

Law No. (26) of 2023
Concerning the Executive Council of the Emirate of Dubai¹

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. (8) of 2013 Concerning Human Resource Management of Directors General in the Government of Dubai and its amendments;

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

Law No. (8) of 2021 Concerning Human Resources Management of Executive Directors/ Chief Executive Officers in the Government of Dubai;

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

Decree No. (30) of 2006 Appointing the Chairman of the Executive Council;

Decree No. (25) of 2008 Appointing Two Deputies to the Chairman of the Executive Council;

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

Executive Council Resolution No. (40) of 2015 Concerning the Functions of the General Secretariat of the Executive Council of the Emirate of Dubai;

Executive Council Resolution No. (66) of 2017 Forming the Strategic Affairs Council of the Executive Council of the Emirate of Dubai; and

The legislation establishing and regulating free zones in the Emirate of Dubai,

Do hereby issue this Law.

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¹*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.*

Title of the Law

Article (1)

This Law will be cited as "Law No. (26) of 2023 Concerning the Executive Council of 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.
Chairman:	The Chairman of the Executive Council.
Strategic Affairs Council:	The Strategic Affairs Council formed at the Executive Council in accordance with this Law.
Government Entity:	Any of the Government departments; public agencies and corporations; Government councils; public authorities, including the authorities supervising Special Development Zones and free zones, such as the Dubai International Financial Centre; or other public entities affiliated to the Government.
General Secretariat:	The general secretariat of the Executive Council.
Secretary General:	The secretary general of the Executive Council.

Scope of Application

Article (3)

The provisions of this Law apply to the Executive Council of the Emirate of Dubai established pursuant the above-mentioned Law No. (3) of 2003 as a council having legal personality and the

legal capacity required to achieve its objectives and perform its functions under this Law, the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, and other legislation in force in the Emirate. The Executive Council is affiliated to the Ruler.

Head Office of the Executive Council Article (4)

The head office of the Executive Council will be located in the Emirate.

Objectives of the Executive Council Article (5)

The Executive Council will have the following objectives:

1. to realise and achieve the Ruler's vision for fostering a prosperous Emirati society by meeting the needs of UAE nationals, providing them with a decent quality of life, and enhancing and ensuring their participation in all strategic sectors;
2. to ensure the sustainability and welfare of the community, and contribute to maintaining the security and well-being of UAE Nationals, residents, and visitors of the Emirate;
3. to enhance the Emirate's position amongst the world's leading cities, and boost its ranking on global competitiveness indicators in all fields;
4. to enhance the economic development of the Emirate, maintain its sustainable growth, and create the relevant supportive environment; and
5. to enhance the Emirate's readiness to cope with future developments, and increase its capacity to address challenges and changes in all fields.

Functions of the Executive Council Article (6)

The Executive Council will assist the Ruler in managing the strategic affairs falling within the jurisdiction of the Executive Council in accordance with the provisions of this Law, the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, and other legislation in force in the Emirate. In particular, the Executive Council will have the duties and powers to:

1. approve, and supervise the implementation of, the general policies of the Emirate in all strategic fields; and determine the Emirate's priorities and future orientations;

2. approve the Dubai Strategic Plan and submit it to the Ruler for approval; and align the plans of Government sectors and Government Entities with the Dubai Strategic Plan to ensure its optimal implementation;
3. approve the strategic plans, policies, initiatives, and projects that support the overarching orientations and policies of the Emirate across all sectors, develop an annual agenda for the same, and follow up their implementation on a regular basis;
4. approve the general fiscal policy of the Government and supervise its implementation;
5. approve the proposals and recommendations related to implementation of policies, plans, initiatives, and projects that support the overarching orientations and policies of the Emirate, including giving directives to consider issuing federal and local legislation with strategic impact on the Emirate;
6. ensure the development and improvement of the overall performance of the Government, enhance the levels of performance in all sectors, monitor the global competitiveness indicators related to the Emirate, and develop the plans and programmes required to enhance the Emirate's global position;
7. ensure the application of modern management concepts in the Government by administering programmes that are aimed at achieving and promoting excellence, leadership, and innovation in Government performance; and recognise pioneering achievements in accordance with the relevant international best standards, models, and practices;
8. adopt programmes that are aimed at advancing and developing Government services and improving their level, efficiency, and quality, in accordance with the relevant international best practices;
9. follow up the performance of the projects and initiatives adopted by the Government in all fields;
10. give directives to Government Entities to take the necessary measures to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of Public Funds management, and to implement the appropriate solutions to enhance the same;
11. allocating funds from the General Budget of the Government for initiatives and projects, in line with the priorities of the Emirate and the approved plans, initiatives, and projects;
12. adopt robust and transparent governance frameworks based on performance, accountability, and the achievement of positive impacts; and follow up their application to Government Entities;

