



شعبة الترجمة الرسمية
Official Translation Department

Law of Municipalities and Rural Areas

Royal Decree No. M/5
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Translation of Saudi Laws



NOTE:

The translation of Saudi laws takes the following into consideration:

- Words used in the singular form include the plural and vice versa.
- Words used in the masculine form include the feminine.
- Words used in the present tense include the present as well as the future.
- The word “person” or “persons” and their related pronouns (he, his, him, they, their, them) refer to a natural and legal person.



Law of Municipalities and Rural Areas

Part 1: Establishment and Functions

Chapter 1: Establishment

Article 1

A municipality shall have a legal personality with financial and administrative independence, and shall perform its duties pursuant to this Law and its Implementing Regulations.

Article 2

Municipalities shall be established, named, classified, reclassified, and canceled pursuant to a decision by the Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs upon the recommendation of the Provincial Council, taking into consideration demographic, social, urban, economic, and other factors.

Article 3

The Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs shall, upon the recommendation of the municipal council and the approval of the provincial council, approve a plan delineating the boundaries of each municipality and the area falling within its jurisdiction.

Article 4

- A. Two or more municipalities may be merged pursuant to a decision by the Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs upon the recommendation of the relevant municipal councils and the approval of the provincial council. Said decision shall determine the name, location, and classification of the new municipality, and all matters relating to its rights and obligations.
- B. A municipality may be divided into two or more municipalities pursuant to a decision by the Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs upon the recommendation of the provincial council. Said decision shall determine the names, locations, and classifications of the municipalities, and all matters relating to their rights and obligations.

Chapter 2: Functions

Article 5

Without prejudice to the powers vested by laws in certain departments and authorities, the municipality shall organize, maintain, and beautify its area, and



maintain public health, comfort, and safety. To this end, the municipality may take necessary measures in relation to:

1. urban planning pursuant to a plan duly approved by the competent authorities;
2. licensing and monitoring the construction of facilities and buildings and all public and private utility networks;
3. maintaining the town's appearance and cleanliness and establishing, managing, and operating, directly or through outsourcing, public parks, arenas, parks, and swimming areas, and monitoring them;
4. protecting public health, filling in waste swamps, preventing flash flooding, and planting trees around the town to protect against sand;
5. monitoring the quality and supply of food and consumer products, their prices, and prices of public services, as well as monitoring measurement tools in coordination with the competent authorities, and annually placing the stamp thereon;
6. establishing and regulating slaughterhouses;
7. establishing markets and designating outlets;
8. licensing the practice of crafts and professions as well as the opening of shops and monitoring them to ensure compliance with safety and quality measures;
9. fostering safety and comfort, and in particular, taking necessary measures in coordination with relevant authorities to prevent and extinguish fires, demolish dilapidated buildings or parts thereof, and establish public shelters;
10. designating parking spaces for street vendors, cars, and vehicles in coordination with relevant authorities;
11. regulating public transport and their fares in coordination with relevant authorities;
12. expropriating real property for public use;
13. determining and collecting municipal fees and revenues, as well as fines and penalties imposed on violators of municipal laws;
14. supervising the nomination and election of heads of trades and professions, monitoring their work, and resolving disputes which may arise between them;
15. preserving historical buildings in coordination with relevant authorities;
16. promoting cultural, athletic, and social activities in coordination with relevant authorities;
17. cooperating with relevant authorities to combat mendicity and homelessness and to establish nursing homes for the elderly and orphans as well as for the mentally and physically disabled persons, and the like;
18. establishing and maintaining cemeteries and corpse-washing places, and burying the deceased;
19. controlling stray and predatory animals and preventing inhumane treatment of animals;
20. preventing and removing any encroachment on its property and on public property falling within its jurisdiction; and
21. any other powers determined pursuant to a decision by the Council of Ministers.



Part 2

Chapter 1: Powers

Article 6

Municipal powers shall be assumed by:

1. the municipal council, which shall assume decision making and monitoring powers; and
2. the head of the municipality, who shall assume executive functions assisted by municipal departments.

Article 7

Municipalities shall report to the Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs.

Chapter 2: Council

Article 8

Repealed.

Article 9

Repealed.

Article 10

Repealed.

Article 11

Repealed.

Article 12

Repealed.

Article 13

Repealed.

Article 14

Repealed.



Article 15

Repealed.

Article 16

Repealed.

Article 17

Repealed.

Article 18

Repealed.

Article 19

Repealed.

Article 20

Repealed.

Article 21

Repealed.

Article 22

Repealed.

Article 23

Repealed.

