

Kingdom Of Saudi Arabia
Ministry Of Information



Saudi Basic Acts

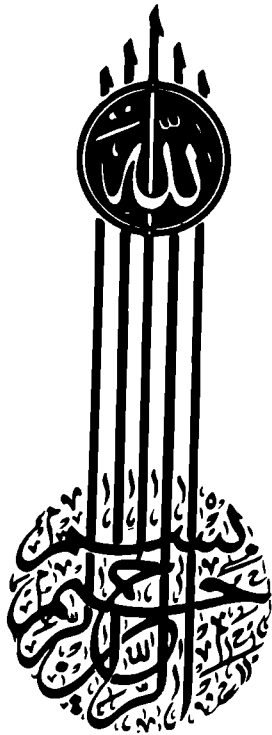
First edition 1422-2001

**Prepared By The National Agency For
Information(Nebras)**

Saudi Basic Acts

First Edition 1422-2001

**Prepared by the National Agency for
Information (Nebras)**





**The Custodian of The Two Holy Mosques,
King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz**



**H.R.H. Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz,
Deputy Prime Minister and Head of the National Guard**



**H.R.H. Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz, Second Deputy
Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Aviation, and
the Inspector General**

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

No.A/90

Dated 27.8.1421H.

With the help of Allah, Most High,
We Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz Al Saud,
King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

On the basis of what is required by the public interest, in view of the development the State has undergone in all fields, and out of a desire to pursue the objectives we seek to achieve, we have ordered the following:

- I. The Basic Law of Government shall be issued in the from herewith attached.
- II. All laws, orders and resolutions, valid at the time this law comes into force, shall continue to be in effect until amended in accordance therewith.
- III. This law shall be published in the official gazette and shall take effect from the date of publication.

THE BASIC LAW OF GOVERNMENT

Chapter One General Principles

Article 1:

The kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a sovereign Arab Islamic State.

Religion: Islam

Constitution: The Holy Quran and the Prophet's Sunnah (traditions)

Language: Arabic

Capital: Riyadh

Article 2:

Its national public holidays:

-Eid Al-Fitr

-Eid Al-Ad-ha

-Calendar: Hegira (Lunar)

Article 3

Its national flag:

- Green in color

- Width equal to two thirds of length

- Article of faith inscribed in the center with a drawn Sword underneath

- Rules pertaining to it defined by law. Never flown at half mast.

Article 4:

The State's emblem consists of two intersecting swords with a date palm in the upper space between them.

national anthem and the decorations awarded by the state shall be determined by the law.

Chapter two

System of Government

Article 5:

- (i) The system of government in Saudi Arabia shall be monarchical.
- (b) The dynasty right shall be confined to the sons of the Founder, King Abdulaziz Ibn Abdulrahamn Al-Faisal AalSaud, and the sons of sons. The most eligible among them shall be invited, through the process of "bai'ah" to rule in accordance with the Holy Qu'ran and the prophet's Sunnah.
- (c) The King names the Crown Prince and may relieve him of his duties by Royal Order.
- (d) The Crown Prince shall devote full time to his office and to any other duties which may be assigned to him by the king.
- (e) The Crown Prince shall assume the powers of the king on the latter's death pending the outcome of the "bai'ah."

Article 6:

Citizens shall pledge allegiance to the King on the basis of The Holy Qu'ran and the Prophet's Sunnah, as well as on the principle of "hearing obeying" both in prosperity and adversity, in situations pleasant and unpleasant.

Article 7:

The regime derives its power from the Holy Quran and the Prophet's Sunnah which rule over this and all other State laws.

Article 8:

The system of government in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is established on the foundation of justice, "Shura" and equality in compliance with the Islamic Shariah.

Chapter Three

The Constituents of Saudi Society

Article 9:

The family is the nucleus of Saudi society. Its members shall be brought up imbued with the Islamic Creed which calls for obedience to God, His Messenger and those of the nation who are charged with authority, for the respect and enforcement of law and order ; and for love of the motherland and taking pride in its glorious history.

Article 10:

The State shall take great pains to strengthen the bonds which hold the family together and to preserve its Arab and Islamic values. Likewise it is keen on taking good care of all family members and creating proper conditions to help them cultivate their skills and capabilities

Article 11:

The Saudi society shall hold fast to the Divine Rope. Its citizens shall work together to foster benevolence, piety and mutual assistance, and it avoids dissension.

