

Law No. (1) of 2020
Concerning the
Smart Dubai Department¹

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

After perusal of:

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

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;

Law No. (29) of 2015 Establishing the Smart Dubai Office;

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;

Executive Council Resolution No. (19) of 2012 Concerning the Methodology for Approving Organisational Structures of Government Entities in the Emirate of Dubai and its amendments;

Executive Council Resolution No. (40) of 2015 Concerning the Functions of the General Secretariat 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. (1) of 2020 Concerning the Smart Dubai Department”.

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:

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.
General Secretariat:	The General Secretariat of the Executive Council.
SDD:	The Smart Dubai Department.
Director General:	The director general of the SDD.
Government Entity:	Any of the Government departments, public agencies or corporations, councils, authorities, or other entities affiliated to the Government, including the authorities supervising Special Development Zones and free zones, such as the Dubai International Financial Centre.
Smart Transformation:	All means supporting the transformation of the Emirate into a smart city, including technical infrastructure, smart services and applications, smart data platforms, and information technology policies and strategies.

Scope of Application

Article (3)

- a. The provisions of this Law will apply to the Smart Dubai Office established pursuant the above-mentioned Law No. (29) of 2015 as a Government department having legal personality and the legal capacity required to achieve its objectives and perform its functions under this Law and the legislation in force in the Emirate. The SDD is hereby affiliated to the Executive Council.
- b. The name “Smart Dubai Office”, wherever mentioned in any legislation in force in the Emirate, will be replaced with “Smart Dubai Department”.

Head Office of the SDD

Article (4)

The head office of the SDD will be located in the Emirate.

Objectives of the SDD

Article (5)

The SDD aims to:

1. support the Emirate’s move and efforts towards transformation into a smart city;
2. contribute to providing all members and segments of the community with high-quality services;
3. ensure the happiness and well-being of all members of the community through the use of modern technologies;
4. facilitate and stimulate the economic development of the Emirate through facilitating the electronic exchange of files and data amongst Government Entities;
5. enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Government performance through enabling Government Entities to automate their work, activities, and services; and

6. enhance public trust in smart services.

Functions of the SDD

Article (6)

In order to achieve its objectives, the SDD will have the duties and functions to:

1. develop a Smart Transformation plan, the relevant supporting policies and plans, and the information technology programmes and initiatives that ensure the achievement of the Smart Transformation of Government Entities and continuity of creativity and innovation in this field; and submit the same to the Executive Council for approval;
2. supervise all matters related to information technology and Smart Transformation processes within Government Entities, in coordination and cooperation with the General Secretariat;
3. supervise the implementation of Smart Transformation policies, strategies, projects, and initiatives by Government Entities;
4. develop and manage shared Government systems and common projects, programmes, and applications for Government Entities, with a view to supporting the Smart Transformation, in coordination with the concerned Government Entities;
5. enter into partnerships with concerned entities within and outside of the Emirate for the purpose of benefiting from the best practices implemented in the field of Smart Transformation with a view to supporting the SDD efforts to achieve its objectives and perform its functions;
6. approve the plans and budgets of the Smart Transformation and information technology initiative and projects of Government Entities, in coordination with the concerned Government Entities;
7. propose and review, in coordination with the concerned Government Entities, the legislation supporting the Smart Transformation of shared Government services;
8. encourage the public sector and the private sector to participate in Smart Transformation processes;

9. create and manage a central database containing all the information required for supporting the Smart Transformation process, and update it with information from Government Entities and private entities in a smooth and safe manner;
10. create, and supervise the operation and development of, a smart application portal;
11. establish information technology performance indicators to assess compliance with Smart Transformation general policies, strategies, initiatives, projects, and standards, in coordination with the General Secretariat and in line with the performance indicators of Government and public services;
12. use the resources available in the Emirate to support the Smart Transformation process, in coordination with concerned Government Entities;
13. support and enable the development of innovative smart services in coordination and cooperation with the General Secretariat; and construct and develop the infrastructure related to information technology; and
14. exercise any other duties or powers required to achieve the objectives of the SDD, as assigned to it by the Executive Council.

Executive Body of the SDD

Article (7)

- a. The executive body of the SDD will be comprised of the Director General and a number of administrative, finance, and technical Employees.
- b. Employees of the SDD will be governed by the above-mentioned Law No. (8) of 2018 or any superseding legislation.

Director General

Article (8)

- a. A Director General will be appointed to the SDD pursuant to a decree issued by the Ruler.

- b. The employment rights of the Director General will be determined in accordance with the above-mentioned Law No. (8) of 2013 and the resolutions issued in pursuance thereof.
- c. 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 the legislation in force in the Emirate; and for performing any other duties assigned to him by the Executive Council.

Functions of the Director General

Article (9)

The Director General will supervise the work and activities of the SDD; 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 SDD as well as the Smart Transformation plan; present the same to the Executive Council for approval; and follow up their implementation;
2. propose the information technology and Smart Transformation policies, strategies, and initiatives; and submit the same to the Executive Council for approval;
3. approve the initiatives, programmes, projects, studies, and recommendations that relate to the work and activities of the SDD, and that contribute to achievement of its objectives;
4. approve and review the work plans and programmes of the SDD, and assess implementation of the same on annual basis;
5. prepare the draft annual budget and financial statements of the SDD, 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 Smart Transformation plan and the approved general policies, strategies, and initiatives; and on performance indicators and programmes, as well as annual performance reports on the work and activities of the SDD;

7. supervise the daily work and the Employees of the SDD, and appoint the technical and administrative staff required to perform the work of the SDD in accordance with the legislation in force;
8. propose the organisational structure of the SDD, and present it to the Executive Council for approval;
9. approve the bylaws and resolutions regulating the administrative, financial, and technical work of the SDD;
10. conclude the contracts, agreements, and memoranda of understanding required for the achievement of the SDD objectives and for enabling the SDD to perform its duties and functions;
11. form specialised permanent and temporary committees and work teams, and determine their duties and powers; and
12. exercise any other duties or powers related to the objectives, duties, and functions of the SDD, as assigned to him by the Executive Council.

Financial Resources of the SDD

Article (10)

The financial resources of the SDD will consist of:

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

Accounts and Financial Year of the SDD

Article (11)

- a. In regulating its accounts and records, the SDD will apply the rules and principles of government accounting.
- b. The Financial Year of the SDD will commence on 1 January and will end on 31 December of each year.

Cooperation and Support

Article (12)

For the purpose of performing its functions under this Law, the SDD may seek the assistance of Government Entities as it deems appropriate. These Government Entities must fully cooperate with the SDD and provide the support required to enable the SDD to achieve its objectives.

Issuing Implementing Resolutions

Article (13)

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

Repeals

Article (14)

- a. The above-mentioned Law No. (29) of 2015 is 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, bylaws, and resolutions issued in implementation of the above-mentioned Law No. (29) of 2015 will continue in force, to the extent that they do not contradict this Law and the legislation in force in the Emirate, until new superseding legislation, bylaws, and resolutions are issued.

Commencement and Publication

Article (15)

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 7 January 2020

Corresponding to 12 Jumada al-Ula 1441 A.H.