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Royal Decree

No. 2022/36

Promulgating the System of Governorates

We, Haitham bin Tarik

Sultan of Oman

After perusal of the Basic Law of the State, the Administrative Apparatus of the State issued by Royal Decree No. 2020/75, and the Governorates and Municipal Affairs System issued by Royal Decree No. 2020/101, and in pursuance of the public interest,

We have decreed as follows

Article One

The attached System of Governorates shall be enforced.

Article Two

We approve the organisational structures of the governorates in accordance with the model annexed to the System of Governorates. The provisions of the Administrative Apparatus of the State referred to shall be followed with respect to the establishment, amendment, and abolishment of the administrative divisions in those structures.

Article Three

All files, documents, records, and property related to the competences of the Ministry shall devolve to the Ministry of Interior from the Governorates of Muscat, Dhofar, and Musandam.

Article Four

All appropriations, assets, rights, obligations, and property related to the offices of the walis in the governorates shall devolve to the governorates, each as it concerns it, from the Ministry of Interior, except for files, documents, records, weapons, cannons, and ammunition, which shall remain the property of the Ministry of Interior.

Article Five

Employees of the Ministry of Interior working in the offices of the walis shall be transferred to the governorates, each as it concerns it, with the same financial grades.

Article Six

Royal Decree No. 2020/101 referred to is hereby repealed, as is any provision that contradicts this Decree and the attached System or is inconsistent with their provisions.

Article Seven

This Decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into force from its date of issuance.

Issued on: 16 Dhu al-Qi‘dah 1443 AH

Corresponding to: 16 June 2022 CE

Haitham bin Tarik

Sultan of Oman

System of Governorates

Chapter One

Definitions

Article (1)

For the purposes of this System, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings set out opposite each of them, unless the context requires otherwise:

- Ministry: Ministry of Interior.
- Minister: Minister of Interior.
- Governorate: A unit of the Administrative Apparatus of the State of a local nature.

- Municipality: An administrative division within the organisational structure of the governorate that undertakes all municipal activities in accordance with the provisions of this System.

Chapter Two

Governorates

Article (2)

The Sultanate of Oman is administratively divided into governorates as follows:

First: Muscat Governorate

Includes the wilayas of: Muscat, Muttrah, Al Amerat, Bawshar, Seeb, Qurayyat. The governorate centre is the Wilayat of Muscat.

Second: Dhofar Governorate

Includes the wilayas of: Salalah, Taqah, Mirbat, Rakhyut, Thumrait, Dhalkut, Al Mazyunah, Qishn, Shaleem and the Al Hallaniyat Islands, Sadah. The governorate centre is the Wilayat of Salalah.

Third: Musandam Governorate

Includes the wilayas of: Khasab, Dibba, Bukha, Madha. The governorate centre is the Wilayat of Khasab.

Fourth: Al Buraimi Governorate

Includes the wilayas of: Al Buraimi, Mahdha, As Sunaynah. The governorate centre is the Wilayat of Al Buraimi.

Fifth: Ad Dakhiliyah Governorate

Includes the wilayas of: Nizwa, Bahla, Manah, Al Hamra, Adam, Izki, Samail, Bidbid, Al Jabal Al Akhdar. The governorate centre is the Wilayat of Nizwa.

Sixth: North Al Batinah Governorate

Includes the wilayas of: Sohar, Shinas, Liwa, Saham, Al Khaboura, As Suwaiq. The governorate centre is the Wilayat of Sohar.

Seventh: South Al Batinah Governorate

Includes the wilayas of: Rustaq, Al Awabi, Nakhal, Wadi Al Maawil, Barka, Al Musannah. The governorate centre is the Wilayat of Rustaq.

Eighth: South Ash Sharqiyah Governorate

Includes the wilayas of: Sur, Al Kamil Wal Wafi, Jalan Bani Bu Hassan, Jalan Bani Bu Ali, Masirah. The governorate centre is the Wilayat of Sur.