Article 12:

The State shall foster national unity and preclude all that may lead to disunity, mischief and division.

Article 13:

Education aims at the inculcation of the Islamic creed in the

young generation and the development of their knowledge and skills so that they may become useful members of society who love their homeland and take pride in its history.

Chapter four

Economic Principles

Article 14:

All God-given resources of the country, both under and above ground, or in territorial waters, or within terrestrial and maritime limits to which State jurisdiction extends, as well as the revenues accruing there from shall be owned by the State as specified by the law. Likewise the law shall specify the means to be employed for the utilization, protection and development of these resources in a manner conducive to the promotion of the State's interests, security and economy.

Article 15:

No concessions shall be awarded or permission given for the utilization of the country's national resources, except as permitted by the law.

Article 16:

Public property is sacrosanct. It shall be protected by the State and preserved by both citizens and foreign residents.

Article 17:

Ownership, capital and labor are the fundamentals of the Kingdom's economic and social life. They are private rights that serve a social function in conformity with Islamic Shari'ah.

Article 18:

The State shall guarantee the freedom and inviolability of pri-

vate property. Private property shall not be expropriated unless in the public interest and the confiscatee is fairly compensated.

Article 19:

Collective confiscation of properties shall be prohibited. Confiscation of private properties shall only be effected in accordance with a judicial verdict.

Article 20:

Taxes and fees shall be imposed only on the basis of fairness and when the need arises.

They shall only be imposed, amended, abolished or remitted in accordance with the law.

Article 21:

Zakat (poor-due) shall be levied and dispensed to its legitimate beneficiaries.

Article 22:

Economic and social development shall be achieved in accordance with a methodical and equitable plan.

Chapter Five

Rights and Duties

Article 23:

The State shall protect the Islamic Creed and shall cater to the application of Shar'ah. The State shall enjoin good and forbid evil, and shall undertake duties of the call to Islam.

Article 24:

The State shall maintain and serve the Two Holy Mosques. It shall ensure the security and safety of all those who call at the Two Holy Mosques so that they may be able to visit or perform the pilgrimage and "Umra"(minor pilgrimage) in comfort and ease.

Article 25:

The State shall be keen to realize the aspirations of the Arab Muslim nations with regard to solidarity and unity while enhancing its relations with friendly states.

Article 26:

The State shall protect human rights in accordance with Islamic Shari'ah.

Article 27:

The State shall guarantee the rights of its citizens and their families in an emergency or in case of disease, disability and old age. Likewise it shall support the social security system and encourage individuals and institutions to contribute to charitable pursuits.

Article 28:

The State shall provide job opportunities to all able-bodied people and shall enact laws to protect both the employee and the employer.

Article 29

The State shall foster sciences; arts and culture .It shall encourage scientific research, shall preserve Arab and Islamic heritage and shall contribute to Arab, Islamic and human civilization.

Article 30:

The State shall provide public education and shall commit itself to the eradication of illiteracy.

Article 31:

The State shall be solicitous for promoting public health and shall provide medical care to every citizen.

Article 32:

The State shall seek to conserve, protect and develop the environment and prevent pollution.

Article 33:

The State shall build and equip the armed forces to defend the Islamic faith, the two Holy Mosques, the society and the homeland.

Article 34:

Defending the Islamic Faith, the society and the homeland shall be the duty of each and every citizen. Rules of military service shall be spelled out by the law.

Article 35:

The rules which govern the Saudi Arabian nationality shall be defined by the law.

Article 36:

The State shall ensure the security of all its citizens and expatriates living within its domains. No individual shall be detained, imprisoned or have his actions restricted except under the provisions of the law.

Article 37:

Houses are inviolable. They shall not be entered without the permission of their owners, nor shall they be searched except in cases specified by the law.

Article 38:

Punishment shall be restricted to the actual offender. No crime shall be established as such and no punishment shall be imposed except under a judicial or law provision. No punishment shall be imposed except for acts that take place after enactment of the law provision governing them.

Article 39:

Mass media, publication facilities and other means of expression shall function in a manner that is courteous and fair and shall abide by State laws. They shall play their part in educating the masses and boosting national unity. All that may give rise to mischief and discord, or may compromise the security of the State and its public image, or may offend against man's dignity

and rights shall be banned. Relevant regulations shall explain how this is to be done.

