

Law No. (11) of 2026
Concerning
Antiquities and Archaeological Sites in the Emirate of Dubai¹

We, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai,

After perusal of:

Federal Law No. (11) of 2017 Concerning Antiquities and its Implementing Bylaw;

Federal Law by Decree No. (38) of 2021 Concerning Copyright and Related Rights, and its Implementing Bylaw;

Federal Law by Decree No. (34) of 2021 Concerning Combating Rumours and Cybercrimes and its amendments;

Federal Decree No. (34) of 2001 Ratifying the Accession of the UAE to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage;

Federal Decree No. (15) of 2022 Ratifying the Common Customs Regulation ("Law") of the Gulf Cooperation Council States, and its Implementing Bylaw;

Law No. (7) of 2006 Concerning Real Property Registration in the Emirate of Dubai and its amendments;

Law No. (6) of 2008 Establishing the Dubai Culture and Arts Authority;

Law No. (1) of 2016 Concerning the Financial Regulations of the Government of Dubai, its Implementing Bylaw, and their amendments;

Law No. (5) of 2021 Concerning the Dubai International Financial Centre;

Law No. (2) of 2022 Concerning Acquisition of Real Property for the Public Benefit in the Emirate of Dubai;

Law No. (16) of 2023 Concerning Urban Planning in the Emirate of Dubai and its amendments;

Law No. (26) of 2023 Concerning the Executive Council of the Emirate of Dubai;

Law No. (17) of 2025 Concerning Disposition of Lost and Abandoned Property in the Emirate of Dubai;

The Order of 1961 Establishing the Dubai Municipality;

Decree No. (22) of 2009 Concerning Special Development Zones in the Emirate of Dubai;

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¹Every 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 will prevail.

Decree No. (38) of 2023 Transferring the Antiquities Section of the Architectural Heritage and Antiquities Department of the Dubai Municipality to the Dubai Culture and Arts Authority; and
The legislation establishing and regulating Free Zones in the Emirate of Dubai,

Do hereby issue this Law.

Title of the Law

Article (1)

This Law will be cited as "Law No. (11) of 2026 Concerning Antiquities and Archaeological Sites in the Emirate of Dubai".

Definitions

Article (2)

The following words and expressions, wherever mentioned in this Law, have the meanings respectively assigned to them, unless the context implies otherwise:

UAE:	The United Arab Emirates.
Emirate:	The Emirate of Dubai.
MoC:	The Ministry of Culture.
Executive Council:	The Executive Council of the Emirate of Dubai.
DM:	The Dubai Municipality.
DCAA:	The Dubai Culture and Arts Authority.
Chairperson:	The Chairperson of the DCAA.
Director General:	The Director General of the DCAA.
Antiquity:	Any movable or immovable object which, after satisfying the criteria prescribed by this Law and being entered in the Register, is determined by the DCAA to be an Antiquity.
Immovable Antiquity:	An Antiquity that is attached to and fixed in the ground and cannot be removed from its location without altering its physical integrity or causing it damage or deterioration. A Movable Antiquity will be deemed an Immovable Antiquity if it forms part of, complements, or is attached to that Immovable Antiquity, or is an ornament or inscription thereon. This includes an Underwater Antiquity.
Movable Antiquity:	An Antiquity that is detached from the ground and can be relocated without causing damage or destruction to the Antiquity itself, to any