Ninth: North Ash Sharqiyah Governorate

Includes the wilayas of: Ibra, Al Mudhaibi, Bidiyah, Al Qabil, Wadi Bani Khalid, Dema and Al Tayeen, Sinaw. The governorate centre is the Wilayat of Ibra.

Tenth: Adh Dhahirah Governorate

Includes the wilayas of: Ibri, Yanqul, Dhank. The governorate centre is the Wilayat of Ibri.

Eleventh: Al Wusta Governorate

Includes the wilayas of: Haima, Mahout, Duqm, Al Jazir. The governorate centre is the Wilayat of Haima.

Article (3)

The establishment, amendment, and abolishment of governorates and wilayas shall be by Royal Decree. The establishment, amendment, and abolishment of sub-wilayas (niyabahs) and administrative centres within the wilayas shall be by decision of the Minister.

Article (4)

The governorate shall have legal personality and financial and administrative independence, under the supervision of the Minister.

Article (5)

All laws, regulations, and Royal Decrees applicable to the Administrative Apparatus of the State shall apply to the governorate and its employees.

Article (6)

Within its geographical scope, and after coordination with the competent entities, the governorate shall undertake the following:

1. Implement the general policy of the State.
2. Ensure the rule of law, protect the interests of the State, and enhance its standing.
3. Develop and invest the resources of the governorate and promote them to achieve sustainable development and create jobs for citizens.
4. Work to benefit from the various endowments of the governorate.
5. Establish and manage municipal facilities.
6. Protect public property and remove encroachments upon it.
7. Work to meet the governorate's needs for public utilities and other government services.
8. Participate in urban planning.
9. Preserve environmental safety.
10. Implement the governorate's development projects and remove obstacles facing them.
11. Monitor economic activities in the governorate in a manner that supports their growth.
12. Work with the competent entities on the preparation of national development plan projects and review their implementation.

Chapter Three

Matters Common to the Governorates

Article (7)

All municipal activities in the governorates shall be regulated by unified regulations issued by decision of the Minister after coordination with the governors.

Article (8)

The Minister, or whomever he authorises, shall represent the Sultanate of Oman in regional and international conferences, events, and meetings, and in concluding agreements and memoranda of understanding related to the governorates.

Article (9)

The Minister shall meet with the governors at least twice a year, or whenever needed, to discuss matters common to the governorates.

Chapter Four

The Governor

Article (10)

A governor appointed by Royal Decree shall manage the governorate and conduct its affairs. He shall have the powers of a Head of Unit as stipulated in the laws, regulations, and Royal Decrees applicable to the units of the Administrative Apparatus of the State.

Article (11)

The governor shall represent the government in the governorate and supervise the implementation of the State's general policy therein, and in particular shall:

1. Represent the governorate in its relations with others and before the courts.
2. Prepare the governorate's development plan projects in coordination with the competent entities and follow up on their implementation.
3. Work to strengthen the economic and social aspects of the governorate.
4. Prepare the governorate's draft annual budget and its final accounts and submit them to the Ministry of Finance.
5. Issue decisions imposing municipal fees within the framework of the State's general policy after the approval of the Ministry of Finance.
6. Coordinate with the competent entities regarding land use in the governorate, without prejudice to the competences of municipal councils in this regard.
7. Communicate with the local community in a manner that serves the public interest within the governorate.
8. Receive complaints related to the competences of the governorate and take appropriate decisions regarding them.
9. Coordinate with heads of government units on the performance of their branches and offices in the governorate in light of reports submitted by the walis.
10. Directly supervise the walis, follow up their daily work, evaluate their performance, and submit periodic reports on them to the Minister.
11. Submit an annual report on the governorate's work results, as well as matters that must be presented to the Council of Ministers, to the Minister for submission to the Council of Ministers.
12. Undertake any other competences assigned by the Minister.

Chapter Five

The Wali

Article (12)

Each wilaya shall have a wali. His appointment, grade, financial entitlements, transfer, removal from office, and all other job affairs shall be by decision of the Minister.

