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**Law No. (22) of 2014 amending some provisions of the Legislative Decree No. (5) of 1990 regarding Civil Defence**

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

Having reviewed the Constitution;

Public Security Forces Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (3) of 1982, as amended;

Legislative Decree No.(5) of 1990 regarding Civil Defence;

National Guard Law, promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (20) of 2000, as amended by Legislative Decree No. (38) of 2002;

Bahrain Defence Force Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (32) of 2002;

And Law No.(39) of 2009 regarding Acquisition of Property for Public Benefit;

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

**Article (1)**

The phrase (General Directorate of Civil Defence) is replaced with (Civil Defence Administration) in Article ten of Legislative Decree No.(5) of 1990 regarding Civil Defence. The phrase (Lower Criminal Court) is replaced with (Intermediate Criminal Court) in the last paragraph of Article twenty-five thereof.

**Article (2)**

The texts of the first and ninth Articles of the Legislative Decree No.(5) of 1990 regarding Civil Defence are replaced with the following texts:

**(Article One):**

In applying the provisions of this law, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned to them below, unless the context requires otherwise:

**Civil defence measures:** A set of procedures and means taken to protect lives, properties, vital facilities, utilities, projects, public and private facilities, national wealth and heritage, and to ensure their safety from any dangers, whatever their causes, during peacetime and wartime, emergency situations or general disasters. These measures anticipate all risks, general disasters, accidents, human or animal epidemics or hazards of radiological, chemical and biological contamination. They also provide a rapid response to face and recover from these dangers and to return to the normal condition, while ensuring peace, stability and security.

**General Disaster:** any natural or human-caused incident, such as an earthquake, storm, flood, fire, collapse or any other incident that threatens the lives of individuals, causes damage to property or the environment or impedes the normal course of life in society, which ordinary means and methods are unable to confront and control it, and which requires the coordination of local, regional or international efforts to face it.

**Vital Facilities:** facilities with political, economic or social purposes that have a special importance to the state or the private sector and are identified by a decision of the Minister of Interior.

**Public Utility:** any project set up or managed by the state, operates regularly and continuously and uses administrative authorities to provide people with the necessary public services that contribute to serving public interests of the state.

Volunteer: Any person who chooses or is invited by the competent authority to participate in civil defence work, during peacetime and wartime, to face emergencies or general disasters, out of a sense of humanitarian duty to protect lives and property.

**Concerned Authorities:** Every governmental or non-governmental entity committed by this law, to take and implement civil defence measures.

**(Article Nine)**

The state bears the expenses necessary for civil defence operations, taking into account the provisions of Article twelve thereof.

The General Directorate of Civil Defence issues certificates, reports and licenses required for the implementation of the provisions of this law and is responsible for renewing and issuing replacement certificates for lost or damaged ones. The Minister of Interior, with the approval of the Council of Ministers, determines, by his decision, the categories of fees imposed on such certificates, reports and licenses.

**Article (3)**

It shall be added to Article Twenty One of Legislative Decree No.(5) of 1990 regarding Civil Defence, the phrase (and the National Guard Commander) after (Minister of Defence and Minister of Interior), and the phrase (and the National Guard) after (Bahrain Defence Force).

New clauses and paragraphs shall be added to the following articles: The second (third), the third, the seventh, the fourteenth, the seventeenth, the eighteenth, the twentieth, and the twenty-fifth, the texts of which are as follows:

Article Two (Third) “Items: (16) and (17)”:

16- Setting conditions and instructions necessary to prevent the hazards of radiological, chemical and biological contamination, during peacetime and wartime, and taking measures to monitor their implementation, in cooperation and coordination with the concerned authorities.

17- Developing media plans to communicate with the public to ensure protection from all hazards and achieve the goals of the civil defence.

**Article Three (new paragraph):**

The Minister of Interior decides on and declares the cases of general disasters, after the approval of the Council of Ministers.

**Article Seven (new paragraph):**

The Council also supervises and coordinates between all national committees and concerned entities to face general disasters and take appropriate civil defence measures.

**Article Fourteen (new paragraph):**

The provisions of temporary expropriation of properties in Law No.(39) of 2009 regarding Acquisition of Property for Public Benefit apply to the expropriation of buildings and lands under this article.

**Article Seventeen (new paragraph):**

The finality of these decisions does not preclude the possibility of appeal before the competent court in accordance with the procedures prescribed by law.

**Article Eighteen (new paragraph):**

The Minister of Interior issues a decision regulating the rules of volunteering, as well as the rights, benefits, obligations, and compensation of volunteers, after being submitted to the Council of Ministers.

**Article Twenty (new paragraph):**

The National Guard Commander assumes the same powers for the regions and forces under his command.

**Article Twenty Five (new paragraph):**

Anyone who deliberately destroys or disables equipment and supplies used for civil defence purposes is punished with the same penalty. In all cases, the offender is ordered to pay the value of the item that he destroyed,

**Article (4)**

New articles shall be added to the Legislative Decree No. (5) of 1990 with respect to Civil Defence, under the following numbers: (ninth bis), (nineteen bis) and (twenty-fifth bis), the texts of which are as follows:

**(Article Nine bis):**

Ministries and other government entities shall allocate, within their annual budgets, the necessary financial provisions under the civil defence item, in order to implement the measures and requirements entrusted to them within the scope of their duties or services.

**(Article Nineteen bis):**

Ministries, other government entities and all private facilities and institutions referred to in Article twelve thereof shall develop special plans for the protection of their facilities, equipment, all facilities and employees, and take necessary measures for their implementation and appoint those responsible for fulfilling all civil defence requirements and activities for each of them, in times of peace and war.

Those entities are also committed to coordinating and cooperating with the General Directorate of Civil Defence, the National Committee for Disaster Response, and all relevant entities, by providing them with information, data, devices and equipment in cases of general disasters, and carrying out all Civil Defence measures according to the conditions and requirements of prevention stipulated in this law and ministerial decisions issued for its implementation.

The General Directorate of Civil Defence is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the measures and plans referred to.

**(Article Twenty Five bis):**

By a decision of the Minister of Interior or his delegate, it is permissible to close facilities that refuse to implement civil defence measures at the date set by the General Directorate of Civil Defence, after drafting a report on the violations committed and giving written warning for a period not less than thirty days.

Administrative closure takes place for a period not exceeding three months, and it may be extended for similar periods, if the required measures are not implemented. The concerned parties have the right to appeal the closure decision before the relevant court within fifteen days from the date of its announcement.

**Article (5)**

Article Eight of Legislative Decree No.(5) of 1990 regarding Civil Defence is repealed.

**Article (6)**

The Prime Minister and Ministers - each within his jurisdiction– shall implement the provisions of this law and it shall come into force on the day following its publication the Official Gazette.

**King of the Kingdom of Bahrain**

**Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa,**

Issued at Riffa Palace:

On: 17 Ramadan 1435 A.H.

Corresponding to: 15 July 2014