

**Law No. (20) of 2021**  
**Establishing the Department of**  
**Economy and Tourism in the Emirate of Dubai<sup>1</sup>**

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

After perusal of:

Law No. (5) of 1995 Establishing the Department of Finance;

Law No. (1) of 1997 Establishing the Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing and its amendments;

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

Law No. (25) of 2008 Concerning the Department of Economic Development;

Law No. (23) of 2009 Concerning the Mohammed bin Rashid Establishment for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Development and its amendments;

Law No. (13) of 2011 Regulating the Conduct of Economic Activities in the Emirate of Dubai and its amendments;

Law No. (11) of 2012 Establishing the Mohammed bin Rashid Fund to Support Small and Medium-sized Enterprises;

Law No. (3) of 2013 Concerning the Dubai Corporation for Festivals and Retail Sector Promotion;

Law No. (15) of 2013 Establishing the Dubai Corporation for Tourism and Commerce Marketing;

Law No. (16) of 2013 Establishing the Dubai Investment Development Agency;

Law No. (1) of 2016 Concerning the Financial Regulations of the Government of Dubai;

Law No. (8) of 2018 Concerning Management of the Government of Dubai Human Resources;

Law No. (3) of 2021 Concerning the Dubai Industry and Export Development Corporation;

Decree No. (13) of 2011 Concerning the e-Programme for Hotel and Tourism Establishments in the Emirate of Dubai;

Decree No. (17) of 2013 Concerning Licensing and Classification of Hotel Establishments in the Emirate of Dubai;

Decree No. (25) of 2013 Concerning the Event eLicensing and eTicketing System in the Emirate of Dubai;

Executive Council Resolution No. (13) of 2011 Approving Fees and Fines of the Department of Economic Development;

Executive Council Resolution No. (48) of 2014 Approving the Fees and Fines Related to Hotel Establishments;

Executive Council Resolution No. (1) of 2015 Approving the Fees and Fines Prescribed for the Event eLicensing and eTicketing System in the Emirate of Dubai; and

Executive Council Resolution No. (10) of 2016 Approving the Organisational Structure of the Department of Economic Development,

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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.*

Law No. (20) of 2021 Establishing the Department of Economy and Tourism in the Emirate of Dubai

**Do hereby issue this Law.**

**Title of the Law  
Article (1)**

This Law will be cited as "Law No. (20) of 2021 Establishing the Department of Economy and Tourism in the Emirate of Dubai".

**Definitions  
Article (2)**

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

UAE:	The United Arab Emirates.
Emirate:	The Emirate of Dubai.
Ruler:	His Highness the Ruler of Dubai.
Government:	The Government of Dubai.
Executive Council:	The Executive Council of the Emirate of Dubai.
DET:	The Department of Economy and Tourism.
Director General:	The director general of the DET.
Affiliates:	The local entities affiliated to the DET pursuant to this Law.

**Establishment of the DET  
Article (3)**

Pursuant to this Law, a Government department named the "Dubai Economy and Tourism Department" is established. The DET will have legal personality and the legal capacity required to undertake the acts and dispositions that ensure the achievement of its objectives. The DET will be affiliated to the Executive Council.

**Head Office of the DET  
Article (4)**

The head office of the DET will be located in the Emirate. The DET or any of the Affiliates may, pursuant to a resolution of the Executive Council, establish branches and offices within and outside of the Emirate.

## **Objectives of the DET Article (5)**

The DET will have the following objectives:

1. to support the Government in achieving its competitiveness vision to position the Emirate as a major hub for global economy and tourism, and in boosting the Emirate's economic and tourism competitiveness indicators;
2. to enhance the stability of the Emirate and its position within the global economic system as an international hub for economy, trade, tourism, logistic services, and Investment;
3. to regulate, encourage, improve, develop, and invest in, the tourism industry and commerce marketing and promotion in the Emirate;
4. to adopt forward thinking in economic planning through developing economic plans and policies to ensure corporate sustainability and economic growth, while focusing on partnerships and joint ventures for business development;
5. to support decision makers in formulating development policies, developing plans, and measuring the strategic performance of the economy and tourism sectors in the Emirate;
6. to drive the economic and tourism agenda of the Emirate; and support its economy through adopting diversity, creativity, innovation, business environment improvement, and investor's journey facilitation;
7. to contribute to supporting the Emirate's vision of becoming the best city in the world to live in by promoting the entertainment industry, combining and developing marketing and recreational activities, festival activities, theme parks, public events, and similar activities;
8. to plan, regulate, and monitor the effectiveness of, the overall economic and tourism performance in the Emirate; and to boost economic and tourism development in the Emirate with a view to ensuring the achievement and implementation of the objectives of the plans and policies set by the Government for this purpose;
9. to enhance and enrich the image of the Emirate among travellers, investors, and talented people from around the world by highlighting the dynamic development taking place in the Emirate as well as the experience it offers to visitors of all ages;
10. to encourage Investment in the knowledge and innovation industries; attract foreign direct Investment; promote and diversify export products and markets; and support small and medium-sized enterprises;
11. to develop the exports of the Emirate; and to build the capacity of the industrial sector of the Emirate and enhance the competitive edge of its products in local, regional, and international markets; and

12. to contribute to maintaining the high-quality economic and tourism services provided to investors, traders, and all members and segments of the community.

### **Functions of the DET Article (6)**

For the purpose of achieving its objectives, the DET will have the duties and powers to:

1. prepare, develop, and manage the comprehensive plans, policies, and strategies related to the economy and tourism sectors in the Emirate; and submit the same to the Executive Council for approval;
2. develop, implement, and regularly update the plans, programmes, and initiatives which aim to enhance economic development and attract tourists from around the world to the Emirate;
3. supervise the implementation of the policies, strategies, projects, and initiatives of the economic and tourism sectors in the Emirate. This includes the policies that ensure the protection of competition in economic practices;
4. supervise the development and growth of new economic sectors, such as circular economy, participatory economy, Islamic economy, cooperative economy, and similar sectors;
5. develop the policies related to licensing economic professionals and establishments operating in the Emirate, in accordance with the relevant applicable legislation;
6. develop the policies, strategies, and plans that support the growth of the sectors of the new economy and digital economy with a view to attracting international Investments and consolidating the position of the Emirate as the capital of the new economy;
7. develop and implement comprehensive tourism publicity programmes, and manage and supervise all operations related to the provision of official tourist information;
8. establish and manage a network of international offices to promote the trade, economy, and tourism of the Emirate in different countries around the world, in coordination with the concerned entities in the UAE;
9. enter into partnerships with the concerned entities within and outside of the Emirate for the purpose of benefiting from the best practices adopted in the economic and tourism sectors, with a view to supporting the DET efforts to achieve its objectives and perform its functions;
10. consider projects related to tourism in accordance with the legislation in force and in line with the relevant plans for developing the tourism industry in the Emirate;
11. propose and review, in coordination with the concerned Government entities, the legislation and policies supporting the economic and tourism sectors and the conduct of Economic Activities and tourism activities;

12. enforce and implement the legislation in force in the Emirate in relation to the economic and tourism sectors;
13. coordinate with free zones in the Emirate to achieve the objectives of the comprehensive economic and tourism plan of the Emirate;
14. endeavour to provide all means of comfort and leisure to tourists; and facilitate processing their applications in cooperation with the concerned entities in the Emirate;
15. establish performance indicators for all economic sectors to assess compliance with the general policies, strategies, initiatives, projects, and standards of these sectors, in coordination with the Executive Council and in line with the performance indicators of Government and public services;
16. register and license commercial and professional companies, and professionals, working in the economic and tourism sectors;
17. manage trade protection processes and audit companies and Economic Activities;
18. raise awareness of the public and the business community in the Emirate on economic matters by holding or participating in symposia, conferences, exhibitions, and other economic and tourist activities within and outside of the Emirate;
19. regulate and control the performance of economic and tourism sectors, and tourist activities and Economic Activities in the Emirate;
20. promote the economy, tourism, and trade of the Emirate at the local and international levels;
21. represent the Government in local and international economic and tourism conferences and events;
22. form advisory committees with a view to cooperating and coordinating with the representatives of the business sector, Investors, and economic and non-economic stakeholders in the Emirate to ensure implementation and achievement of the DET objectives and the approved strategic plans;
23. promote cooperation and strategic partnerships with Government entities and with the private sector with a view to supporting the achievement of the DET objectives;
24. compile, in coordination with the concerned entities in the Emirate, the economic and tourist information and data required to enable the DET to duly exercise its powers and duties;
25. follow up the proper performance of the duties and services of the Affiliates, and regularly review and evaluate their performance;