Article 40:

All forms of correspondence, whether conveyed by telegraph, post or any other means of communication shall be considered sacrosanct. They may not be confiscated, delayed or read, and telephones may not be tapped except as laid down in the law.

Article 41:

Foreign residents in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia shall abide by its regulations and shall respect Saudi social traditions, values and feelings.

Article 42:

The State shall grant political asylum, if so required by the Public interest. The law and international agreements shall define the procedures and rules for the extradition of common criminals.

Article 43:

The "Majlis" of the King and the "Majlis" of the Crown Prince shall be open to all citizens and to anyone who may have a complaint or grievance. Every individual shall have the right to communicate with public authorities regarding any topic he may wish to discuss.

Chapter Six

Power of the State

Article 44:

The powers of the State shall comprise:

- The Judicial Power
- The Executive Power
- The Organizational Power

All these powers shall cooperate in performing their duties according to this Law and other regulations. The King is the ultimate reference of all these authorities.

Article 45:

The source of Ifta in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the Holy Quran and the Prophet's Sunnah. The law shall specify the composition of the Senior Ulama Board and of the Administration of Religious Research and Ifta and its jurisdictions.

Article 46:

The judicial authority is an independent power . In discharging their duties, the judges bow to no authority other than that of Islamic Shari'ah.

Article 47:

Both citizens and foreign residents have an equal right to litigation. The necessary procedures are set forth by the law.

Article 48:

Courts shall apply the provisions of Islamic Shari'ah to cases brought before them, according to the teachings of the Holy Qu-

ran and the Prophet's Sunnah as well as other regulations issued by the Head of State in strict conformity with the Holy Quran and the Prophet's Sunnah.

Article 49:

Subject to the provisions of article 53 of this law, the courts shall have jurisdiction to deal with all kinds of disputes and crimes.

Article 50:

The king, or whomsoever he may deputize, shall be concerned and its functions as well as the organization and jurisdiction of the courts.

Article 51:

The law specifies the formation of the supreme judicial council and its functions as well as the organization and jurisdiction of the courts.

Article 52:

Judges are appointed and their service is terminated by a Royal Order upon a proposal by the supreme judicial council as specified by the law.

Article 53:

The law defines the structure and jurisdiction of the court of Grievances.

Article 54:

The law shall specify the reference, organization and jurisdictions of the Board of Investigation and Public Prosecution.

Article 55:

The King shall undertake to rule according to the rulings of Islam and shall supervise the application of Shari'ah , the regulations , and the State's general policy as well as the protection and defense of the country.

Article 56:

The King shall be the Prime Minister and shall be assisted in the performance of his duties by members of the Council of Ministers according to the rulings of this law and other laws. The Council of Ministers Law shall specify the Council's Power with regard to internal and external affairs, organizing government bodies and coordinating their activities. Likewise the Law shall specify the conditions which the Ministers must satisfy, their eligibility, the method of their accountability along with all other matters related to them. The Council of Ministers' law and jurisdiction shall be modified in accordance with this Law.

Article 57:

- (i) The King shall appoint the Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers and may relieve them of their duties by a Royal order.
- (ii) The Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers shall be jointly responsible before the King for the application of Islamic Shari'ah, the laws and the State's general policy.
- (iii) The King shall have the right to dissolve and re-form the Council of Ministers.

Article 58:

The King shall appoint ministers, deputy ministers and officials of the "excellent grade" category and he may dismiss them by a Royal order in accordance with the rules of the law.

Ministers and heads of independent authorities shall be responsible before the prime Minister for the ministries and authorities they head.

Article 59:

The law shall prescribe the provisions pertaining to civil service, including salaries, bonuses, compensation, privileges and retirement pensions.

Article 60:

The King shall be the Supreme Commander of the armed forces and shall appoint military officers and terminate their service in accordance with the law.

Article 61:

The King shall have the right to declare a state of emergency and general mobilization as well as war. The system shall define the rules .

Article 62:

If danger threatens the safety of the Kingdom, the integrity of its territory, the security of its people and their interests, or impends the performance of State institutions , the King shall take necessary and speedy measures to confront this danger. If the King feels that these measures may better be permanent, he then

shall take whatever legal action he deems necessary in this regard.

