

Federal Law No. (4) of 2018
Concerning the Organization of, and Care for Mosques

We, Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the President of the United Arab Emirates,

Having reviewed:-

- The Constitution;
- Federal Law No. (1) of 1972 Concerning the Competences of Ministries and the Powers of Ministers, as Amended;
- Federal Law No. (3) of 1987 promulgating Penal Code, as Amended;
- Law No. (35) of 1992 Promulgating the Criminal Procedure Code, as Amended;
- Federal Law No. (7) of 1999 Promulgating Pensions and Social Security Law, as Amended;
- Federal Law No. (29) of 1999 Establishing the General Authority of Islamic Affairs and Endowments, as Amended;
- Federal Decree-Law No. (11) of 2008 Regarding the Human Resources in the Federal Government, as Amended; and
- Based on the approval of the Cabinet and the Federal National Council, and the ratification of the Federal Supreme Council,

Hereby promulgate the following Law:

Chapter One

Introductory Provisions

Article (1)

For the purposes of this Law, the following words and phrases shall bear the meaning assigned thereto respectively, unless the context requires otherwise:

- The State or UAE** : The United Arab Emirates.
- The Authority** : The General Authority of Islamic Affairs and Endowments.
- The Competent** : The local body or authority concerned with Mosque affairs.

Authority

The Chairman : The Chairman of the Competent Authority.

The Mosque : A place designated for prayer. The Mosque's yards, entrances, appurtenances and facilities are considered part of the Mosque.

Public Prayer Room : A place designated for prayer in the private and public establishments.

Private Prayer Room : : A place designated for prayer in the private and public establishments if it is not opened to all Muslims.

Eid Prayer Room : A place designated for Eid prayers, "Salat Al-Eid".

Mosque Staff : Any person who performs one of the occupations approved and licensed by the Competent Authority in the Mosque and Prayer Room

Article (2)

The Applicability

The provisions hereof shall apply to the Mosques, Public and Private Prayer Rooms and Eid Prayer Rooms in the State.

Chapter Two

Regulating Mosque Affairs

Article (3)

Mosque Naming

1. The Competent Authority is competent to name the Mosques.
2. Without prejudice to the provision of Item (1) of this Article, the Masque may be named, subject to approval of the Competent Authority, at the wish of the person who donated to build it.

3. The Mosque's name may be duplicated in the same city only after the approval of the Competent Authority.

Article (4)

Functions of the Competent Authority

The Competent Authority shall supervise, regulate affairs of and care for the Mosques, Public Prayer Rooms and Eid Prayer Rooms, in particular:

1. Meeting the needs of Mosques and Eid Prayer Rooms and supervise their cleanness, maintenance and furnishing.
2. Determining the Azaan and prayer times, how the outdoor and indoor speakers are installed, and the controls and conditions to use the same.
3. Organizing the religious lessons and lectures, and any other events.
4. Developing unified topics for the sermons of Friday prayers, Eids and religious events, identifying the mandated persons and supervising the conduct thereof.
5. Determining the opening and closing times of the Mosque and the controls and conditions of the stay in the mosque for woship (Itikaf).

Article (5)

License

1. Building of Mosques or Eid Prayer Rooms, allocation of places for Public Prayer Rooms, introduction of any modifications, additions thereto, or maintenance thereof may be permitted only after obtaining a permit from the Competent Authority, in coordination with the concerned bodies in the State, in accordance with the prescribed requirements and controls.
2. The Public Prayer Rooms donors shall be obliged to provide the needs of such prayer

rooms and spend thereon, in coordination with the concerned bodies, in accordance with the prescribed requirements and controls.

Article (6)

Security and Safety of the Mosques

In coordination with the concerned bodies in the State, the Competent Authority shall take the actions that ensure the safety and security of the Mosques, prayer rooms and Eid Prayer Rooms.

Article (7)

Title Deeds

1. The title deeds of the Mosques shall be registered with the concerned bodies in the Real Estate Registration in each Emirate, in the name of the Competent Authority.
2. Notwithstanding the provision of Item (1) of this Article, Mosques may be registered in the name of any federal or local government entity, in coordination with the Competent Authority, provided that the sponsor of the mosque shall be responsible for spending thereon, under the supervision of and in coordination with the Competent Authority.

Article (8)

Permitted Activities under the License

The following activities shall not be allowed in Mosques, Public and Private Prayer Rooms or Eid Prayer Rooms except after obtaining a license from the Competent Authority:

1. Giving lessons, lectures or sermons.
2. Educational and memorization of the Holy Qur'an seminars.
3. Raising funds and aids.
4. Appointing or assigning any person to work permanently or temporarily.

