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**Law No. (34) of 2014 amending some provisions of Law No. (26) of 2005 regarding Political Associations**

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

Having reviewed the Constitution;

Legislative Decree No. (14) of 2002 regarding the Exercise of Political Rights, as amended,

Legislative Decree No. (47) of 2002 regarding the Regulation of the Press, Printing and Publishing;

Telecommunications Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (48) of 2002;

Law No. (26) of 2005 regarding Political Associations;

And Law No. (32) of 2010 regarding Financial Disclosure;

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

**Article One**

The texts of Articles (5) paragraph (2), (6) clause (f) of paragraph (4), (8) first paragraph, (9), (15) second paragraph, (16), (22) first paragraph and (23) first paragraph of Law No. (26) of 2005 regarding Political Associations are replaced by the following texts:

**Article (5) Clause (2):**

2- To have reached the age of twenty one years at the time of submitting the application for establishment or at the time of assuming one of the leadership positions in the Association, and to have reached the age of twenty years on the day of joining the Association after its establishment.

**Article (6), Clause (f) Paragraph (4):**

f- Not to use the state institutions, public institutions, places of worship and religious rituals and educational institutions to conduct its activities.

**Article (8) First Paragraph:**

The Minister of Justice may request the founders to provide any clarifications, information or documents necessary to implement the provisions of this law, by a registered letter issued within thirty days from the date of submitting the application for the Association establishment.

**Article (9):**

If the application to establish a political Association fulfils the conditions stipulated in this law, the Minister of Justice shall notify the establishment of the Association within sixty days from the date of the establishment application, or within fifteen days from the date of receiving the clarifications, documents and data referred to in the previous article. This notification shall be published in the Official Gazette.

If the Minister refuses to notify the establishment of the Association within the periods specified in the previous paragraph, he shall notify the agent of the founders by a registered letter of the establishment refusal and the rejection reasons.

Failure to meet the deadlines referred to in the first paragraph without notifying the establishment of the Association or notifying the agent of founders of the rejection shall be considered as an objection to this establishment.

The previous provisions on the establishment apply to any amendment made to the by laws of the Association, and shall be published in the Official Gazette.

**Article (15) Paragraph Two:**

The Association shall provide the Minister of Justice with a copy of its annual budget and final account during the first quarter of the year, and a statement of its financial resources, funding sources and the financial status of the association. The Association shall also publish its annual budget and final account in the Official Gazette.

**Article (16):**

The Association funds are considered as public funds while applying the provisions of the Penal Code. The officials in charge of the Association affairs and those working for it are considered as public officials while applying the provisions of the aforementioned code. The provisions of Law No. (32) of 2010 regarding Financial Disclosure apply to the Association leaders who are elected according to the provisions of Article (12) thereof.

**Article (22) First Paragraph:**

If the Association violates the provisions of the Constitution, this law, any other law or its primary law, the Minister of Justice may request the Higher Civil Court, based on a lawsuit filed by him, to order the suspension of the Association activities for a period not exceeding three months, during which the reasons for the violation have to be eliminated.

**Article (23) First Paragraph:**

Based on a lawsuit filed by him, the Minister of Justice may request the Higher Civil Court to order the dissolution of the Association, the liquidation of its funds and the identification of the entity to which these funds will be assigned, if the Association commits a serious violation of the provisions of the Kingdom Constitution, this law or any other law, or if it does not eliminate the reasons of violation within the period specified in the judgement issued for the suspension of its activities according to the previous article.

**Article Two**

A new clause numbered (10) shall be added to Article (4) of Law No. (26) of 2005 regarding Political Associations. A new paragraph with letter (k) shall be added to Article (6), Item (4). A new paragraph shall be added to Article (11). A new item numbered (3) shall be added to Article (17). The remaining Items shall be renumbered. A second paragraph to Article (18) and a new Article numbered (23 bis) shall be added to this law, the texts of which are as follows:

**Article (4) Clause (10):**

10- The Association shall not use religious platforms to promote its principles, goals, programs or as a reference for it.

**Article (6) Clause (4) New Paragraph (k):**

k- Not directing the activities or programs of the Association to serve sectarian purposes or to harm the national economy or the public interests of the State.

**Article (11) New Paragraph:**

The Association may issue periodicals to express its principles, objectives and programs, by a license issued by the Minister responsible for media affairs. The Minister, in coordination with the Minister of Justice, shall issue a regulation that outlines the conditions to be met for license granting, specifies the responsibilities of the editor-in-chief of the periodical and sets the circulation conditions. These periodicals are subject to the limits of freedom of opinion and expression set in the law regulating the Press.

**Article (17) New Clause No. (3):**

3- The internal regulations of the association.

**Article (18) Paragraph Two:**

The Association shall also notify the Minister of Justice of the date of the general assembly of the Association at least fifteen days before its convening. The Minister may request the Association to provide him with the number of members having attended the meeting, the decisions made, the method adopted to vote on those decisions and any other information regarding the meeting or the Association activities. The Association shall provide the required data or information, and supporting documents within ten days from the date of notification.

**Article (23 bis):**

Any member of the Association may appeal before the Higher Civil Court, the invalidity of the general assembly convening or the invalidity of any decision issued by him or by the Association, in violation of the provisions of this law or the internal regulations of the association within thirty days from the date of the assembly.

Whoever is concerned may apply for membership to join the Association. If his application is rejected, he may appeal the decision of rejection before that court within thirty days from the date they became aware of the decision.

**Article Three**

The Political Association existing at the time of the issuance of this law shall comply with its provisions, within a period not exceeding one year from the date of its enforcement.

**Article Four**

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 in the Official Gazette.

**King of the Kingdom of Bahrain**

**Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa,**

Issued at Riffa Palace:

On: 11 Shawwal 1435 A.H.

Corresponding to: 7 August 2014