Article (13)

Within the wilaya, the wali shall undertake the following:

1. Maintain public order.
2. Follow up on tribal affairs in accordance with the rules in force at the Ministry.
3. Meet with sheikhs, notables, and citizens to ascertain their views and the requirements of the wilaya.
4. Organise and supervise the electoral processes for members of the Shura Council and the Municipal Council in accordance with the rules and controls set by the Ministry.
5. Supervise the work of reconciliation and settlement committees in accordance with the rules and controls set by the Ministry.
6. Supervise the application of various prevailing customs and practices.
7. Chair local committees in the wilaya.
8. Follow up the performance of the municipality's branch in the wilaya, ensure it performs its assigned role fully, and submit reports thereon to the governor.
9. Follow up the performance of branches and offices of other government units in the wilaya and submit periodic reports on them to the governor.
10. Work to create job opportunities for citizens in the wilaya in coordination with the competent entities and submit periodic reports on that to the governor.
11. Participate in preparing development plan projects in the wilaya and follow up their implementation.
12. Submit proposals on anything that enhances the economic and social aspects in the wilaya to the governor.
13. Submit periodic reports on all matters related to the exercise of his competences to the governor.
14. Undertake any other competences assigned by the Minister or the governor.

Article (14)

There shall be a deputy wali at the wilaya level. His appointment, grade, financial entitlements, transfer, removal from office, and all other job affairs shall be by decision of the Minister.

Article (15)

The deputy wali in the wilaya shall act in place of the wali in case of the wali's absence or if there is an impediment preventing the wali from exercising his competences. The wali may, after the Minister's approval, delegate some of his competences to the deputy. In both cases, the deputy shall be responsible before the wali for the exercise of the delegated competences.

Article (16)

There shall be a deputy for the wali in each niyabah. His appointment, grade, financial entitlements, transfer, removal from office, and all other job affairs shall be by decision of the Minister. He shall undertake the work assigned to him by the wali.

Chapter Six

Municipalities

Article (17)

Each governorate shall have, within its organisational structure, a municipality at the level of a General Directorate, except for the Governorates of Muscat and Dhofar where each municipality shall have a higher organisational level, and shall report directly to the governor.

The municipality shall, within the governorate, exercise all municipal activities stipulated in this System, and it shall have a branch in each wilaya to undertake those activities within the wilaya under the direct supervision of the municipality.

Article (18)

The municipality shall, in coordination with the competent entities, be responsible for providing all municipal services within the governorate. For this purpose, it may exercise the following powers:

1. Prepare comprehensive plans in the field of municipal work and submit them to the governor for approval.
2. Prepare and implement awareness and guidance programmes necessary to raise community awareness, enhance social communication and voluntary work, and submit

them to the governor for approval, without prejudice to the competences of the municipal council.

3. Take necessary measures to maintain public health, cleanliness, and pest control.
4. Issue municipal licences for commercial, industrial, tourism, recreational, health, professional, and other activities.
5. Improve and beautify the streets and public squares in the governorate.
6. Establish, fence, and manage cemeteries, preserve their sanctity, and arrange for the preparation, transport, and burial of the deceased.
7. Establish and manage slaughterhouses, inspect them, conduct veterinary examination of animals before slaughter, and ensure that their meat is fit for human consumption after slaughter.
8. Establish, manage, and monitor public markets, without prejudice to the competences of the Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries and Water Resources.
9. Monitor and inspect food to ensure its fitness and safety, monitor factories, restaurants, and shops and their workers, take the necessary measures regarding them, and exercise health supervision over drinking water to ensure its quality and suitability for human use.
10. Establish, maintain, light, and manage roads, bridges, pedestrian paths, and public car parks, prepare and install traffic signs, and organise and develop traffic control means.
11. Establish and manage parks, gardens, children's playgrounds, and lavatories, and plant public places with trees.
12. Regulate building uses, inspect and control construction works, issue licences for building, maintenance, renovation, additions, and demolition, and licences for constructing different infrastructure networks, remove buildings that are in violation or at risk of collapse, and remove the resulting debris in accordance with the applicable laws.
13. Issue licences for quarrying, excavation, tree cutting, and the like after approval by the competent entities.
14. Monitor and impound stray and roaming animals.
15. Establish and manage laboratories related to municipal work.
16. Take necessary measures to drain rainwater and floods, protect wadi reservations, and fill swamps and water ponds in open and public places, and require owners to do so where such exist on their property.
17. Investigate epidemic diseases and those infected and notify the competent entities.
18. Propose the imposition of municipal fees and submit to the governor.
19. Monitor signs and advertisements.
20. Manage beaches and wadi courses.
21. Register real estate lease contracts in accordance with the applicable laws.
22. Establish a database and information system for municipal work within its geographical jurisdiction and prepare the necessary research and statistics in accordance with the applicable laws.
23. Name and number streets, roads, alleys, squares, plazas, and buildings in accordance with the standards issued by the competent entities.
24. Provide all forms of support and assistance to the entities concerned with disaster response.
25. Organise festivals and cultural, sports, and social activities in accordance with the applicable laws.