Article 63:

The King receives Kings and heads of state, appoints his representatives to other countries and accepts accreditation of the representatives of other countries to the Kingdom.

Article 64:

The King awards medals in the same manner as specified by the law.

Article 65:

The King may delegate parts of his authority to the Crown Prince by a Royal decree.

Article 66:

In the event of his traveling abroad, the King shall issue a Royal Order deputizing the Crown Prince to run the affairs of the State and look after the interests of the people as stated in the Royal decree.

Article 67:

Acting within its term of reference , the Organizational Power shall draw up regulations and by-laws to safeguard public interests or eliminate corruption in the affairs of the State in accordance with the rulings of the Islamic Shari'ah . It shall exercise its powers in compliance with this law and the two other laws of the Council of Ministers and the Majlis Ash-Shura (Consultative Council)

Article 68:

The Majlis Ash-Shura shall be constituted. Its law shall determine the structure of its formation, the method by which it exercises the selection of its members. The King shall have the right to dissolve the Majlis Ash-Shura and re-form it.

Article 69:

The King may call the Council of Ministers and the Majlis Ash-Shura to hold a joint meeting to which he may invite whomsoever he wishes for a discussion of whatsoever issues he may like to raise.

Article 70:

Laws, treaties, international agreements and concessions shall be issued and modified by Royal Decrees.

Article 71:

Laws shall be published in the official gazette and they shall take effect as from the date of their publication unless another date is stipulated.

Chapter Seven

Financial Affairs

Article 72:

- (i) The law shall determine the management of State revenues, and the procedures of their delivery to the State Treasury.
- (ii) Revenues shall be accounted for and expended in accordance with the procedures stated in the law.

Article 73:

No obligation shall be made to pay funds from the State Treasury except in accordance with the provision of the budget. Should the provisions of the budget not suffice for paying such funds, a Royal Decree shall be issued for their payment.

Article 74:

State property may not be sold, leased, or otherwise disposed of except in accordance with the law.

Article 75:

The regulations shall define the monetary provision and banks, as well as standards, measures and weights.

Article 76:

The law shall determine the State's fiscal year. A Royal Decree, which shall spell out revenue, shall issue the budget and expenditure estimates for the year. The budget

Shall be issued at least one month before the beginning of the fiscal year. If owing to overpowering reasons, the validity of the old budget shall be extended until a new one has been issued.

Article 77:

The concerned authority shall prepare the State's final accounts for the expired fiscal year and shall submit it to the Prime Minister.

Article 78:

The budgets and final accounts of corporate authorities shall be subject to the same provisions applied to the State budget and its final accounts.

Chapter Eight
Control and Auditing Authorities

Article 79:

All State revenues and expenditures shall be kept under control, so shall its fixed and liquid (mobile) assets which will be checked to ascertain that they are properly utilized and maintained. An annual report thereon shall be submitted to the Council of Ministers.

The law shall name the control and auditing authority concerned, and shall define its terms of reference and accountability.

Article 80:

Government bodies shall be monitored closely to ensure that they are performing well and applying the law properly. Financial and administrative violations shall be investigated and an annual report thereon shall be submitted to the Council of Ministers.

The law shall name the authority to be charged with this task and shall define its accountability and terms of reference.

Chapter Nine

General Provisions

Article 81:

The implementation of this law shall not violate the treaties and agreements the Kingdom has signed with other countries or with international organizations and institutions.

Article 82:

Without prejudice to the provisions of article 7 of this law, none of the provisions of this law shall, in any way, be obstructed unless it is a temporary measure taken during time of war or in a state of emergency as specified by the law.

Article 83:

No amendments to this law shall be made except in the same manner in which it has been issued.

The Law of Regions

No.A/92 Dated 27.8.1421H.

With the help of Allah, Most High,
We Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz Al Saud,
King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

On the basis of what is required by the public interest, in view of the development the State has undergone in all fields, and out of a desire to pursue the objectives we seek to achieve, we have ordered the following:

- I. The Basic Law of Government shall be issued in the from herewith attached.
- II. All laws shall remain in force for a maximum period of one year from the date of publication hereof .
- III. This law shall be published in the official gazette .

The Law of Regions

Article 1:

This law shall aim at improving the standard of administrative work and development in the Kingdom. It shall also aim at the preservation of law and order, the right of citizens and their freedom within the framework of Islamic Shari'ah.