	other associated Antiquity, or to the place where it was discovered. This includes an Underwater Antiquity.
Private Antiquity:	A Movable Antiquity or an Immovable Antiquity owned by a Person, the ownership of which is established through possession or registration in the Register.
Underwater Antiquity:	Any Antiquity discovered in the Waters of the Emirate which remains partially or wholly submerged, whether periodically or permanently. This includes, without limitation, archaeological sites, structures, buildings, archaeological artefacts, ships, and other means of transport, irrespective of variations in the surrounding archaeological context.
Waters of the Emirate:	The internal waters of the Emirate, including the coastlines of islands, creeks, beaches, and lakes.
Foreign Antiquity:	A Movable Antiquity that qualifies as an Antiquity in accordance with this Law but does not originate from and was not discovered within the Emirate.
Archaeological Site:	An area within the Emirate containing Antiquities, the boundaries of which are determined by a resolution of the Chairperson in coordination with the competent entities in the Emirate.
Private Archaeological Site:	An Archaeological Site owned by a Person, the ownership of which is established by an official document.
Buffer Zone:	The area surrounding an Archaeological Site that constitutes its natural, environmental, aesthetic, visual, or legal extension and forms an integral part of that Archaeological Site. The DCAA will determine the Buffer Zone and delineate it on planning maps in coordination with the competent entities in the Emirate.
Register:	The register established under this Law containing particulars of the Antiquities and Archaeological Sites in the Emirate, together with any associated maps, documents, records, and other materials, in the manner determined by the DCAA in this respect.
National Register:	The register maintained by the MoC containing particulars and information relating to Antiquities throughout the UAE, together with

	any associated maps, documents, records, and other materials, in the manner specified by the applicable federal legislation.
Archaeological Activities:	Activities relating to Antiquities, including, without limitation, the study and classification of Antiquities, archaeological surveys, and excavation, restoration, and conservation of Antiquities.
Owner:	A Person who owns or has actual control over a Private Antiquity or a Private Archaeological Site, or that Person's legal representative.
Major Project:	A development, construction, or infrastructure project implemented on a large scale or over an extensive area, whose implementation has an actual or potential direct impact on an Archaeological Site or any of its natural or archaeological components.
Person:	A natural person or a public or private legal person.

Scope of Application Article (3)

The provisions of this Law apply to Antiquities and Archaeological Sites discovered before or after this Law comes into force, in all land, marine, and mountainous areas of the Emirate, whether on or beneath the surface of the ground or within the Waters of the Emirate, including in Special Development Zones and Free Zones, such as the Dubai International Financial Centre.

Objectives of the Law Article (4)

This Law aims to:

1. discover and classify Antiquities in the Emirate, and record them in the Register, with a view to reviving and preserving them as being among the most important national assets and resources of the Emirate;
2. promote awareness of Antiquities and Archaeological Sites in the Emirate and highlight their importance and historical, cultural, and architectural value;
3. promote awareness and support recognition of the importance of Private Antiquities and Private Archaeological Sites; and establish the controls necessary to ensure their protection and optimal use; and
4. provide an enabling institutional framework for the management and regulation of Archaeological Activities in the Emirate.

Functions of the DCAA

Article (5)

The DCAA is the competent entity in the Emirate responsible for supervising Antiquities and Archaeological Sites. For the purposes of achieving the objectives of this Law, the DCAA will have the duties and powers to:

1. manage, protect, and preserve Antiquities and Archaeological Sites in the Emirate; highlight their artistic and historical characteristics and distinctive features; develop their Buffer Zones; prepare them for visitors and encourage visits to them; prevent the defacement of their monuments; and establish the standards, policies, and regulatory and protective measures necessary for these purposes, in accordance with internationally recognised standards in this respect;
2. compile an inventory of Antiquities in the Emirate; identify their features; photograph, illustrate, and classify them; collect relevant scientific documents and information; and conduct the necessary studies and research;
3. compile an inventory of Archaeological Sites in the Emirate; identify their boundaries and features; and prepare and issue authenticated maps of those sites, in coordination with the concerned entities in the Emirate and in accordance with the rules and procedures prescribed by the implementing bylaw of this Law;
4. inspect and examine objects to determine whether they qualify as Antiquities and enter them in the Register, in accordance with the criteria prescribed by this Law and the procedures prescribed by its implementing bylaw;
5. conduct Archaeological Activities in the Emirate and provide the tools, devices, equipment, and laboratories required for that purpose;
6. issue the permits required for conducting Archaeological Activities in the Emirate and monitor compliance by permit holders with the requirements, controls, and obligations prescribed by resolution of the Chairman of the Executive Council;
7. issue approvals for the restoration and conservation of Private Antiquities and Private Archaeological Sites; access to Archaeological Sites; and the carrying out of construction works within Archaeological Sites and their Buffer Zones;
8. establish the controls governing the holding of events and the conduct of economic activities at Archaeological Sites;
9. organise exhibitions, auctions, and events relating to Antiquities in the Emirate; exploit Archaeological Sites; engage in the trade and circulation of Antiquities; and reproduce Movable Antiquities and make exact replicas thereof for commercial purposes, in accordance with the legislation in force in the Emirate;

