

Royal Decree No. (96/2000)
Issuing the Law Regulating the Regional Municipalities

We, Qaboos Bin Said, Sultan of Oman

- After perusal of the Basic Law of the State issued by the Royal Decree no (101/96),
- And the Law Regulating the Regional Municipalities issued by the Royal Decree No. (87/86),
- And the Law of Finance issued by the Royal Decree No. (47/98) and its amendments,
- And the Organization Structure of the Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Environment issued by the Royal Decree No. (18/99),
- And in accordance with the requirements of public interest,

Have decreed:

Article (1):

To enforce provisions of the attached Law Regulating the Regional Municipalities.

Article (2):

The indicated Royal Decree No. (87/86) shall be cancelled and all other provisions contradicting with this attached law shall also be cancelled.

Article (3):

This Decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into effect as from the date of publication.

Issued on: 18 Rajab 1421

C.T: 16 Oct 2000

Qaboos Bin Said
Sultan of Oman

“Law Regulating the Regional Municipalities”

Chapter One

General Provisions

Definitions

Article (1):

In implementation of the provisions of this Law, the following words and terms shall have the meanings assigned before them unless the context require otherwise:

“The Ministry” “Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Environment”

“The Minister” “Minister of Regional Municipalities and Environment”

“Directorate General” “Directorate General of Regional Municipalities and Environment in the concerned Governorate / Region”

“Municipality” “Regional Municipality”

“Municipality Committee” “A committee formed to assist the Municipality in achieving the Ministry goals”

Article (2):

The provisions of this Law are to be enforced on Regional Municipalities existing at the time of issue as per attached annex and also enforced on new Regional Municipalities to be set up as per provisions stated in this Law.

Article (3):

Administrative division of the Municipalities regions, setting up of Municipalities or offices attached to them and canceling, incorporating, naming and changing boundaries of existing Municipalities shall be by decision of the Minister in coordination with the Ministry of Interior.

The sections following the Municipality shall be established by a decision of the Minister.

Article (4):

When a Municipality is merged into another, all rights and commitments shall be transferred accordingly.

If a Municipality is divided into two Municipalities or more, rights and commitments shall be distributed between them in accordance with the needs of each Municipality.

Article (5):

Ministries and different government bodies shall cooperate, each in its sphere of competence, with the Ministry in the implementation of the provisions of this Law.

(Chapter Two)

Responsibilities

Section one

The Minister responsibilities

Article (6):

The Minister has the authority to supervise, direct, control and follow up works of the Directorates General, Municipalities following it and committees. He has the authority to cancel, amend or stop decisions and procedures issued by the Directorates which contradict with the provisions of laws in force or those against the public interest.

Article (7):

The Minister shall issue the required decisions for the Directorates and Municipalities to carry out their assigned duties and shall approve the internal regulations as per provisions of this Law.

Article (8):

The Minister shall issue, following the approval of the Minister of the Ministry of Finance, a decision to specify the fees for permits, licenses and services rendered by the Ministry as per the provisions of this Law and its executive regulations.

Article (9):

The Minister shall specify the administrative or punitive penalties in the issued regulations and decisions related to Municipalities responsibilities as per Article (13) of this Law for violations of its provisions. Violations shall be recorded, investigated and handled administratively and judicially according to the laws, regulations and decisions in force.

In the event of a punitive penalty, it shall not exceed for the first or second offence to a maximum of R.O (300) and if repeated the fine shall not be less than R.O (300) and not exceeding R.O (1000) or imprisonment for six months or both penalties.

In case of continues violation, the penalty may be imposed at a maximum rate of R.O 50 for each day of continuance violation, provided that the total dose not exceed R.O 1000 or imprisonment for a maximum period of six months or both penalties. All this shall be applied, without prejudice to any strict penalty stipulated in any other Law.

Article (10):

If the Municipality faces difficulties in implanting the administrative penalties, then the Royal Oman Police, after being notified by the Municipality, shall carry out the penalties even by using force if necessary.

Article (11):

Any concerned person may complain to the Minister against the decision or action undertaken by the Ministry or Directorates or Municipality or Committee within two months from the date of his notification or his certain knowledge of the same.

The Minister has the authority to cancel or amend or stop these decisions or actions.

Article (12):

Employees designated by a decision of the Minister of Justice in coordination with the Minister have the legal authority to enforce the provisions of this law and its executive regulations and decisions.

Chapter Two

Responsibilities of Municipality

Article (13):

Without prejudice to the responsibilities of other Ministries and Government Bodies, the Municipalities are responsible to provide, in coordination with these Ministries and competent bodies, public services in the following fields:

(A) Maintain the cleanness of the area, pest and rodents control and undertake the necessary measures to maintain public health.

(B) Development and beautification of the area and maintain its beauty and cultural elements.

(C) Establishment and maintenance of public facilities such as internal roads, public squares, parks, children's playgrounds and recreational parks, public toilets and public sheds and car parks and any other municipal facilities.

(D) Public lighting of internal roads, streets, fields, beaches and public spaces, landscaping and parking areas, public sheds, markets, parks and playgrounds, public toilets, and any other municipal facilities.

(E) Organizing, naming and numbering of neighborhoods, streets, roads and alleys and public squares.

(F) Undertake the necessary measures to remove encroachments and maintain State public and private property and undertake the necessary actions to remove encroachments and illegal holdings.

(G) Issue construction, renovation and demolition of ramshackle buildings permits and follow up the implementation of provisions applied in this respect.