13. approve proposals for the establishment, regulation, and restructuring of Government Entities, prior to submitting the same to the Ruler for final approval;
14. develop and enhance the legislative and regulatory systems related to the strategic sectors that promote, support, and enhance the Emirate's leading role at the local, regional, and international levels;
15. enhance the role of the Government and Government Entities as enablers, motivators, and supporters for all strategic sectors; and ensure the participation of all concerned sectors, in line with the requirements of achieving and implementing the strategic plan of the Emirate;
16. develop governance frameworks for the work of the public corporations that operate on a commercial basis, and the companies owned by the Government or Government Entities, to ensure the achievement of their objectives and performance of their legally prescribed functions;
17. cooperate and coordinate with the federal government and the local governments of other emirates of the UAE, with a view to serving the overarching orientations of the UAE and the Emirate; and
18. exercise any other duties or powers assigned to the Executive Council under the legislation in force in the Emirate, or assigned to it by the Ruler.

Appointment of the Chairman and His Deputies **Article (7)**

- a. A Chairman will be appointed to the Executive Council pursuant to a decree issued by the Ruler.
- b. The Chairman will have one or more deputies appointed pursuant to a decree of the Ruler.

Membership of the Executive Council **Article (8)**

The Executive Council will be comprised of the Chairman, his deputies, the Secretary General, and a number of heads of Government Entities determined pursuant to a decree issued by the Ruler upon the recommendation of the Chairman.

Functions of the Chairman

Article (9)

- a. The Chairman will undertake the general supervision of the Executive Council and follow up the achievement of its objectives and performance of its functions under this Law, the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, and other legislation in force in the Emirate. For this purpose, the Chairman will have the duties and powers to:
 - 1. assume leadership and provide guidance, with a view to ensuring the efficient and effective performance of the functions of the Executive Council;
 - 2. launch Government initiatives and projects, and issue the necessary decisions to regulate, put into effect, implement, and supervise these initiatives and projects;
 - 3. preside over and manage the meetings of the Executive Council in a manner that ensures effective contribution of its members through providing their opinions, suggestions, and recommendations on the matters referred to them;
 - 4. convoke ordinary and extraordinary meetings and approve the agendas of these meetings, taking into consideration any off-agenda matters raised by members of the Executive Council;
 - 5. form sub-councils, and permanent and temporary committees and work teams, pursuant to resolutions issued by the Chairman. These resolutions will determine the duties, powers, and terms of reference of these sub-councils, committees, and work teams and all other matters related to them;
 - 6. Approve the agreements and memoranda of understanding concluded with the federal government, the local governments of other emirates of the UAE, and the governments and cities of other countries, in the field of exchanging expertise and experiences, with a view to enhancing the global leadership and competitiveness of the Emirate; and
 - 7. exercise any other duties or powers vested in the Chairman under the legislation in force in the Emirate, or assigned to him by the Ruler.
- b. The deputy chairmen will exercise the duties and powers assigned to them by the Chairman, and will perform all the functions of the Chairman where the Chairman is absent or his position falls vacant for any reason whatsoever.
- c. The Chairman may delegate any of his functions under this Law and other legislation in force in the Emirate to any of his deputies or to the Strategic Affairs Council, provided that such delegation is specific and in writing.

