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## **The CEO of LMRA highlights details on the new labour market reforms**

The Chief Executive Officer of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, HE Nouf Abdulrahman Jamsheer, today commended HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister's directives to replace the Flexi Permit with a set of new labour market reforms.

HE Jamsheer highlighted that the new labour market reforms will include the registration of all current holders of Flexi permits and those without a valid work permit through labour registration centres.

HE Jamsheer noted that inspections will increase to identify employers and workers engaging in illegal activity, and that work permits will be linked to vocational and occupational standards to support a more vibrant labour market.

HE Jamsheer added that the new reforms have been introduced to safeguard the rights of employers, workers, and the Kingdom's business community.

With regards to the registration requirements, HE Jamsheer indicated that workers can only register if they reside in the Kingdom of Bahrain, have not absconded from their jobs and have a clear criminal record. Applications will not be accepted from those who entered the country on a visit visa.

HE Jamsheer emphasised that registered workers will not be permitted to obtain a commercial registration, or work in specialised professions except after obtaining a license to practice the profession or equivalent from the relevant authorities.

HE Jamsheer noted that registered workers will be required to pay for health fees, and provide departure insurance. Flexi Permit holders will be given a period of time to register under the new system, ensuring that they have sufficient time to meet the requirements of the new changes.

HE Jamsheer indicated that, in coordination with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the private sector, new labour registration centres and an online registration section in the "Sijilat" portal will be established to increase ease of worker registration.

The registration centres will maintain an up-to-date list of data that includes workers' information, their places of residence, and bank account details, in addition to ensuring that the registrants obtain the required health certificate and professional accreditations and are accessible if required.

HE Jamsheer added that the approved centres can register workers through the Labour Market Regulatory Authority's website, which will contribute to the government's efforts in protecting human rights, addressing the issue of irregular employment, and gaining a clearer picture of the Kingdom's labour market demands.

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