

**Law No. (25) of 2008**  
**Concerning the**  
**Department of Economic Development<sup>1</sup>**

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

After perusal of:

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

Law No. (1) of 1992 Establishing the Department of Economic Development in the Emirate of Dubai and its amendments;

Law No. (10) of 2006 Establishing the Dubai Export Development Corporation;

Law No. (18) of 2006 Concerning Management and Realisation of the Public Funds of the Government of Dubai;

Law No. (23) of 2006 Establishing the Dubai Statistics Centre;

Law No. (27) of 2006 Concerning Management of the Government of Dubai Human Resources;

Law No. (18) of 2007 Establishing the Dubai Shopping Festival Office; and

Decree No. (15) of 2002 Establishing the Mohammed bin Rashid Establishment for Young Business Leaders,

**Do hereby issue this Law.**

**Article (1)**

This Law will be cited as “Law No. (25) of 2008 Concerning the Department of Economic Development”.

**Article (2)**

The following words and expressions will have the meaning indicated opposite each of them unless the context implies otherwise:

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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 will prevail.*

Ruler:	His Highness the Ruler of Dubai.
Emirate:	The Emirate of Dubai.
Government:	The Government of Dubai.
DED:	The Department of Economic Development.
Director General:	The director general of the DED.
Economic Activities:	The economic, trade, industrial, and foreign investment activities, and other activities and services of a commercial nature.

### **Article (3)**

This Law will apply to the Department of Economic Development established pursuant to the above-mentioned Law No. (1) of 1992. The DED will have the duties, powers, and functions assigned to it by this Law.

### **Article (4)**

The head office of the DED will be located in Dubai. The DED may establish offices within and outside of the Emirate.

### **Article (5)**

Notwithstanding the provisions of any other legislation, the DED will be responsible for planning and regulating the overall economic performance of the Emirate, supervising economic events and enhancing economic development in the Emirate with a view to ensuring the achievement and implementation of the goals of the plans and policies set by the Government for these purposes, including:

1. preparation of comprehensive strategic plans for economic development in the Emirate, and supervision of the implementation of these plans by setting and regularly updating the plans required for this purpose;
2. proposal of local economic legislation and policies, and the follow-up on their implementation by the entities concerned;
3. registration and licensing of commercial companies and economic professions;
4. management of trade protection processes and audit of companies and Economic Activities;

5. contribution to supporting, developing, and promoting financial markets in the Emirate;
6. proposal of policies that guarantee competition in respect of economic practices in the Emirate, and implementation of these policies once they are approved;
7. raising awareness of the public and of the business community in the Emirate regarding economic matters;
8. development of policies related to licensing economic professions and establishments operating in the Emirate in accordance with the relevant legislation;
9. regulation and control of the performance of economic sectors and Economic Activities in the Emirate;
10. economic promotion of the Emirate at local and international levels;
11. conducting studies related to commercial and industrial activities; and
12. performing any other tasks related to the duties of the DED.

#### **Article (6)**

For the purpose of achieving its objectives, the DED may:

1. represent the Government in local and international economic conferences and events;
2. establish and manage a network of international offices to undertake economic promotion of the Emirate in other countries;
3. coordinate with free zones in the Emirate to achieve the objectives of the comprehensive economic plan of the Emirate;
4. establish advisory committees with a view to cooperating and coordinating with representatives of the business sector and non-economic stakeholders in the Emirate to ensure implementation and achievement of the approved strategic plans;
5. establish companies, hold shares in companies, and own and take lease of real property, movables, devices, equipment, and software required to perform and accomplish the duties assigned to the DED;
6. conclude agreements with corporations, persons, and companies within and outside of the Emirate;
7. participate in setting annual plans for the economic sector in the Emirate; and

8. follow up the proper performance of duties and services delivered by establishments affiliated to the DED, and review and evaluate the performance of these establishments.

#### **Article (7)**

Without prejudice to the provisions of Law No. (23) of 2006 Establishing the Dubai Statistics Centre, the DED will compile the economic data and statistics required for exercising its powers and performing its duties. All economic establishments and companies operating in the Emirate and free zones must provide the DED with such data and statistics.

#### **Article (8)**

A Director General will be appointed to the DED pursuant to a decree of the Ruler.

#### **Article (9)**

The Director General will manage the DED and its administrative, technical, and financial affairs, and will represent it before third parties. The Director General may delegate any of his duties and functions to any person he deems appropriate and may make any appropriate decision to achieve the objectives of the DED, including:

1. approval of the general policy of the DED and its affiliated establishments;
2. approval of the organisational structure of the DED and its affiliated establishments, and submission of the same to the Chairman of the Executive Council for final approval;
3. approval of the bylaws and resolutions related to regulation of the administrative, financial, and technical affairs of the DED and its affiliated establishments;
4. approval, through the Department of Finance, of the draft annual budget of the DED and its affiliated establishments, and submission of the same to the Executive Council for final approval;
5. approval, through the Department of Finance, of the fees for services provided by the DED and its affiliated establishments, and submission of the same to the Executive Council for final approval;
6. supervision of the work of the executive body of the DED and its affiliated establishments and entities, and execution of the agreements and memoranda of understanding required in this regard;
7. supervision of the operational plans set by executive directors for the establishments affiliated to the DED, and approval of such plans; and

8. approval of the bylaws and resolutions regulating the administrative, financial, and technical affairs of the DED and its affiliated establishments.

#### **Article (10)**

The administrative body of the DED will be comprised of the Director General and a number of administrative and technical employees to whom the Law No. (27) of 2006 Concerning Management of the Government of Dubai Human Resources.

#### **Article (11)**

1. Specialised establishments engaged in areas related to providing and developing economic services in the Emirate may be affiliated to the DED. Any such establishment will be established pursuant to a resolution of the Chairman of the Executive Council upon a proposal by the Director General.
2. Based on the DED needs and the work requirements of its affiliated establishments, the DED may propose redefining the goals and objectives of these establishments, or the dissolution or merger of such establishments.
3. Establishments affiliated to the DED must implement the approved plans and policies, and must submit to the Director General periodic reports on their work, programmes, statistics, and available information.

#### **Article (12)**

1. The DED will have an advisory board comprised of a chairman, vice chairman, and a number of experienced and specialised members appointed pursuant to a resolution of the Chairman of the Executive Council.
2. The advisory board will provide its opinion and advice to the DED through:
  - a. studying the comprehensive strategic plans for economic development and the initiatives which contribute to promoting the economic development of the Emirate; and
  - b. studying local and federal economic and commercial legislation and policies.

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

The financial resources of the DED will consist of:

1. the support allocated to the DED in the general budget of the Emirate;
2. fees and charges for services provided by the DED to the public;

3. profits of companies established by the DED or in which it holds shares; and
4. any other resources approved by the Executive Council.

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

In regulating its accounts and records, the DED and its affiliated establishments will follow the international accounting rules and standards. The financial year of the DED will commence on 1 January and will end on 31 December of each year.

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

The Chairman of the Executive Council will issue the regulations and resolutions required for the implementation of the provisions of this Law.

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

Effective as of the date on which this Law is issued, the Mohammed bin Rashid Establishment for Young Business Leaders, the Dubai Export Development Corporation, and the Dubai Shopping Festival Office will be affiliated to the DED.

#### **Article (17)**

1. This Law supersedes Law No. (1) of 1992 Establishing the Department of Economic Development and its amendments.
2. Any provision in any other legislation will be repealed to the extent that it contradicts the provisions of this Law.

#### **Article (18)**

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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Corresponding to 12 Shawwal 1429 A.H.