10. train and qualify UAE nationals to conduct Archaeological Activities and enter their details in the Register;
11. take the measures necessary to protect Antiquities during emergencies, crises, and disasters, in coordination with the competent entities in the Emirate;
12. approve operational guidelines for managing anticipated and unanticipated risks relating to the protection of Antiquities, in accordance with the scientific and professional principles observed in this field;
13. take the measures necessary to protect Antiquities and Archaeological Sites from environmental and visual pollution, in coordination with the concerned entities in the Emirate;
14. establish and manage the storage facilities required for the safekeeping of Antiquities and equip them with the devices, equipment, systems, personnel, procedures, and operating manuals appropriate to the type, nature, and size of the Antiquities;
15. insure Antiquities owned by the Emirate against risks with insurance companies licensed to operate in the UAE;
16. establish the standards and requirements to be observed in carrying out conservation and restoration works on Antiquities and in Archaeological Sites, in accordance with internationally recognised standards in this respect;
17. inspect, examine, and document Antiquities seized by the competent entities in the Emirate; prepare the necessary reports on their history, provenance, and authenticity; and enter confiscated Antiquities in the Register;
18. establish, in coordination with the concerned entities in the Emirate, the controls and restrictions to be observed when carrying out infrastructure development works within Archaeological Sites or their Buffer Zones;
19. coordinate with the DM to determine the land uses permitted in areas adjacent to Archaeological Sites;
20. enter into agreements and memoranda of understanding with entities specialising in Antiquities;
21. organise conferences; hold seminars and workshops; prepare publications and booklets; and organise programmes and initiatives aimed at raising awareness of Antiquities;
22. provide the MoC with data relating to Antiquities for entry in the National Register in accordance with the legislation in force;
23. establish the rules governing the ownership of Private Antiquities and Private Archaeological Sites and monitor compliance with those rules;

24. take all legal measures necessary to recover Antiquities entered in the Register or which have been smuggled, stolen, or loaned, whether within or outside the UAE, in cooperation and coordination with the competent entities;
25. coordinate and cooperate with concerned entities within and outside the Emirate in all matters relating to Antiquities, Archaeological Sites, and Archaeological Activities, with a view to strengthening joint efforts to protect and develop heritage and Antiquities;
26. participate in international events and forums relating to Antiquities and, in coordination with the concerned federal and local entities, represent the Emirate or the UAE at those events and forums to promote the cultural and archaeological heritage of the Emirate internationally;
27. accredit and evaluate experts and technicians working, whether within or outside the Emirate, in the field of Antiquities in accordance with the standards and controls adopted by the DCAA, with a view to ensuring competence and professionalism in the conduct of Archaeological Activities; and
28. exercise any other duties or powers required for the achievement of the objectives of this Law, as assigned to it by the Ruler or the Chairman of the Executive Council.

Outsourcing of Functions

Article (6)

The DCAA may, in accordance with the legislation in force, outsource any of its functions under this Law to any public or private entity pursuant to an agreement concluded with that entity for this purpose. The agreement will specify the rights and obligations of the DCAA and the contracting entity, and the conditions, requirements, specifications, and standards that the contracting entity must observe in performing the functions outsourced to it by the DCAA.