Responsibilities of the Chairman, Deputy Chairmen, and Members

Article (10)

The Chairman, deputy chairmen, and members of the Executive Council will be directly responsible to the Ruler for exercising the duties and powers assigned to them under this Law, the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, and other legislation in force in the Emirate.

Submitting Reports on the Work of the Executive Council

Article (11)

At the end of each Gregorian calendar Year, the Chairman will submit to the Ruler a detailed report on the work performed in all fields during the outgoing Year, together with the Executive Council's action plan for the upcoming Year to achieve the Emirate's objectives in all fields.

Formation and Functions of the Strategic Affairs Council

Article (12)

- a. Pursuant to this Law, a council named the "Strategic Affairs Council" is formed.
- b. The Strategic Affairs Council will have a chairman and one or more deputies, appointed pursuant to a decree of the Ruler.
- c. The Strategic Affairs Council will be comprised of its chairman and deputy chairman, the Secretary General, and a number of the heads of Government Entities who are members of the Executive Council, appointed pursuant to a resolution of the Chairman.
- d. The Strategic Affairs Council will have the duties and powers to:
 1. approve the general policies of the Emirate in all strategic fields, and submit the same to the Executive Council for final approval;
 2. review the Dubai Strategic Plan, submit it to the Executive Council for approval, and align the plans of Government sectors and Government Entities with the Dubai Strategic Plan to ensure its implementation;
 3. approve the strategic plans, policies, initiatives, projects, and annual agenda that support the overarching orientations and policies of the Emirate in all sectors; and submit the same to the Executive Council for final approval;
 4. approve the proposals and recommendations related to implementation of policies, plans, initiatives, and projects that support the overarching orientations and policies of the Emirate, including those related to federal and local legislation with a strategic impact on

the Emirate; and submit the these proposals and recommendations to the Executive Council for final approval;

5. discuss and approve the plans aimed at developing and improving the overall performance of the Government and enhancing performance levels in all strategic sectors, monitor the global competitiveness indicators related to the Emirate; and submit the plans required to promote the Emirate's global position to the Executive Council for final approval, in coordination and cooperation with the competent entities;
6. approve the programmes aimed at achieving and promoting excellence, leadership, and innovation in Government performance; submit the same to the Executive Council for final approval; and recognise pioneering achievements, in accordance with the relevant international best standards, models, and practices;
7. approve the programmes aimed at aimed at advancing and developing Government services and improving their level, efficiency, and quality, in accordance with the relevant international best practices; and submit the same to the Executive Council for final approval;
8. approve the general fiscal policy of the Government; submit the same to the Executive Council for final approval; and supervise its implementation in coordination with the competent Government Entities;
9. approve the appropriate solutions and measures required for boosting the efficiency and effectiveness of the management of Public Funds; and submit the same to the Executive Council for final approval;
10. approve the proposals submitted to it by the competent Government Entities in respect of funds allocated from the General Budget for initiatives and projects, in line with the priorities of the Emirate and the approved plans, initiatives, and projects; and submit the same to the Executive Council for final approval;
11. approve governance frameworks based on performance, accountability, and the achievement of positive impacts; ensure their application to Government Entities; and submit the same to the Executive Council for final approval;
12. accept proposals for the establishment, regulation, and restructuring of Government Entities; and submit the same to the Executive Council for approval;
13. approve the process of regulation and governance of the work of the public corporations that operate on a commercial basis, and the companies owned by the Government or Government Entities; and submit the same to the Executive Council for final approval;

14. provide opinion on draft legislation with strategic impact which are submitted to the Strategic Affairs Council by competent Government Entities and are aimed at maintaining an attractive and stimulating legislative and regulatory environment, and issue the necessary directives in this respect;
15. enhance cooperation and coordination amongst Government Entities and between the Government and the federal government, other local governments, and the governments and cities of other countries, with a view to serving the overarching orientations of the UAE and the Emirate;
16. supervise and follow up the implementation of the annual agenda approved by the Executive Council;
17. seek assistance from the experts and specialists it deems appropriate to assist it in performing its duties; and form permanent and temporary sub-committees and work teams, and determine their duties, powers, and terms of reference; and
18. exercise any other duties or powers assigned to the Strategic Affairs Council by the Ruler, the Chairman, or the Executive Council.