Article 24

Repealed.

Article 25

Repealed.

Article 26

Repealed.

Article 27

Repealed.



Chapter 3: Head of Municipality

Article 28

The head of the municipality shall be in charge of managing the municipality and supervising the conduct of its affairs and the performance its employees in accordance with applicable laws and instructions. He may issue decisions and instructions relating to municipal affairs in accordance with applicable laws. He shall represent the municipality before third parties and may delegate the same, in writing, to any municipality employee.

Article 29

The head of the municipality shall, in his capacity as the chief executive officer, take all measures necessary to ensure that the municipality performs its duties in accordance with this Law and other laws, regulations, and decisions, particularly the following:

1. Manage the municipality's revenues, funds, and expenditures; and monitor its accounts and protect its rights.
2. Prepare a comprehensive tri-annual report on the municipality's activities, and submit it to the municipal council.
3. Prepare the municipal draft budget and plans of projects to be implemented during the following fiscal year and submit the same to the municipal council.
4. Implement the budget.
5. Prepare the final accounts for the ending fiscal year and submit the same to the municipal council.
6. Conclude contracts.
7. Monitor projects implemented for the municipality and approve receipt thereof.

Article 30

The Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs shall determine the decisions of the municipality head which require the approval of the Minister or his designee.

Article 31

The Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs shall, in coordination with the Minister of Interior, designate the municipalities which need municipal law enforcement task forces, and shall determine their number and ranks. Said task forces shall be selected from among internal security officers according to their law, and shall be under the command of the municipality head for the duration of their assignment.



Part 3: Financial Affairs

Article 32

Without prejudice to rights recognized by Sharia, all lands within the limits of the municipality are the property of the municipality, unless they are privately owned.

Article 33

All movable and immovable municipal property and resources may not be subject to attachment.

Article 34

The municipal budget shall be prepared according to relevant laws and shall commence and end with the State budget.

Article 35

The resources of the municipality shall consist of the following:

1. Municipal fees directly collected by the municipality and its share of fees the State collects and allocates to municipalities.
2. Fines.
3. Revenues of municipal property.
4. Bequests and gifts.
5. Fees collected under a special law to meet urgent expenditures.
6. Subsidies and funds allocated by the State to the municipality.
7. Other resources stipulated by law.

Article 36

The draft budget shall be submitted by the head of the municipality to the municipal council and shall be discussed according to procedures and dates provided for in the regulations.

Article 37

If the municipality budget for the new fiscal year is not approved by the competent authority for any reason, the revenues and expenses stipulated in the previous budget shall remain in effect pending approval of the new budget.

Article 38

The head of the municipality shall submit the final account to the municipal council within two months from the end of the fiscal year.

Article 39

The municipality revenues, fines, and penalties shall be collected in accordance



with applicable laws and instructions.

Article 40

Disbursement of municipal funds, collection of its revenues, and management of its personnel and labor affairs shall be in accordance with regulations approved by the Council of Ministers. Said regulations shall take into consideration the nature of municipal works.

Part 4: Rural Affairs

Article 41

Municipal services of rural areas shall be identified, developed, and managed in accordance with regulations issued by the Council of Ministers.

Part 5: General Provisions

Article 42

The Minister of Interior and the Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs shall assume the powers of the provincial council stipulated in this Law until it is formed in accordance with the Law of Provinces.

Article 43

Inter-municipal agreements may be concluded on matters of mutual interest. Such agreements shall be approved by the Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs.

Article 44

If a person refuses to implement municipality orders issued within its powers, the head of the municipality may order enforcement of such orders at the expense of said person in accordance with the law, without prejudice to prescribed penalties.

Article 45

The head of the municipality may suspend licenses and permits upon violation of their terms. He may also, subject to the approval of the municipal council, revoke such licenses and permits.

Article 46

A person exposed to harm due to the actions and decisions of the municipal



council or head of the municipality may appeal against the same to the Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs.

Article 47

Heads and employees of municipalities shall be subject to the laws of public employees and contracted laborers, and the Civil Pension Law, except as exempted under the regulations issued in implementation of Article 40 of this Law.

Article 48

The Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs shall issue the implementing regulations and instructions of this Law and may delegate some of his powers stipulated in this Law to officials in charge of municipalities and sub-municipalities in rural areas.

Article 49

Subject to the Law of the Council of Ministers and the Law of Provinces, this Law shall repeal:

1. the Law of Municipalities and Sub-Municipalities;
2. the Law of Municipal Election Procedures; and
3. all laws, decisions, and regulations conflicting therewith.