Ownership of Antiquities and Archaeological Sites

Article (7)

- a. Antiquities and Archaeological Sites located in the Emirate are owned by the Emirate, except for Private Antiquities and Private Archaeological Sites entered in the Register by their Owners.
- b. Ownership of land does not confer on its owner any right to own or dispose of an Antiquity situated on, attached to, or buried beneath the land, or any right whatsoever to survey, excavate, restore, or maintain an Antiquity situated on or beneath the land.
- c. Antiquities owned by the Emirate may not be gifted except in the most exceptional circumstances and pursuant to a resolution issued by the Chairperson for this purpose.

- d. Antiquities owned by the Emirate may be temporarily removed from the Emirate for exhibition, restoration, study, or any other purpose pursuant to a resolution issued by the Chairperson for this purpose.
- e. Antiquities owned by the Emirate may be loaned to official entities, scientific institutions, museums, or national institutes within or outside the UAE pursuant to a resolution issued by the Director General for this purpose.
- f. The implementing bylaw of this Law will prescribe the conditions, controls, and safeguards governing the gifting, temporary removal, or lending of Antiquities owned by the Emirate; and the conditions and controls governing the removal or lending of Private Antiquities outside the Emirate.
- g. All intellectual property rights in photographs, models, periodic and scientific reports, and exact replicas of Antiquities owned by the Emirate will vest in the Emirate. This includes the intellectual property rights in photographs, models, and reports prepared by entities authorised by the DCAA to conduct Archaeological Activities.

Reporting Discovered Antiquities

Article (8)

- a. Any Person who discovers, or accidentally finds, an object that satisfies the criteria prescribed by this Law for designation as an Antiquity must leave it undisturbed and cease any works, including construction works, that may affect it or any other Antiquities that may exist in the Buffer Zone. That Person must notify the DCAA or Dubai Police of the discovery within forty-eight (48) hours of discovering or finding the object.
- b. Any Person who accidentally finds, in the Waters of the Emirate, an object that satisfies the criteria prescribed by this Law for designation as an Antiquity must immediately report the discovery to the DCAA and deliver the object to the DCAA within seven (7) days of finding it.
- c. Without prejudice to the rights of bona fide third parties, an Antiquity discovered by chance is deemed to be owned by the Emirate if its Owner remains unidentified for five (5) years from the date of its discovery. The DCAA must, in coordination with the concerned entities, take the measures necessary to ascertain the identity of the Owner, preserve the Antiquity, and enter it in the Register in accordance with this Law.
- d. The DCAA may grant a financial reward to a Person who discovers or finds an Antiquity, or reports its discovery, in the circumstances referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Article, or who reports any act committed in violation of this Law or its implementing bylaw. The amount of the reward and the mechanism for its payment will be specified by a resolution issued by the Chairperson for this purpose.

- e. The implementing bylaw of this Law will prescribe the procedures to be followed by the DCAA in dealing with Antiquities discovered by chance whose Owners cannot be identified.

Register Article (9)

- a. Pursuant to this Law, a special register will be maintained by the DCAA in which all Antiquities and Archaeological Sites, including Private Antiquities and Private Archaeological Sites, that satisfy the criteria prescribed by this Law for designation as Antiquities or Archaeological Sites are entered.
- b. Antiquities and Archaeological Sites registered with the DCAA before the date on which this Law comes into force will be legally deemed to satisfy the criteria prescribed by this Law for designation as Antiquities or Archaeological Sites and to have been entered in the Register under this Law. The DCAA will update the particulars of those Antiquities and Archaeological Sites in accordance with the requirements prescribed by a resolution issued by the Director General for this purpose.
- c. The Chairperson may remove from the Register any registered Antiquity or Archaeological Site and such removal will result in the extinguishment of its status as an Antiquity or Archaeological Site.
- d. The DCAA must coordinate with the Dubai Land Department to make an entry in the Real Property Register in respect of each Antiquity and Archaeological Site, including each Private Antiquity and Private Archaeological Site, stating that the Antiquity or Archaeological Site is subject to this Law.
- e. The implementing bylaw of this Law will determine the form and classifications of the Register; the information to be entered therein; the procedures for entering Antiquities and Archaeological Sites, including Private Antiquities and Private Archaeological Sites, in the Register; and the controls and procedures governing their removal from it.