Article 2:

The Kingdom's regions and the headquarters of the administrative body "Imarah" of each shall be organized by a Royal Order upon the recommendation of the Minister of Interior.

Article 3:

In respect to administration, each region shall be made up of a number of governorates (Class A and Class B) and centers (Class A and Class B). This division shall take into consideration the population, geography, security, environment and means of transportation. The governorates shall be organized by a Royal Order upon the recommendation of the Minister of Interior. Centers shall be set up by a resolution from the Minister of Interior on the basis of a proposal from the governor of the region.

Article 4:

Each region shall have a governor with the rank of "minister" and shall have a vice-governor at the "excellent grade" who

shall assist the governor in the discharge of his duties and act as a substitute for him during his absence. Governors and their vice-governors shall be appointed and relieved by a Royal decree upon the recommendation of the Minister of Interior.

Article 5:

The governor of the Region shall answer to the Minister of Interior.

Article 6:

The Governor and the Vice-Governor shall take the following oath before the King prior to their assumption of their duties:

"I swear by Almighty God that I shall be loyal to my religion, then to my King and country; shall not divulge any secrets of the state, shall uphold its interests and respect its laws, shall perform my duties in good faith, honesty, sincerity and equity"

Article 7:

Each Governor shall administer his region according to the State's general policy, the provisions of this law and other laws and regulations. He shall be required in particular to:

- (i) Preserve law, order, stability and take the necessary measures in this connection according to laws and regulations.
- (ii) Implement the judicial rules after their final endorsement.
- (iii) Protect the right of individuals and their freedoms, and desist from any act that may compromise these rights and freedoms except within limits prescribed by the law.

- (iv) Work for the development of the region in social, economic and urban terms.
- (e) Work for development of the public service in the region and enhancement of their efficiency.
- (f) Manage the governorates and centers and supervise the governors of governorates and directors of centers, to ascertain their competence in performing their duties.
- (vii) Preserve the State's assets and property and prevent encroachment.
- (viii) Supervise government departments and their personnel in the region to ascertain their performance of their duties properly, honestly and with diligence. Employees of different ministries and government departments, who work in the region, shall be answerable to their own ministries and departments.
- (ix) Make direct contacts with ministers and heads of government departments for the discussion of affairs of the region with a view to promoting the performance of the bodies answerable to them. The minister of Interior shall be acquainted with these contacts.
- (x) Submit annual reports to the Minister of Interior on , among other things, the efficiency of public utilities in the region according to the executive rules of this Law.

Article 8:

An annual meeting shall be held by regional governors under

the chairmanship of the Minister of Interior to discuss issues related to regions.

Article 9:

The governor of each region shall hold biannual meetings for the governors of governorates to discuss matters of interest to the region. The region 's governor shall submit a report thereon to the Minister of Interior.

Article 10:

- (i) One or more deputy governors shall be appointed for each region at a grade not less than "14". The appointment shall be by cabinet resolution upon the recommendation of the Minister of Interior.
- (ii) Each class "A" governorate shall have a governor at a grade not less than "14". He shall be appointed upon order of the Prime Minister as recommended by the Minister of Interior. Each governorate shall have a deputy at a grade not less than "12". He shall be appointed by the Minister of Interior upon the recommendation of the regional governor.
- (iii) Each class "B" governorate shall have a governor at a grade not less than "12". He shall be appointed by the Minister of Interior upon the recommendation of the regional governor.
- (iv) Each class "A" center shall have a director at a grade not less than "8". He shall be appointed by the Minister of Interior upon the recommendation of the regional governor.

Article 11:

Regional governors, governors of governorate and directors of centers shall reside at their place of work and shall not leave it without the permission of their immediate superiors.

Article 12:

Governors of governorate and directors of centers shall perform their duties within the administrative framework of their respective authorities , and within the limits of the powers vested in them.

Article 13:

Governors of governorate shall run their governorates within the framework of the functions outlined in article (70 with the exception of its provisions (f,i,j,). They shall monitor the work of the heads of centers answerable to them to ascertain their ability to handle their duties efficiently, and shall submit performance reports of public services and other matters with which the governorate is concerned in accordance with what is stipulated under the executive regulation of this Law.