Functions of the Chairman of the Strategic Affairs Council

Article (13)

- a. The chairman of the Strategic Affairs Council will have the duties and powers to:
 1. assume leadership and provide guidance, with a view to ensuring the effective and efficient performance of the functions of the Strategic Affairs Council;
 2. preside over and manage the meetings of the Strategic Affairs Council in a manner that ensures effective contribution of its members through providing their opinions, suggestions, and recommendations on the matters referred to them;
 3. approve the dates, times, and venues of the meetings of the Strategic Affairs Council and its agenda;
 4. form permanent and temporary committees and work teams; and determine their duties, powers, and terms of reference, and all other matters related to them pursuant to resolutions he issues in this respect; and
 5. exercise any other duties or powers assigned or delegated to him by the Ruler or the Chairman.
- b. The deputy chairman of the Strategic Affairs Council will exercise the functions and powers assigned to him by the chairman of the Strategic Affairs Council, and will exercise all the

powers of the chairman of the Strategic Affairs Council where he is absent or his position falls vacant for any reason whatsoever.

- c. The chairman of the Strategic Affairs Council may delegate to any of his functions under this Law to any of his deputies or to any of the members of the Strategic Affairs Council, provided that such delegation is specific and in writing.

Terms of Reference Article (14)

The Chairman will issue a resolution approving the Terms of Reference of the Executive Council and of the Strategic Affairs Council. These Terms of Reference must provide for the procedures for holding their meetings, the quorums required for their meetings, the procedures for passing their resolutions and recommendations, the process of recording and approving the minutes of their meetings, and any other matters related to their governance.

General Secretariat Article (15)

- a. The Executive Council will have a General Secretariat comprised of the Secretary General, one or more assistant secretaries general, and a number of Employees who are experienced and specialised in various fields.
- b. The General Secretariat will have an organisational structure that reflects its functions. This organisational structure will be approved pursuant to a resolution of the Secretary General.
- c. The above-mentioned Law No. (8) of 2021 and the resolutions issued in pursuance thereof will apply to the assistant secretaries general, and other persons holding similar positions from amongst the Employees of the General Secretariat, who will be appointed pursuant to a resolution issued by the Chairman upon the recommendation of the Secretary General.
- d. The rights and duties of the Employees of the General Secretariat and their financial benefits will be determined by the human resources regulation approved pursuant to a resolution of the Secretary General.

Functions of the General Secretariat Article (16)

The General Secretariat will provide support and assistance in decision-making to the Executive Council, the Strategic Affairs Council, and the councils, committees, and work teams formed by them. For this purpose, the General Secretariat will have the duties and powers to:

1. support the Executive Council and the Strategic Affairs Council in approving and adopting public policies, and in adopting the strategic decisions and orientations for the Emirate;
2. lead the process of preparing and updating the Dubai Strategic Plan; and formulate, in coordination with the concerned entities, the future orientations and work priorities of the Emirate;
3. anticipate future opportunities and challenges, and enhance the Emirate's competitiveness in all fields by monitoring international reports and indicators related to the Emirate; devising the necessary development and improvement plans; proposing policies, initiatives, programmes, and projects to enhance the Emirate's global ranking, in coordination with the concerned entities; and submit the same to the Strategic Affairs Council for approval, in preparation for their final approval by the Executive Council;
4. manage and implement the programmes and initiatives required to enhance the Emirate's competitiveness in all fields, in cooperation and coordination with the concerned entities;
5. provide technical support to develop and update the strategies of all sectors; and introduce and implement joint frameworks and shared work systems to enhance the level of Government performance and the performance of strategic sectors in the Emirate, in cooperation and coordination with the concerned entities;
6. review the strategies, policies, studies, initiatives, projects, and requests proposed by Government Entities and provide comments and recommendations on the same, before submitting them to the Executive Council and the Strategic Affairs Council, as the case may be, to make the relevant appropriate decisions;
7. develop strategies and policies related to introducing and developing Government services; launch and manage programmes aimed at enhancing and improving Government services throughout the Emirate and elevating them to the highest levels; and coordinate with the concerned entities to offer unique and excellent customer experience, in accordance with the best models and practices in this respect and in line with the legislation in force in the Emirate;
8. manage Government excellence programmes, and apply modern management concepts, in accordance with innovative standards, models, best practices, solutions, and initiatives, with the aim of achieving and enhancing excellence, leadership, and innovation in Government operations and performance; and recognise pioneering achievements;
9. provide opinion on draft federal and local legislation submitted to it by the competent Government Entities, with the aim of ensuring their consistency and alignment with the strategies and policies adopted in this respect;
10. submit annual reports to the Executive Council and the Strategic Affairs Council on the outcomes of the implementation of the Dubai Strategic Plan, the management of excellence