26. Take necessary measures to prevent encroachment on public and private state property and take necessary measures to remove encroachments.
27. Take necessary measures to remove eyesores in villages, residential neighbourhoods, roads, public squares, car parks, walkways, and wadis.
28. Monitor weights, measures, and capacities in accordance with the applicable laws.
29. Take measures and make necessary arrangements to prevent the dumping of waste in roads, markets, parks, gardens, car parks, and other public places.
30. Propose draft municipal regulations and decisions and submit them to the governor for necessary action in accordance with this System.
31. Propose means of investing the governorate's resources in order to achieve sustainable development in line with the State's general policy.
32. Propose the governorate's development plan projects and submit them to the governor.

Article (19)

By way of exception to the provisions of this System, each of the President of Muscat Municipality and the President of Dhofar Municipality shall have the competences and powers prescribed for a Head of Unit under the laws and Royal Decrees applicable to the units of the Administrative Apparatus of the State with respect to all matters related to the municipality's activities, financial and administrative affairs, and staff matters. Each municipality shall have a sub-budget included within the governorate's budget, which the president of each municipality shall prepare and estimate. Each municipality shall be treated as an independent unit for the purposes of applying the State Financial and Administrative Audit Law.

Chapter Seven

Governorate Finance

Article (20)

The governorate shall have an independent budget. The financial year of the governorate shall begin on the first day of January and end on the thirty-first day of December of each year. The first financial year shall begin on the date this System comes into force and end on the thirty-first day of December of the same year.

Article (21)

The financial resources of the governorate shall be:

1. Appropriations allocated to it in the State's general budget.

2. Consideration for services it provides to others.
3. Donations, aids, and grants accepted by the governor after approval by the Council of Ministers.
4. Returns on the investment of its funds.
5. A percentage of municipal fees as determined by decision of the Council of Ministers.

Article (22)

The funds of the governorate are public funds and shall enjoy the privileges and rights of the public treasury. The governorate shall protect these funds and collect them by the means and procedures by which public funds are collected.

Chapter Eight

Final Provisions

Article (23)

Municipality employees designated by decision of the legally competent authority in agreement with the governor shall have the capacity of judicial enforcement officers for the purposes of applying the provisions of this System and the regulations issued in implementation thereof within their scope.

Article (24)

Municipal regulations may include administrative penalties as follows:

1. Immediate removal of the violation at the violator's expense.
2. Temporary closure of the shop or establishment for a period not exceeding ten (10) days, or revocation of the licence.
3. A fine not exceeding five thousand (5,000) Omani Rials, which shall be doubled in the event of repeating the same violation within a year from the date of the previous violation.
4. A fine not exceeding fifty (50) Omani Rials for each day in the case of continuing violations. In all cases, the total shall not exceed two thousand (2,000) Omani Rials regardless of the duration.

Article (25)

The Royal Oman Police and other competent entities shall provide all forms of assistance to the governorate in the measures it takes in the context of applying this System and the regulations issued in implementation of its provisions.