Entry of Private Antiquities and Private Archaeological Sites in the Register Article (10)

- a. Any Person who owns a Private Antiquity or Private Archaeological Site that satisfies the criteria prescribed by this Law for designation as an Antiquity or Archaeological Site, as applicable, must apply to the DCAA for its inspection and entry in the Register.
- b. A Private Antiquity or Private Archaeological Site is deemed to be owned by the Emirate where its Owner fails to apply to the DCAA for its entry in the Register within the time limit referred to in Article (27) of this Law. This does not prejudice the Owner's right to fair compensation.

- c. Private Antiquities and Private Archaeological Sites entered in the Register will remain in the possession of their Owners. An Owner must not dispose of a Private Antiquity or Private Archaeological Site through any form of legal disposition unless it has first been offered to the DCAA for purchase or the DCAA has approved the proposed disposition. This restriction does not apply to transfers between relatives up to the second degree.
- d. The new Owner of a Private Antiquity or Private Archaeological Site must comply with all provisions and obligations prescribed by this Law, its implementing bylaw, and the resolutions issued in pursuance thereof, including the requirement to enter the Private Antiquity or Private Archaeological Site in the Register.

Criteria for Designation as an Antiquity Article (11)

- a. An object will qualify as an Antiquity if it satisfies the following criteria:
 - 1. it was produced, built, manufactured, carved, engraved, written, drawn, photographed, modified, dug, inhabited, or used by humans, or was naturally formed and subsequently used by humans. This includes buildings; fossils; petrified remains; and human, animal, and plant remains;
 - 2. it dates from before 1900 A.D. Any part added to it after that date that does not alter its essential character will be deemed to form an integral part of the object and to satisfy this criterion; and
 - 3. it has rare or distinctive historical, artistic, scientific, literary, religious, natural, architectural, structural, or other value of significance to humanity, or is evidence of the civilisational development of the UAE.
- b. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this Article, the Chairperson may, by resolution, deem any object to be an Antiquity without regard to the date criterion in subparagraph (a)(2) of this Article if the object has value in any of the respects referred to in subparagraph (a)(3) and its preservation is in the interests of the Emirate.

Creation of Entries on Title Deeds and Change of Permitted Use Article (12)

- a. The DCAA will notify the Dubai Land Department to create an entry on the registry folio of the land on which an Antiquity or Archaeological Site is located, specifying the restrictions imposed by this Law on its ownership and disposition.
- b. The implementing bylaw of this Law will prescribe the criteria and controls governing any change to the permitted use of land situated within the boundaries of an Archaeological Site or its Buffer Zone.

Prohibited Acts
Article (13)

- a. No Person may commit any of the following acts:
1. damaging, demolishing, altering, relocating, or modifying the features of an Antiquity or otherwise damaging, demolishing, altering, or modifying the features of an Archaeological Site or a Buffer Zone, or defacing any of them by writing or engraving;
 2. disposing of any waste, soil, sand, or animal carcasses in an Archaeological Site or Buffer Zone;
 3. placing any signs or affixing any advertisements on an Antiquity or within an Archaeological Site or Buffer Zone, except to the extent necessary for guidance or information purposes;
 4. entering an Archaeological Site closed by the DCAA without first obtaining its approval;
 5. using an Archaeological Site or Buffer Zone as a dumping ground, a repository for debris or waste, a storage facility, a quarry, a cemetery, an animal shelter, or for any other purpose that may adversely affect or cause damage to the Archaeological Site or Buffer Zone;
 6. establishing any heavy or hazardous industry, military installation or vital facilities within an Archaeological Site or Buffer Zone; or committing any other act that may endanger the Archaeological Site or Buffer Zone;
 7. removing any soil, stones, debris, or other materials from an Archaeological Site or Buffer Zone without first obtaining the approval of the DCAA;
 8. carrying out any construction works, levelling land, installing any irrigation system, constructing any road or canal, digging or planting, or felling any trees, within an Archaeological Site or Buffer Zone; or committing any other act that may alter or cause damage to the Archaeological Site, without first obtaining the approval of the DCAA;
 9. using an Archaeological Site or Buffer Zone for any industrial, commercial, agricultural, scientific, or investment activity without first obtaining the approval of the DCAA and coordinating with the competent Government Entity, including the Dubai Land Department or the Department of Economy and Tourism, as applicable;
 10. holding any exhibition, auction, or event relating to Antiquities in the Emirate without first obtaining the approval of the DCAA;
 11. bringing a Movable Antiquity into the Emirate for acquisition, sale, export, or any other purpose, whether personally, through another Person, in transit or by any other means,