and leadership programmes in Government operations, the development of Government performance, and the programmes for development of Government services and improvement of the level and quality of these services;

11. follow up the implementation of strategic plans, policies, programmes, projects, and initiatives approved by the Government; and submit the relevant necessary reports to the Executive Council or the Strategic Affairs Council, as the case may be;
12. develop proposals and recommendations related to allocating funds from the General Budget in line with the priorities of the Emirate and the approved plans, policies, initiatives, and projects, in cooperation and coordination with the Department of Finance and other concerned Government Entities;
13. prepare and review the general Government structure, including the work processes of the Government; propose any modifications required to develop and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of this structure in accordance with the principles of good governance; support the establishment of new Government Entities; and support and develop the process of approving the organisational structures of Government Entities, in coordination with the concerned entities;
14. develop a process for regulation and governance of the work of the public corporations that operate on a commercial basis, and the companies owned by the Government or Government Entities, in coordination with the concerned entities; and submit the same to the Strategic Affairs Council for approval, in preparation for their final approval by the Executive Council;
15. conduct specialised studies and research, and opinion polls to measure the level of quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of the Government apparatus and the services it provides, in accordance with the legislation in force in the Emirate; and monitor the relevant impactful events and developments;
16. consider the matters and issues assigned to it by the Chairman or the chairman of the Strategic Affairs Council, and follow up the implementation of the directives and resolutions issued in respect of the same;
17. ensure that Government resources management policies, including financial, human, and technological resources management policies, are aligned with the policies, orientations, priorities, and strategic plans of the Emirate;
18. implement and administer Government communications policies at the levels of the Executive Council, Strategic Affairs Council, and Government Entities, including the policies related to the corporate identity of the Government and Government Entities, in accordance with the relevant approved policies and manuals;

19. ensure, in collaboration with the competent Government Entities, coordination and integration amongst Government Entities, with a view to ensuring the smooth flow of work in these entities; and provide opinion on all controversial matters that arise amongst them;
20. consider the proposals and comments of Government Entities received by the General Secretariat; and decide which of these are required to be presented to the Executive Council and the Strategic Affairs Council, together with the technical opinion of the General Secretariat and the competent Government Entities where necessary;
21. provide administrative and technical support to the Executive Council and the Strategic Affairs Council, and to the sub-councils, committees, or work teams formed by them, including coordinating and managing meetings; preparing and documenting resolutions, recommendations, and minutes of meetings; and following up their implementation with the concerned entities;
22. prepare, in coordination with the concerned Government Entities, the annual agenda of the matters to be presented to the Executive Council or to the Strategic Affairs Council;
23. receive the correspondence addressed to the Executive Council and communicate the relevant instructions to the concerned Government Entities; and
24. exercise any other duties or powers assigned or delegated to the General Secretariat by the Chairman or his deputies, or by the chairman of the Strategic Affairs Council or his deputies.

Appointment of the Secretary General **Article (17)**

- a. A Secretary General will be appointed to the Executive Council pursuant to a decree issued by the Ruler upon the recommendation of the Chairman.
- b. The above-mentioned Law No. (8) of 2013 and the resolutions issued in pursuance thereof will apply to the Secretary General.