(H) Regulating and monitoring buildings and other related civil works such as drilling for cables, transfer of soil and mountains rubble and labeling.

(I) Undertake the necessary measures for the discharge of rain water and provide and maintain wastewater systems.

(J) Establishment, maintenance and monitoring wastewater stations, water and carry out necessary inspection to check water safety.

(K) Issue permits and stipulate health requirements for commercial, occupational and industrial shops, hotel apartments, guesthouses, restaurants, cafes and shops causing disturbance or harms to health or dangerous, public places, and their employees or other simple trades related to public health and determine working hours for the above mentioned places.

(L) Monitor cleanness and regulate foodstuff markets, safety and quality of food and combat fraud.

(XXIV) Establishment of slaughter houses and organize and monitor slaughter places for camels, cows, sheep and poultry.

(XXV) Regulating detention of stray or neglected animals and inform the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of any smuggled animals.

(O) Regulating cars parking and taxis prices and placing distinctive signs.

(Q) Fencing of cemeteries and preserve its sanctity.

(P) Regulating and controlling advertisements and signboards and issue licenses in this respect.

(S) Undertake all necessary procedures to preserve the environment and nature.

(T) Organization of recreational festivals, sports, cultural and social seminars at the municipal level in coordination with the concerned bodies.

(U) Establishment of projects with financial revenue to support the income of the Municipality.

(V) Undertake any other duties entrusted to Municipalities by a decision from the Ministers Council.

Article (14)

The Ministry shall encourage investment and open various fields in this respect for contribution in municipal, environmental and particularly in establishing commercial markets in Wilayats.

(Chapter 3)

Municipalities Units

Article (15): Municipalities shall be comprised from the following units:

- 1 – Municipality Committee.
- 2 - Municipality Director.
- 3 - Offices and Sections following the Municipality.

Article (16): The Minister shall issue a decision to form a Municipality Committee in each Wilayat and specify its duties in coordination with the Ministry of Interior and determine rewards granted to its members.

Article (17): A Municipality Committee shall be established in each region headed by the Wali and the Municipality Director as a member, and a representative from the following Ministries:

Transport and Housing - Health - Social Affairs and Labor and Vocational Training – Commerce and Industry - Electricity and Water - Agriculture and Fisheries - Education - Water Resources – Oman Police Royal.

The Committee shall also include between 3 to 5 members representing the local residents in the Wilayat who shall be selected by the Ministry of Interior according to population density.

Article (18): The appointment of Municipalities Directors and their duties shall be through a decision issued by the Minister.

Article (19): Director General of the Directorate General shall supervise and follow up the work of the Municipalities following the Directorate and in his absence, the Minister shall appoint other officer to take his place.

Article (20): The Directorate General with its departments and sections shall participate in the preparation of plans and projects to develop municipal services and follow up its implementation.

[Chapter 4]
(Financial System)

Article (21): The Regional Municipalities financial affairs shall follow the rules set by the State.

Municipalities may accept donations, wills and gifts according to the limitations specified by a decision issued by the Minister, and shall not be considered public money or deposited in Municipalities Committees account and shall be used to finance the Municipality services and recreational projects according to the regulations issued by a decision from the Minister.

Article (22): Regional Municipalities revenues shall be comprised of:

- (A) State funds allocated for the general budget.
- (B) Taxes and fees set in laws and regulations for the interest of Regional Municipalities.
- (C) Revenues from the Regional Municipalities, money and properties.
- (D) Revenue collected for services rendered by the Regional Municipalities.
- (E) Income from trade exhibitions held in regions.
- (F) Investments returns from projects undertaken by the Municipality.
- (G) Fines amounts.
- (H) Income from recreational projects

Article (23): The Directorate General shall prepare its own budget project inclusive of internal budgets for each Municipality following it in accordance with the provisions, rules and procedures set forth in the Financial Law of the State and Budget publications.

Article (24): The Directorate General shall prepare the final statement of the ending fiscal year inclusive of the actual expenditure and resources distributed between the different budget chapters during the period designated by the Ministry in the light of publications issued by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of National Economy in accordance with the rules, provisions and procedures set forth in the Financial Law.

Annex to the Law
Regulating the Regional Municipalities enlisting
Municipalities existing at the time of issue

No	Directorate General	Municipalities
1	Al Batinah Region (North) Center (Sohar)	Al Suwaiq – Al Khabourah - Saham – Liwa - Shinas
2	Al Batinah Region (South) Center (Rustaq)	Rustaq – Al awabi – Nakhal – Wadi AL Maual - Barka – AL Musanah
3	Governorate of Musandam Center (Khasab)	Khasab - Bukha - Madha – Dibba Al Biah
4	Al Dahrah Region Center (AL Buraimi)	AL Buraimi – Ibri – Mahadah – Yanqal - Dhank
5	Dakhilyah Region Center (Nizwa)	Nizwa - Sumail - Bahla - Adam - Izki - Bidbid – Al Hamra- Manah
6	Al Sharqiyah Region (South) Center (Ibra)	Ibra – Badiyah – AL Mudhaibi – AL Kabil – Dama Wataeen - Wadi Bani Khalid
7	Al Sharqiyah Region (North) Center (Sur)	Sur - Jalan Bani Bu Ali - Jalan Bani Bu Hassan – AL Kamil Wal wafi – Masirah
8	Al Wasta Region Center (Haimi)	Haima - Mahout – Al Duqum – Al Jazir