unless lawful possession of that Movable Antiquity is established by official documents duly authenticated by the competent entities and in accordance with the legislation in force;

12. establishing, managing, or supervising a website, or using the information network or any means of information technology, for the purpose of trading in Antiquities without obtaining the necessary approvals from the DCAA and the competent entities; or
 13. permanently or temporarily removing a Private Antiquity from the Emirate for exhibition, restoration, examination, or analysis without first obtaining the approval of the DCAA.
- b. The implementing bylaw of this Law will specify the requirements and procedures for issuing the approvals referred to in paragraph (a) of this Article, as well as the documents required to establish lawful possession of a Movable Antiquity as referred to in subparagraph (a)(11) of this Article.

Obligations of Owners **Article (14)**

Subject to liability, an Owner must:

1. preserve a Private Antiquity or Private Archaeological Site in the condition in which it existed when discovered; maintain and restore it; protect it against damage caused by natural and human factors; and balance the requirements of modern development with the need to preserve its historical character;
2. obtain the approval of the DCAA before carrying out any restoration or conservation works on a Private Antiquity or Private Archaeological Site, or any works that may alter it, and carry out those works in accordance with the approval and under the supervision of the DCAA;
3. obtain the approval of the DCAA before carrying out any construction works within a Private Archaeological Site or Buffer Zone, in accordance with the conditions and procedures prescribed by the implementing bylaw of this Law;
4. insure the Private Antiquity or Private Archaeological Site against risks with an insurance company operating in the UAE;
5. permit the competent employees of the DCAA to enter and inspect the Private Antiquity or Private Archaeological Site for the purposes of inspecting it and entering it in the Register, and provide them with the assistance necessary to perform their duties, including enabling them to carry out the necessary conservation work on the Private Antiquity or Private Archaeological Site after it has been entered in the Register in accordance with this Law;
6. obtain the prior approval of the DCAA before disposing of the Private Antiquity or Private Archaeological Site in the manner prescribed by this Law and its implementing bylaw;

7. notify the DCAA within forty-eight (48) hours of any risk of damage or collapse arising in relation to the Private Antiquity or Private Archaeological Site;
8. report to the police any loss, damage, theft, or vandalism affecting the Private Antiquity or Private Archaeological Site within forty-eight (48) hours of its occurrence. The police will notify the DCAA of the report and take the necessary action in respect thereof; and
9. comply with any other obligations related to the achievement of the objectives of this Law, as determined pursuant to the relevant resolutions of the Director General.