Minister of Interior

Governor of Muscat

Directorates	Municipality	Wali Offices
• **Directorate General of Administrative and Financial Affairs**	• Muscat Municipality	• Wali of Muscat
• **Directorate General of Health Affairs**		• Wali of Muttrah
• **Directorate General of Projects and Landscaping**		• Wali of Al Amerat
• **Directorate General of Technical Affairs**		• Wali of Bawshar
• **Directorate General of Planning and Investment**		• Wali of Seeb
• **Directorate General of Information Technology**		• Wali of Qurayyat

Governor of Dhofar

Directorates	Municipality	Wali Offices
• **Directorate General of Administrative and Financial Affairs**	• Dhofar Municipality	• Wali of Salalah
• **Directorate General of Health Affairs**		• Wali of Taqah
• **Directorate General of Projects and Technical Affairs**		• Wali of Mirbat
• **Directorate General of Planning and Investment**		• Wali of Rakhyut
		• Wali of Thumrait
		• Wali of Dhalkut
		• Wali of Sadah
		• Wali of Shaleem & Al Hallaniyat Islands
		• Wali of Maqshin
		• Wali of Al Mazyunah

Governor of Musandam

Directorates	Municipality	Wali Offices
• **Directorate General of Administrative and Financial Affairs**	• Musandam Municipality	• Wali of Khasab

		• Wali of Dibba
		• Wali of Bukha
		• Wali of Madha

Governor of Al Buraimi

Directorates	Municipality	Wali Offices
• Directorate General of Administrative and Financial Affairs	• Al Buraimi Municipality	• Wali of Al Buraimi
		• Wali of Mahdha
		• Wali of As Sunaynah

Governor of Al Dakhiliyah

Directorates	Municipality	Wali Offices
• Directorate General of Administrative and Financial Affairs	• Ad Dakhiliyah Municipality	• Wali of Nizwa
		• Wali of Bahla
		• Wali of Manah
		• Wali of Al Hamra
		• Wali of Adam
		• Wali of Al Jabal Al Akhdar
		• Wali of Bidbid
		• Wali of Samail
		• Wali of Izki

Governor of North Al Batinah

Directorates	Municipality	Wali Offices
• Directorate General of Administrative and Financial Affairs	• North Al Batinah Municipality	• Wali of Sohar
		• Wali of Shinas
		• Wali of Liwa
		• Wali of Saham
		• Wali of Al Suwaiq
		• Wali of Al Khaboura

Governor of South Al Batinah

Directorates	Municipality	Wali Offices
• Directorate General of Administrative and Financial Affairs	• South Al Batinah Municipality	• Wali of Rustaq
		• Wali of Al Awabi
		• Wali of Nakhal

		• Wali of Wadi Al Maawil
		• Wali of Barka
		• Wali of Al Musannah

Governor of North Al Sharqiyah

Directorates	Municipality	Wali Offices
• **Directorate General of Administrative and Financial Affairs**	• North Ash Sharqiyah Municipality	• Wali of Ibra
		• Wali of Al Mudhaibi
		• Wali of Bidiyah
		• Wali of Al Qabil
		• Wali of Wadi Bani Khalid
		• Wali of Dema & Al Tayeen
		• Wali of Sinaw

Governor of South Al Sharqiyah

Directorates	Municipality	Wali Offices
• **Directorate General of Administrative and Financial Affairs**	• South Ash Sharqiyah Municipality	• Wali of Sur
		• Wali of Al Kamil Wal Wafi
		• Wali of Jalan Bani Bu Hassan
		• Wali of Jalan Bani Bu Ali
		• Wali of Masirah

Governor of Al Dhahirah

Directorates	Municipality	Wali Offices
• **Directorate General of Administrative and Financial Affairs**	• Adh Dhahirah Municipality	• Wali of Ibri
		• Wali of Yanqul
		• Wali of Dhank

Governor of Al Wusta

Directorates	Municipality	Wali Offices
• **Directorate General of Administrative and Financial Affairs**	• Al Wusta Municipality	• Wali of Haima
		• Wali of Mahout
		• Wali of Duqm
		• Wali of Al Jazir