the office.  A decision of the Supreme Judicial Council shall be issued to name the head of the office and its members amongst the judges.

b) The Minister concerned with justice affairs shall, after the approval of the Supreme Judicial Council, issue a decision specifying the lawsuits that should be managed through the case management office provided for in Paragraph (a) of this article. The competence may be determined by the value of the lawsuit, its subject matter or its parties.

c) The provisions of this Law shall be applied in relation to the procedures brought before the case management office, in a manner that does not contradict with the nature of this office.  The Minister concerned with justice affairs shall, after the approval of the Supreme Judicial Council, issue a list containing all matters related to case management procedures brought before the case management office, including procedures relating to the notification of litigants, their presence and absence, organization of the appointments schedule, submittal of requests, plea, defences and evidence, evidential procedures requests, intervention procedures, incidental requests and preventive measures, durations of case management, provided that they do not exceed four months in total, as well as the suspension of the lawsuit, interruption and lapse of the litigation, and matters relating to lack of competence of the case manager to manage it, as well as all other issues relating to the preparation of the lawsuit for pleading according to the type of the lawsuit and the nature of the dispute.

d) Upon filing the lawsuit subject to administration in accordance with the provisions of this Article, the claimant shall be handed evidence of the registration of his lawsuit, and at the same time he shall be notified of the first date for the administration of the lawsuit, by noting his knowledge on the original bill.

e) It is not permissible for any of the litigants of the lawsuit subject to administration in accordance with the provisions of this Article to submit to the competent court, after the end of its administration, any request, plea or defence that was not previously submitted during the case management stage and within the deadlines specified for that in the appointments schedule, unless the plea is related to thepublic order, or if the submission of the request, plea or defence is to meet circumstances that have arisen or became apparent after the end of the period specified for in the appointments schedule, or if any other law stipulates that such claims, plea or defence may be submitted in any state of the lawsuit, or if it becomes clear to the competent court that he was not properly notified during the case management stage.

f) It is not permissible for any of the litigants of the lawsuit subject to administration in accordance with the provisions of this Article to submit to the competent court, after the end of its administration, any request or plea or defence unless it becomes apparent that the litigant has not submitted the request or plea or defence during the administration stage within the deadline specified in the appointment schedule for reasons beyond his control, or if the submission of the request or plea or defence is to meet circumstances that have arisen or become apparent after the period specified for that in the schedule of appointments, or if any other law stipulates that such request or plea or defence may be submitted in any state of the lawsuit, or if it becomes clear to the competent court that he was not properly notified during the case management stage.

g) In cases other than those stipulated in Paragraph (h) of this Article, the lawsuit manager shall, after completing its management, prepare a report that includes the facts of the lawsuit, the arguments of the litigants, their requests and defences, the evidence they relied upon and the requests they submitted for evidentiary procedures.  The case manager shall refer the lawsuit file to the competent court, along with the previously mentioned report, within three working days of completing the case management.

h) The litigants may, at any time during the hearing of the lawsuit before the case manager, request that the dispute be settled amicably, and if they agree on that, what they agreed upon will be recorded in a record that have the force of an executive document after being signed by them or their representatives and the case management manager, and it will be sealed with the executive form. .

If the litigants agree to settle the dispute amicably during the case management stage, half of the prescribed fee shall be calculated

**Article Two**

The text of Article (56) of the Civil and Commercial Procedures Law, promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (12) of 1971, shall be replaced with the following text:

a- A clerk shall be present with the judge in the sessions and in all evidentiary procedures to create the records by hand or by means of computers or electronic devices, whether audio or video, or both together, and the judge or the court president shall sign the record by hand or by means of an electronic signature, as the case may be. The electronically prepared records shall have the same validity as the official document.

A decision shall be issued by the Minister concerned with justice affairs, after the approval of the Supreme Judicial Council, specifying the requirements and standards of information systems that shall be adhered to in the creation, delivery, preservation, security and privacy of electronic records and specifying the type of electronic signature required, and the placement form of the signature on the record.

b) If the competent court decides to authorize the litigants to exchange memorandums within a specific period, each may send them by electronic means.  The Minister concerned with justice affairs, after the approval of the Supreme Judicial Council, shall issue a decision defining those means, requirements and standards of information systems to be adhered to when exchanging memorandums by electronic means, in a way that guarantees their receipt from the rest of the litigants, and takes into account the technical requirements related to their preservation, privacy and protection.

**Article Three**

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 lapse of three months from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

**King of the Kingdom of Bahrain**

**Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa,**

Issued at Riffa Palace:

On: 1 Ramadan 1439 A.H.

Corresponding to: 17 May 2018