26. own and take lease of movable and immovable property, materials, devices, equipment, and systems as required to enable the DET to exercise its duties and powers under this Law and the legislation in force in the Emirate; and
27. exercise any other duties or powers required for the achievement of the DET objectives, as assigned to the DET by the Ruler or the Chairman of the Executive Council.

### **Delegation of Powers Article (7)**

With the exception of the regulatory powers vested in it, the DET may delegate any of its functions under this Law to any public or private entity pursuant to an agreement concluded with that entity in this respect. This agreement will determine the rights and obligations of the DET and the contracted entity as well as the conditions, requirements, and specifications that the entity must observe when performing the functions delegated by the DET.

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

- a. As of the date on which this Law comes into force, the following public corporations and entities will be affiliated to the DET:
  1. the Mohammed bin Rashid Establishment for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Development;
  2. the Dubai Corporation for Festivals and Retail Sector Promotion;
  3. the Dubai Investment Development Agency;
  4. the Dubai Corporation for Tourism and Commerce Marketing;
  5. the Dubai Industry and Export Development Corporation;
  6. the Mohammed bin Rashid Fund to Support Small and Medium-sized Enterprises; and
  7. any other local entity to be affiliated to the DET pursuant to a resolution issued by the Ruler.
- b. Each of the Affiliates will retain the legal personality granted to it under the legislation establishing it or regulating its work; and will exercise the duties and powers assigned to it by such legislation under the DET supervision, provided that these duties and powers do not conflict with the functions of the DET.
- c. Affiliates must implement the approved plans and policies, and must submit to the Director General periodic reports on their work, programmes, statistics, and available information.

**Executive Body of the DET**  
**Article (9)**

- a. The executive body of the DET will be comprised of the Director General and a number of administrative, finance, and technical employees.
- b. Law No. (8) of 2018 Concerning Management of the Government of Dubai Human Resources will apply to the employees of the DET and of the Affiliates, excluding the Affiliates to be governed by special human resources regulations pursuant to a resolution issued by the Chairman of the Executive Council.

**Director General**  
**Article (10)**

- a. A Director General will be appointed to the DET pursuant to a decree issued by the Ruler.
- b. The Director General will be directly responsible to the Executive Council for performing the duties assigned to him under this Law, the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, and other legislation in force in the Emirate; and for performing any other duties assigned to him by the Ruler or the Chairman of the Executive Council.

**Functions of the Director General**  
**Article (11)**

- a. The Director General will supervise the work and activities of the DET; manage its affairs; and represent it in its relations with third parties. For these purposes, the Director General will have the duties and powers to:
  - 1. propose the general policy and strategic plans of the DET; present the same to the Executive Council for approval; and follow up their implementation;
  - 2. propose, in coordination with the competent entities, the policies, strategies, and initiatives supporting the economic sectors in the Emirate; and submit the same to the Executive Council for approval;
  - 3. approve the strategic and operational plans; and the initiatives, programmes, projects, studies, and recommendations; that are related to the work and activities of the DET and that enable it to achieve its objectives;
  - 4. approve the work plans and programmes of the DET; and review, and assess implementation of, the same on an annual basis;
  - 5. prepare the draft annual budget and Financial Statements of the DET, and present the same to the competent entities in the Emirate for approval;

