

Central Governorate dissolved

NEW maps for Bahrain's constituencies have been drawn up – hours after the Central Governorate was dissolved.

His Majesty King Hamad yesterday abolished the electoral district through a Royal decree, meaning the Central's nine constituencies have been divided among the other four governorates – Northern, Capital, Southern and Muharraq.

It now means that the Central Municipal Council, Central Municipality and Central Governorate have all been disbanded.

The decree, which will be published in the Official Gazette tomorrow, gave the Cabinet 24 hours to implement the changes and announce the date for national elections.



■ Mr Al Hattab

However, the King issued two other decrees at midnight, outlining the electoral shake up and announcing November 22 as the date for parliamentary elections.

The decree states that the Capital Governorate which comprised of eight constituencies will now have 10, while the Muharraq Governorate will remain the same with eight constituencies.

The biggest changes were made to the Southern Governorate which has increased from six constituencies to 10, and the Northern Governorate now has 12 constituencies from nine.

"Bahrain will now have four governorates – Capital, Muharraq, Northern and Southern – and any new governorates that may be formed in future, cancelled or changed in name must be done through a Royal decree," read the decree.

The move follows the outcome of the National Dialogue, which was presented by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, last week.

The framework contains five key elements – re-defining electoral districts; revised appointment process for Shura Council members and measures to ensure parliament can question actions of ministers, including the Prime Minister; new rights of approval for parliament on Cabinet appointments; further judicial reform, including strengthening constitutional independence of the judiciary; and

By MOHAMMED AL A'ALI

new codes of conduct for security forces.

The now dissolved Central Municipal Council said the decision was blindsiding because everyone expected minor changes to be made to Bahrain's 40 constituencies instead of dissolving an entire governorate.

"We still have a lot of pending requests from members of the public that were supposed to be sent to ministries concerned, but we don't know how to address that matter now since we don't exist anymore," said outgoing chairman Abdulrazzak Al Hattab.

"The whole governorate and all within it don't exist anymore – whether it's the Central Security Directorate, the Central Governorate or the Central Municipality.

"We will try to make arrangements to pass some necessary proposals, but it will be left to the Cabinet to give us a month to clear things up as a transition period."

Outgoing MP Adnan Al Malki, who represents Isa Town that was in the now dissolved Central Governorate, said the changes were announced too close to the national polls.

"The King wanted to strike a balance between the constituencies and we expected minor changes, but this major change is sudden and has put the whole governorate in a standstill," he said.

"The changes should have been made in 2012, not now. It is too late. Too, too late."

Mr Al Malki, who is chairman of parliament's youth and sport committee and public utilities and environment affairs committee, said all government organisations in the Central will be affected.

"Health centres, municipalities, police stations, social centres and schools will be divided amongst other governorates, but

for now they don't exist anywhere," he added.

His Majesty also issued a decree amending some provisions of Decree Law No 14 of 2002 on the exercise of political rights.

It states that it is mandatory that a voter submits a passport or any other certified official document to cast a ballot.

It also says that the electoral register shall include eligible voters who meet the requirements, and who have not been deprived of or exempted from the exercise of their political rights.

Another decree issued by the King amends some provisions of Decree-Law No 3 of 2002 on the electoral system of municipal council members.

It says each governorate shall have one municipal polling district, comprising a number of electoral constituencies, with one member to be elected for each.

Electoral registers shall be displayed in municipalities 45 days before the election date.

Candidates who want to stop running for elections shall notify the Election Commission at least 10 days before Election Day.

Candidates can delegate an eligible voter to represent them at the polling and counting centres, the decree says.

The four governorates will now comprise of constituencies as follows.

Capital Governorate
Constituency 1 will cover Blocks 307, 308, 309, 310, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 344 and 346.

Constituency 2: Blocks 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 351, 353, 354, 356 and 357.

Constituency 3: Blocks 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438 and 592.

Constituency 4: Blocks 324, 325, 326, 327, 333, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343 and 373.