Functions of the Secretary General **Article (18)**

- a. The Secretary General will supervise the work of the General Secretariat, manage its affairs, and issue the resolutions required for regulating its work. For these purposes, he will have the duties and powers to:
 1. approve the strategic plan and operational plans of the General Secretariat, and follow up their implementation;

2. follow up the implementation of the resolutions and recommendations issued by the Executive Council and the Strategic Affairs Council; supervise the preparation of the relevant required reports; and present these reports to the Executive Council and the Strategic Affairs Council, as the case may be;
3. supervise the preparation of the meeting agendas of the Executive Council and the Strategic Affairs Council, in coordination with the concerned Government Entities;
4. supervise the preparation of the minutes of meetings of the Executive Council and the Strategic Affairs Council; and communicate to their members the contents of these minutes, the activities of the councils, and the dates and times of their meetings;
5. supervise the documentation of the resolutions and recommendations issued by the Executive Council and the Strategic Affairs Council, in accordance with the relevant procedures he approves in this respect;
6. supervise the conduct of studies and research on the initiatives and projects which are commissioned by the Chairman or any of his deputies; by the Executive Council; or by the Strategic Affairs Council, its chairman, or his deputies;
7. represent the Government in executing the agreements and memoranda of understanding aimed at enhancing cooperation and coordination with the federal government, local governments of the other emirates of the UAE, and the governments and cities of other countries in areas of common interest between sectors, subject to the approval of the Chairman and in accordance with the legislation in force in the Emirate;
8. supervise the preparation of the draft annual budget and Financial Statements of the Executive Council, and submit the same to the competent entities for approval;
9. represent the Executive Council before third parties, and sign in its name and on its behalf on contracts, agreements, and memoranda of understanding in fields related to the work of the Executive Council;
10. appoint a rapporteur to the Executive Council and to the Strategic Affairs Council, and determine the duties of each rapporteur;
11. approve the resolutions and bylaws regulating the administrative, financial, and technical work of the General Secretariat, including procurement bylaws;
12. supervise the work of the executive body of the General Secretariat and appoint competent and specialised Employees;
13. open and manage accounts with banking institutions operating in the UAE in accordance with the relevant legislation in force; and

14. exercise any other duties or powers assigned or delegated to him by the Chairman or his deputies, or by the chairman of the Strategic Affairs Council or his deputies.
- b. The Secretary General may delegate any of his functions under this Law to any of the assistant secretaries general or General Secretariat Employees, provided that such delegation is specific and in writing.

Financial Resources of the Executive Council

Article (19)

The financial resources of the Executive Council will consist of:

1. the financial appropriations allocated to the Executive Council in the General Budget of the Government; and
2. any other financial resources approved by the Chairman.

Financial Year and Accounting Records

Article (20)

- a. In managing its accounts and records, the Executive Council will apply the rules and principles of government accounting in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards.
- b. The Financial Year of the Executive Council will commence on 1 January and will end on 31 December of each Year.

Issuing Implementing Resolutions

Article (21)

The Chairman or his authorised representative will issue the resolutions required for the implementation of the provisions of this Law.

Supersession and Repeals

Article (22)

- a. This Law supersedes the above-mentioned Law No. (3) of 2003.
- b. The above-mentioned Executive Council Resolution No. (40) of 2015 and Executive Council Resolution No. (66) of 2017 are hereby repealed. Any provision in any other legislation is also hereby repealed to the extent that it contradicts the provisions of this Law.

- c. The resolutions and bylaws issued in implementation of the above-mentioned Law No. (3) of 2003, Executive Council Resolution No. (40) of 2015, and Executive Council Resolution No. (66) of 2017 will continue in force until new superseding resolutions and bylaws are issued.
- d. The chairmen, deputy chairmen, and members of the Executive Council and the Strategic Affairs Council will continue to perform their duties until these councils are reconstituted in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Commencement and Publication

Article (23)

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

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Ruler of Dubai

Issued in Dubai on 14 December 2023
Corresponding to 1 Jumada al-Thaniyah 1445 A.H.