6. submit periodic reports to the Executive Council on the implementation of the strategic plan and the approved general policies, strategies, and initiatives; and on the performance indicators and programmes related to implementation of the strategic plans of the Emirate in relation to the economic and tourism sectors; as well as annual performance reports on the work and activities of the DET and the Affiliates;
  7. supervise the daily work and the executive body of the DET, and appoint the technical and administrative staff required to perform the work of the DET and the Affiliates in accordance with the legislation in force;
  8. propose the organisational structure of the DET, and submit the proposal to the competent entities in the Emirate for approval;
  9. approve the bylaws and resolutions regulating the administrative, financial, and technical work of the DET;
  10. propose fees and charges for the services provided by the DET, and submit the proposal to the competent entities in the Emirate for approval;
  11. conclude contracts, agreements, and memoranda of understanding with others, as required for the achievement of the DET objectives and for enabling it to exercise its duties and powers;
  12. form specialised permanent and temporary committees and work teams, and determine their duties and powers; and
  13. exercise any other duties or powers assigned to him by the Ruler or the Chairman of the Executive Council, as required for the achievement of the DET objectives and for enabling it to exercise its duties and powers.
- b. The Director General may delegate any of his duties and powers under paragraph (a) of this Article to any of the executive directors/chief executive officers at the DET or the Affiliates, provided that such delegation is specific and in writing.

### **Financial Resources of the DET Article (12)**

The financial resources of the DET will consist of:

1. the financial appropriations allocated to the DET in the General Budget of the Government;
2. fees and charges for the services provided by the DET; and
3. any other resources approved by the Executive Council.

### **Accounts and Financial Year of the DET Article (13)**



- a. In managing its accounts and records, the DET will apply the rules and principles of government accounting.
- b. The Financial Year of the DET will commence on 1 January and will end on 31 December of each year, except that the first Financial Year will commence on the date on which this Law comes into force and will end on 31 December of the following year.

### **Cooperation with the DET Article (14)**

All local entities in the Emirate must fully cooperate with the DET and the Affiliates; meet their requirements; and provide them with the data, information, documents, and statistics they require and deem necessary for the achievement of their objectives and exercise of their functions under this Law, the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, and other legislation in force in the Emirate.

### **Transfer and Succession Article (15)**

- a. As of the date on which this Law comes into force, the following will be transferred to the DET:
  1. all the duties and functions assigned to the Department of Economic Development and the Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing under the above-mentioned Law No. (1) of 1997, Law No. (25) of 2008, and the legislation issued in pursuance thereof;
  2. the ownership of the real property, movables, assets, devices, equipment, and other property of the Department of Economic Development and the Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing;
  3. the employees of the Department of Economic Development, the Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing, and the Affiliates, as well as the financial appropriations allocated to these employees by the Department of Finance, in accordance with the provisions of the above-mentioned Law No. (1) of 2016 and other legislation in force in the Emirate. In applying human resources legislation to these transferred employees, the provisions of paragraph (9)(b) hereof must be observed; and their existing rights must not be prejudiced; and
  4. the financial appropriations allocated to the Department of Economic Development and the Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing by the Department of Finance in their respective annual budgets.
- b. The DET hereby succeeds to the rights and obligations of the Department of Economic Development and the Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing.

### **Compliance**

## **Article (16)**

The DET must coordinate with the concerned entities in the Emirate to comply with the provisions of this Law within no later than three (3) months from the date on which this Law comes into force. The Chairman of the Executive Council may, where required, extend this time limit for the period he deems appropriate.

## **Issuing Implementing Resolutions**

### **Article (17)**

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

## **Repeals**

### **Article (18)**

- a. The above-mentioned Law No. (1) of 1997 and Law No. (25) of 2008 are hereby repealed. Any provision in any other legislation will also be repealed to the extent that it contradicts the provisions of this Law.
- b. The legislation issued in implementation of the above-mentioned Law No. (1) of 1997 and Law No. (25) of 2008, including the legislation relating to the economic and tourism sectors, will continue in force to the extent that they do not contradict this Law and other legislation in force in the Emirate, until new superseding legislation is issued.

## **Publication and Commencement**

### **Article (19)**

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**

Issued in Dubai on 2 November 2021

Corresponding to 27 Rabi al-Awwal 1443 A.H.