Disposition of Private Antiquities and Private Archaeological Sites

Article (15)

- a. Subject to the approval of the Chairperson and where required in the public interest, the DCAA may:
 1. relocate a Private Antiquity to any other location determined by the DCAA for its preservation;
 2. lease, borrow, or purchase a Private Antiquity or Private Archaeological Site;
 3. expropriate a Private Antiquity or Private Archaeological Site for the public benefit, in which case the expropriation and any compensation payable to the Owner are governed by the above-mentioned Law No. (2) of 2022 and the resolutions issued in pursuance thereof;
 4. conduct, or authorise the conduct of, Archaeological Activities on privately owned land;
 5. create easements over Real Property adjacent to Antiquities or Archaeological Sites to ensure their protection and preservation; or
 6. take any other measures specified by resolution of the Chairperson.
- b. The implementing bylaw of this Law will prescribe the controls and procedures governing the exercise by the DCAA of the powers referred to in paragraph (a) of this Article and the principles for assessing any compensation payable where the exercise of those powers causes damage to third parties.

Maintenance and Restoration of Private Antiquities and Private Archaeological Sites

Article (16)

- a. Where a Private Antiquity or Private Archaeological Site in the possession of its Owner is at risk of collapse or damage and the Owner fails to maintain or restore it, the DCAA may carry

out the necessary maintenance and restoration works and subsequently recover the costs of those works from the Owner in accordance with the legislation in force.

- b. The Chairperson may exempt the Owner from all or part of the costs payable under paragraph (a) of this Article.
- c. Where it is established that a Private Antiquity or Private Archaeological Site in the possession of its Owner is damaged or collapses as a result of negligence, misuse, or a wrongful act by the Owner, the DCAA may bring proceedings before the competent judicial authority to recover from the Owner an amount equal to the value of that Private Antiquity or Private Archaeological Site. This does not prejudice any penalty prescribed under this Law and other legislation in force in the Emirate.

Conducting Archaeological Activities Article (17)

- a. No Person may conduct any Archaeological Activities in the Emirate without first obtaining a permit from the DCAA.
- b. The Chairman of the Executive Council will issue a resolution regulating the conduct of Archaeological Activities; prescribing the conditions and procedures for issuing permits to conduct them; and determining the rights of entities authorised to conduct those activities and the requirements to be met by authorities, institutions, universities, institutes, museums, and other entities specialising in Antiquities that are authorised by the DCAA to conduct Archaeological Activities.

Importing Foreign Antiquities Article (18)

- a. A Foreign Antiquity must not be brought into the Emirate for acquisition, trade, exhibition, transit, re-export, or any other purpose without first obtaining the approval of the DCAA. The implementing bylaw of this Law will prescribe the requirements and procedures for obtaining that approval.
- b. The Dubai Customs Department must seize any Foreign Antiquity that a Person attempts to bring into the Emirate without the prior approval of the DCAA and deliver it to the DCAA to take the necessary action in respect thereof. This is without prejudice to the application of the provisions and penalties prescribed under the above-mentioned Federal Decree No. (15) of 2022 in relation to any attempt to bring a Foreign Antiquity into the Emirate.
- c. The DCAA will return a seized Foreign Antiquity that is found to be lawfully possessed to its Owner and require the Owner to comply with the requirements and complete the procedures for obtaining the approval referred to in paragraph (a) of this Article before bringing the Foreign Antiquity into the Emirate.

- d. The DCAA will coordinate with the MoC in respect of any seized Foreign Antiquity that is found to be unlawfully possessed, with a view to initiating the procedures for returning it to its Owner or to the state that owns it.
- e. Ownership of a Foreign Antiquity will vest in the Emirate if its Owner cannot be identified or no bilateral agreement exists between the UAE and the state that owns the Foreign Antiquity, subject to a court judgment ordering its confiscation.

Implementation of Major Projects Article (19)

- a. A Person must obtain a no-objection certificate from the DCAA before carrying out a Major Project in the Emirate if the project is to be carried out within an Archaeological Site or an area containing Antiquities.
- b. The DCAA will issue the no-objection certificate referred to in paragraph (a) of this Article upon verifying that the area in which the Major Project is to be carried out contains no Antiquities or Archaeological Sites.
- c. The DCAA will coordinate with the competent entities in the Emirate to determine which Major Projects require a no-objection certificate under this Article.

