

**Executive Council Resolution No. (25) of 2013**  
**Concerning**  
**Mosques and Religious Activities in the Emirate of Dubai<sup>1</sup>**

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**We, Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of the Executive Council,**

**After perusal of:**

Law No. (3) of 2003 Establishing the Executive Council of the Emirate of Dubai;

Law No. (2) of 2011 Concerning the Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities Department; and

Local Order No. (3) of 1999 Regulating Construction Works in the Emirate of Dubai and its amendments,

**Do hereby issue this Resolution.**

**Definitions**

**Article (1)**

The following words and expressions, wherever mentioned in this Resolution, shall have the meaning indicated opposite each of them unless the context implies otherwise:

Emirate:	The emirate of Dubai.
Department:	The Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities Department.
Law:	Law No. (2) of 2011 Concerning the Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities Department.
Director General:	The director general of the Department.

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*<sup>1</sup>Every effort has been made to produce an accurate and complete English version of this legislation. However, for the purpose of its interpretation and application, reference must be made to the original Arabic text. In case of conflict the Arabic text shall prevail.*

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**Mosque:** A place designated for prayers, including mosques built by individuals on endowed and non-endowed land. Mosque courts and appurtenances to mosques shall be treated as mosques.

**Religious Activities:** Giving lessons, sermons, and lectures; holding seminars and religious competitions; organising and holding religious conferences and exhibitions; distributing copies of the noble Qur'an, books, bulletins, compact discs, and audio and video recordings; and presenting religious programmes published in print media and broadcast on audio and visual media.

### **Scope of Application**

#### **Article (2)**

This Resolution shall apply to Mosques, whether constructed or to be constructed, in the Emirate, and to Religious Activities conducted in the Emirate.

### **Construction of Mosques**

#### **Article (3)**

Without prejudice to the powers vested in the competent entities to supervise construction works in the Emirate, a person wishing to construct a Mosque in the Emirate, alter its design or plans, or undertake any maintenance thereof shall obtain the relevant prior written approval from the Department, and satisfy the rules and requirements set by the Department in this respect.

### **Functions of the Department**

#### **Article (4)**

For the purposes of this Resolution, the Department shall have the duties and powers to:

1. encourage members of society to build Mosques;
2. grant, in coordination with competent entities, the approvals and permits required for building Mosques;
3. set conditions and requirements for building Mosques, and supervise the compliance therewith in coordination with the competent entities responsible for supervising construction works in the Emirate;
4. supervise and monitor Mosques, including their management and staff; and
5. supervise, monitor, and license Religious Activities.

## **Registration of Mosques**

### **Article (5)**

Mosques shall be registered as an endowment (*waqf*) under the name and management of the Department, and may not be disposed of in any manner without the relevant prior written approval of the Department.

## **Handing Over of Mosques**

### **Article (6)**

A person who builds a Mosque for charitable purposes shall hand it over to the Department after completion of the construction works. The Department may grant a permit to any person or entity to supervise and manage the Mosque, and may revoke this permit at any time by a resolution issued in this respect by the Director General.

## **Prohibited Acts**

### **Article (7)**

The following acts shall be prohibited within Mosques:

1. interfering, in any way, by persons other than those licensed by the Department, with the affairs of the Mosque, particularly, with the call to prayer (*adhan*), call to commence prayer (*iqamah*), prayer, sermons or lessons;
2. using microphones in violation of the rules prescribed by the Department in this respect;
3. compromising the safety, serenity, or sanctity of the Mosque;
4. causing damage to the Mosque, or any of its assets, artifacts, or appurtenances;
5. using the Mosque for purposes other than those prescribed by Sharia; or
6. begging.

## **Restricted Acts**

### **Article (8)**

Without prejudice to Article (10) of the Law, the following acts shall be prohibited within Mosques without the prior written approval of the Department:

1. holding religious activities and cultural contests;
2. holding educational sessions;
3. commemorating religious events, organising gatherings, and the like;
4. establishing libraries;

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5. placing advertisements, posters and the like;
6. sleeping or eating; or
7. performing any other acts specified by the Director General.

**Mosque Personnel**  
**Article (9)**

Persons in charge of supervising and managing a mosque shall notify the Department upon appointing any person, regardless of his position, or any entity to work in the Mosque on full-time or part-time basis. The Department may approve or reject this appointment in accordance with the requirements adopted by the Department in this respect.

**Religious Activities**  
**Article (10)**

An individual or entity shall not organise or conduct any Religious Activity in the Emirate without obtaining the relevant prior written approval of the Department and satisfying all rules and conditions adopted by the Department in this respect.

**Licensing Religious Activities**  
**Article (11)**

- a. An application for a licence to conduct a Religious Activity shall be submitted to the Department. The Department shall issue a decision regarding the application within thirty (30) days from the date of application. An application shall be deemed to have been rejected if a decision is not issued within the specified period.
- b. The Department shall specify the documents that must be submitted with the application referred to in paragraph (a) of this Article.

**Penalties**  
**Article (12)**

- a. Without prejudice to any higher penalty stipulated in any other resolution, a person who violates the provisions of this Resolution and the resolutions issued in pursuance thereof shall be punished by either of the following penalties:
  1. written warning; or
  2. a fine of not less than one thousand Dirhams (AED 1,000) and not more than twenty thousand Dirhams (AED 20,000).

- b. Without prejudice to any applicable civil or criminal liability and in addition to the penalty prescribed by paragraph (a) of this Article, if an entity conducts any of the activities provided for in this Resolution without obtaining a licence from the Department, the Director General may issue a decision to close down the violating premises.

### **Judicial Police Officers**

#### **Article (13)**

Employees of the Department nominated by a resolution of the Director General, issued in coordination with the Director General of the Government of Dubai Legal Affairs Department, shall have the capacity of judicial police officers to record the acts committed in breach of the provisions of the Law, this Resolution, and the resolutions issued in pursuance thereof. For this purpose, they may issue violation reports, and seek assistance from competent entities, including police officers.

### **Grievance**

#### **Article (14)**

Any affected party may submit a written grievance to the Director General against the decision made against him or the penalties imposed on him under this Resolution within thirty (30) days from the date of issuing the decision or imposing the penalty. The grievance shall be determined by a committee formed by the Director General for this purpose within (30) days of submitting the grievance. The decision issued in respect of the grievance shall be final.

### **Issuing Implementing Resolutions**

#### **Article (15)**

The Director General shall issue the resolutions required for the implementation of the provisions of this Resolution.

### **Repeals**

#### **Article (16)**

Any provision in any other resolution shall be repealed to the extent that it contradicts the provisions of this Resolution.

**Publication and Commencement**  
**Article (17)**

This Resolution shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into force on the date on which it is published.

[Signed]

**Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**  
**Crown Prince of Dubai**  
**Chairman of the Executive Council**

Issued in Dubai on 24 July 2013  
Corresponding to 15 Ramadan 1434 A.H.