5. Establishing libraries.
6. Reviving the religious and social events and organizing meetings therein.
7. Distributing books, leaflets, CDs, audio and video recordings, etc., or posting advertisements and publications.
8. Stay in the Mosque for woship "Itikaf".
9. Placing copies of the Holy Qur'an or furniture.
10. Providing Iftar and feasts.

Article (9)

Prohibitions

The following actions shall be prohibited in the Mosques, Public Prayer Rooms and Eid Prayer Rooms:

1. Beggary
2. Interference with the affairs of the call for prayer (Azaan) or sermons.
3. Practising any activity against the safety and sanctity of the Masques.

Chapter Three

Mosques Personnel

Article (10)

1. The nominee to be appointed on one of the positions in the Mosques shall:
 - a. Be a national citizen;
 - b. Be of good character and conduct;
 - c. Never have been sentenced to a custodial sentence for a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or breach of trust, unless officially rehabilitated;
 - d. Pass the prescribed procedures and tests;

- e. Be medically fit in accordance with the decision of the official medical body; and
 - f. Have equivalent academic qualifications certified by the competent body in the State.
2. Without prejudice to the provision of Item (1) of this Article, non-nationals may be appointed in the absence of the nationals who meet the conditions and requirements of the vacant position.

Article (11)

Human Resources Regulation

1. The Cabinet shall, upon the proposal of the Board of Directors of the Authority, issue a regulation designated to the human and financial resources for the staff of the Authority's Mosques.
2. The Chairman of the Authority shall issue a resolution on the permanent appointment of the occupants of the positions in the Authority's Mosques upon the issuance of the resolution of the Cabinet referred to in Item (1) of this Article, without prejudice to their accrued rights.

Article (12)

The Obligations of the Mosques' Personnel

The personnel working in Mosques shall:

1. Implement the instructions of the Competent Authority regarding the sermons of Fridays, Eids and religious events, preaching materials, lessons, lectures and fatwas.
2. Wear the uniform determined by the Competent Authority for those working in Mosques while carrying out the duties assigned thereto.

Article (13)

Prohibitions for Mosques' Personnel

The personnel working in Mosques shall not:

1. Affiliate to any illegal group or practise any banned political or organizational activity;
2. Preach, give a legal opinion (fatwa), teach lessons or memorize the Holy Qur'an outside the Mosques or bodies authorized by the Competent Authority;
3. Participate in any media activities without the prior permission of the Competent Authority; or
4. Raise funds or financial or in-kind aid for himself or for third party.

Chapter Four

Penalties

Article (14)

The penalties provided for in this Law shall not prejudice any more severe penalty provided for in any other law.

Article (15)

Any person who breaches the provisions of Article (8) and Items (1) and (2) of Article (9) hereof shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months and/or a fine not exceeding (AED 5,000) Five Thousand Dirhams.

Article (16)

Any person who breaches the provision of Item (3) of Article (9) hereof shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months and/or a fine not less than (AED 20,000) Twenty Thousand Dirhams and not exceeding (AED 50,000) Fifty Thousand

Dirhams.

Article (17)

Judicial Police

The staff designated by a resolution of the Minister of Justice, in agreement with the President, shall have the capacity of Judicial Police Officers in detection of any violations of the provisions of this Law and the resolutions issued in implementation hereof, within their area of competence.

Chapter Five

General Provisions

Article (18)

Regularization of Status

The Competent Authority shall regularize the status of Mosques, Public Prayer Rooms and Eid Prayer Rooms, that were built before the provisions of this Law entered into force, within a period of one year from the effective date of its provisions. Such period may be renewed by virtue of a resolution issued by the Cabinet.

Article (19)

Human Resources Legislation

1. Where no special provision is made, the human resources legislation in force at the Competent Authority shall apply.
2. The laws, regulations and decisions in force at the time of the issuance of this Law shall continue to be in force and shall not conflict with its provisions until the superseding laws, regulations and resolutions are issued.

Article (20)

Executive Resolutions of the Law

1. The Cabinet shall issue the Executive Regulations that are necessary to implement the provisions hereof within six months from the effective date of the Law.
2. The Authority shall issue the resolutions necessary to implement the provisions hereof.
3. Subject to the provisions of Items (1) and (2) of this Article, the local authority concerned with the affairs of Mosques in each Emirate may establish the controls and conditions necessary to implement the provisions of this Law, while not conflicting with its provisions.

Article (21)

Repeals

Any provision that contradicts or in conflicts herewith shall be repealed.

Article (22)

Publication and Entry into Force

This Law shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall enter into force from the day following the date of its Publication.

Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

President of the United Arab Emirates

Issued by Us in the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi:

On: Sha'ban 1439 AH.

Corresponding to: 25 April 2018 AD.