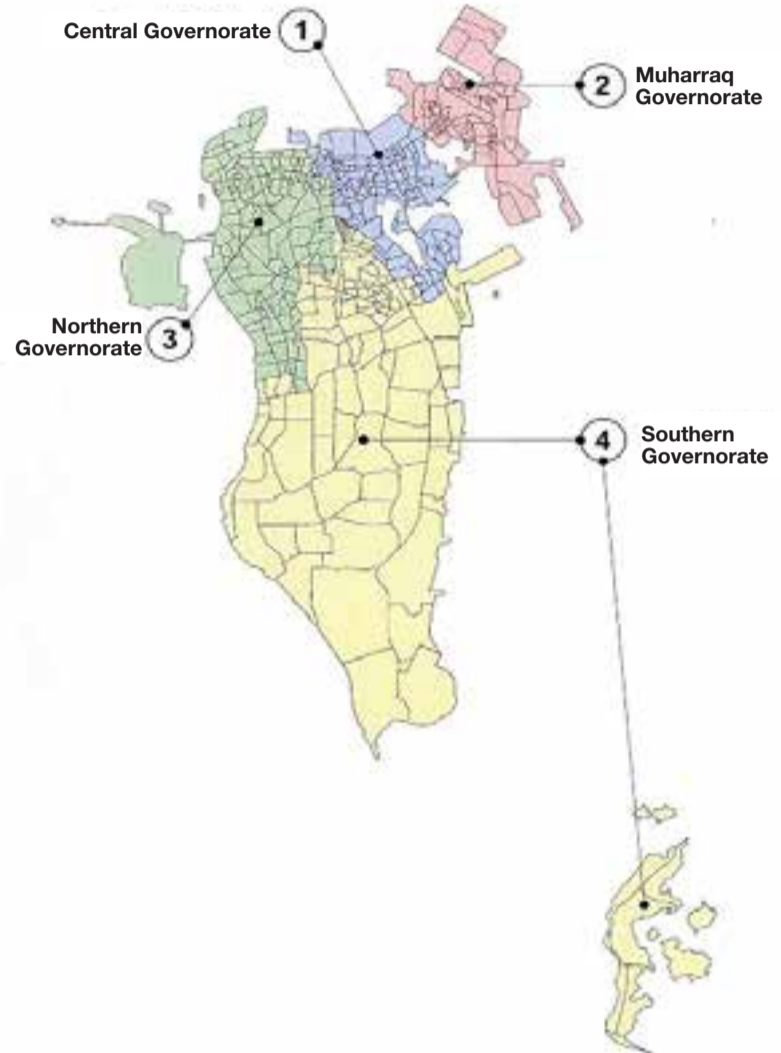


■ Mr Al Malki



■ A Bahraini casts his vote in an earlier election in Isa Town

The new governorates



Constituency 5: Blocks 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 334, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363 and 364.

Constituency 6: Blocks 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 405, 407, 411, 413, 419, 421, 423, 425, 701, 705, 707, 711 and 713.

Constituency 7: Blocks 709, 721, 729, 733 and 816.

Constituency 8: Blocks 380, 381, 382, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605 and 606.

Constituency 9: Blocks 607, 608, 609, 611, 623, 624, 633 and 634.

Constituency 10: Blocks 625, 626, 644, 743, 745 and 815.

Muharraq Governorate
Constituency 1 will cover Blocks 225, 226, 228 and 229.

Constituency 2: Blocks 203, 205, 206, 209, 221 and 222.

Constituency 3: Blocks 202, 204, 208, 210, 223, 224 and 227.

Constituency 4: Blocks 207, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216 and 217.

Constituency 5: Blocks 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 263, 264, 265, 266 and 269.

Constituency 6: Blocks 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236 and 237.

Constituency 7: Blocks 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247 and 248.

Constituency 8: Blocks 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 121 and 128.

Northern Governorate
Constituency 1 will comprise Blocks 444, 450, 454, 456, 458, 460, 502, 504, 506, 508, 514, 518, 520, 522, 524, 526, 528, 530 and 536.

Constituency 2: Blocks 531, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 580, 582, 583, 584, 586, 588 and 590.

Constituency 3: Blocks 550, 552, 553, 555, 557, 559, 561, 565, 569, 587, 581, 585, 591, 1095, 589, 591, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1006, 1009, 1010 and 1089.

Constituency 4: Blocks 431, 433, 435, 439, 441, 447, 455, 457, 702, 704, 706, 708, 712, 714 and 744.

Constituency 5: Blocks 449, 453, 463, 465, 469, 471, 473, 475, 477, 479, 481, 505, 507, 509, 513, 515, 517, 521, 523, 525, 527, 529 and 533.

Constituency 6: Blocks 730, 732, 734, 736, 738, 740 and 742.

Constituency 7: Blocks 545, 547, 549, 551, 571, 575, 577, 579, 752, 754, 756, 758, 760, 762, 1012, 1014, 1019 and 1022.

Constituency 8: Blocks 1016,

1203, 1204 and 1206.

Constituency 9: Blocks 1205, 1207, 1209 and 1210.

Constituency 10: Blocks 1208, 1212, 1214 and 1218.

Constituency 11: Blocks 1046, 1211, 1213, 1215 and 1216.

Constituency 12: Blocks 1017, 1018, 1020, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1037, 1038, 1041, 1042 and 1044.

Southern Governorate
Constituency 1 will comprise Blocks 718, 720, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808 and 810.

Constituency 2: Blocks 809, 812, 813, 814, 840 and 841.

Constituency 3: Blocks 922, 933, 934, 935, 937 and 941.

Constituency 4: Blocks 643, 645, 646, 929, 931 and 939.

Constituency 5: Blocks 901, 903, 905, 910, 925 and 927.

Constituency 6: Blocks 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 921 and 923.

Constituency 7: Blocks 746, 748, 902, 904, 906, 908, 912, 920, 924, 926, 928, 930 and 932.

Constituency 8: Blocks 613, 614, 615, 616, 635, 636, 907, 909, 911, 942, 943, 945, 946, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 957, 958, 959, 960, 965, 981, 982, 983 and 985.

Constituency 9: Blocks 944, 947, 976, 986, 1048, 1051, 1052, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, 1067, 1068, 1069, 1070 and 1099.

Constituency 10: Blocks 961, 967, 971, 973, 987, 988, 989, 995, 997, 998, 999, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1110, 1111, 1112 and 1113.

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