Fees Article (20)

In return for issuing permits, approvals, and no-objection certificates, and providing services under this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, the DCAA will collect the fees prescribed by the relevant resolution issued by the Chairman of the Executive Council.

Violations and Administrative Penalties Article (21)

- a. Without prejudice to any stricter penalty stipulated in any other legislation, a Person who commits any act constituting a violation of the provisions of this Law, its implementing bylaw, and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof will be punished by a fine of not less than one hundred dirhams (AED 100) and not more than one hundred thousand dirhams (AED 100,000).
- b. The Chairman of the Executive Council will issue a resolution determining the acts that constitute violations of this Law, its implementing bylaw, and the resolutions issued in pursuance thereof; and the relevant fine prescribed for each act.

- c. Upon repetition of the same violation within one (1) year from the date of the previous violation, the amount of the fine imposed on the violator will be doubled. A fine must not exceed two hundred thousand dirhams (AED 200,000).
- d. In addition to the penalty of a fine prescribed under this Article, the DCAA may take one or more of the following measures against a violator:
 - 1. issuing a warning;
 - 2. suspending the permit, approval, or no-objection certificate for a period not exceeding six (6) months;
 - 3. coordinating with the competent Government Entities to stop and remove any encroachment upon, or damage caused to, Antiquities, Archaeological Sites, or a Buffer Zone;
 - 4. requiring the violator, under the supervision of the DCAA and within the time frame prescribed by it, to restore the situation to its original state before the encroachment upon the Antiquities, Archaeological Sites, or Buffer Zone. Where the violator fails to do so, the DCAA may, using its own resources or those of any other entity, restore the situation to its original state and claim from the violator any relevant costs incurred; or
 - 5. taking any other measures prescribed by the relevant resolutions of the Director General or prescribed by the legislation in force.

Law Enforcement

Article (22)

The employees of the DCAA, nominated pursuant to a resolution of the Director General, will have the capacity of law enforcement officers to record the acts committed in breach of the provisions of this Law, its implementing bylaw, and the resolutions issued in pursuance thereof. For this purpose, they may issue the necessary violation reports; and, where necessary, seek the assistance of police personnel.

Payment of Fees and Fines

Article (23)

The fees and fines collected pursuant to this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof will be paid to the Public Treasury of the Government.

Grievances

Article (24)

Any affected party may submit to the Director General a written grievance against any decision, procedure, or measure taken against him in accordance with this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, within thirty (30) days from the date of being notified of the contested decision, procedure, or measure. The grievance will be determined, within thirty (30) days of its submission, by a committee formed by the Director General for this purpose; and the decision issued by the committee on the grievance will be final.

Seeking Assistance from Government Entities

Article (25)

For the purposes of implementing this Law, its implementing bylaw, and the resolutions issued in pursuance thereof, the DCAA may seek assistance from the competent Government Entities, including police personnel. Upon request, such entities must provide support and assistance to the DCAA.

Delegation of Powers

Article (26)

- a. The Chairperson may delegate any of the powers vested in the Chairperson under this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof to the Director General, provided that such delegation is specific and in writing.
- b. The Director General may delegate any of his powers under this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof to any of the DCAA employees, provided that such delegation is specific and in writing.

Compliance with this Law

Article (27)

All Persons to whom this Law applies must comply with its provisions within a period not exceeding one (1) year from the date on which this Law comes into force. The Director General may, where necessary, extend this period once for the same period.

Issuing Implementing Resolutions

Article (28)

- a. The Chairman of the Executive Council will issue the implementing bylaw of this Law.

- b. With the exception of the resolutions which the Chairman of the Executive Council or the Chairperson is authorised to issue under this Law, the Director General will issue the resolutions required for implementing the provisions of this Law.

Repeals
Article (29)

Any provision in any other legislation is hereby repealed to the extent that it conflicts with the provisions of this Law.

Publication and Commencement
Article (30)

This Law will be published in the Official Gazette and will come into force on the day on which it is published.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Ruler of Dubai

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