Article 14:

Each Ministry or government agency providing services to the region shall appoint an official at the head of its bodies in the region with a rank not less than grade 12. He shall report directly to the parent ministry or agency and shall operate in close coordination with the governor of the region.

Article 15:

Each region shall have a region council with its offices installed at the headquarters of the region's governorate.

Article 16:

The "regional council" shall consist of:

- (i) The governor as chairman.
- (ii) The deputy governor as vice-chairman.
- (iii) Governorate "wakil"
- (iv) Heads of the region's official bodies which shall be specified in a resolution to be passed by the Council

Ministers on the recommendation of the governor and approval by the Minister of Interior.

- (v) A number of locals (not less than 10) judged as eligible in terms of learning, experience and specialization and appointed by order of the Prime Minister upon the governor's recommendation and the approval of the Minister of Interior with a renewable four-year membership term.

Article 17:

A Council member shall satisfy the following:

- (i) To be a Saudi National both by descent and upbringing.
- (ii) To be of proven integrity and ability.
- (iii) Not to be less than 30 years of age.
- (iv) To have his place of residence in the region.

Article 18:

A member may submit in writing to the chairman of the re-

gion's council any proposals falling within the council's jurisdiction. The chairman shall place each proposal on the council's agenda for discussion.

Article 19:

A member of the region's council shall not attend council deliberations or the deliberations of any of its committees when dealing with a matter of personal interest to him or to anyone whose testimony in his favor is unacceptable, or if the Member is a guardian or agent of one who has a stake therein.

Article 20:

If a member wishes to resign he shall submit an application to this end to the Minister of Interior through the region governor .The resignation shall not be considered valid unless endorsed by the Prime Minister on recommendation from the Minister of Interior.

Article 21:

In all cases other than those specified in this Law, a nominated member may not be dismissed during his term of membership unless by order of the Prime Minister o recommendation from the Minister of Interior.

Article22:

If the seat of a nominated member is rendered vacant for any reason, a substitute shall be appointed within three months from the vacancy date. The new member shall hold office or a period equal to the remainder of his predecessor's term in accordance

with what is prescribed in item "e" of Article 16 of this Law.

Article 23:

The regional council shall have the competence to discuss all that is conducive to improving service standards in the region, and shall be entitled in particular to:

- (i) Determine the needs of the region and propose their inclusion into the State's development plan.
- (ii) Determine what projects are useful, arrange them in order of priority and propose their adoption as part of the annual State budget.
- (iii) Study the regions urban and rural organizational layouts and follow up their implementation after being adopted.
- (iv) Follow up the implementation and coordination of those parts of the development and budget plans related to the region.

Article 24:

The region's council shall propose and submit to the Minister of Interior any move calculated to serve the general good of the region's resident population and shall encourage citizens' contribution thereto.

Article 25:

The region's council may not overstep its area of competence as determined under this Law, otherwise its resolutions shall be considered null and void and a resolution to this end shall be issued by the Minister of Interior.

Article 26:

The region's council shall hold a three -month ordinary session at the invitation of its chairman who also may invite the council to convene an extraordinary meeting if eh deems that necessary.

Article 27:

The members of the region's council specified in items "c" and "d" of Article 16 of this Law shall attend the meetings of the council ex-officio. They shall attend the meetings in person, or by proxy in case of being absent from work. As to the members specified in item "e" of the said Article, failure by one of teem t attend two successive sessions without as acceptable excuse shall be considered good reason for his dismissal from the council. In this case the dismissed member may not be eligible for re-appointment except after the lapse of two years from the date of issue of the decision of his dismissal.

Article 28:

Meetings of the region's council shall be considered in order only if attended by at least two thirds of council members. Council resolutions shall be issued by absolute majority of

The votes. Should the votes be equally divided, the chairman shall have the casting vote.

Article 29:

The region's council may set up, when the need arises, special, committees to study any matter falling within its jurisdic-

tion, and if may seek the help of people of experience and specialists. Likewise it may invite whomever it wishes to attend council meetings and participate in the deliberations without having the right to vote.

Article 30:

The Minister of Interior shall have the right to call the council to meet under his chairmanship in any place he may choose. Likewise he shall have the right to preside at any meeting he may attend.

Article 31:

The region's council may convene only at the request of its chairman or vice-chairman or by order of the Minister of Interior.

Article 32:

The chairman of the council shall submit a copy of its resolutions to the Minister of Interior.

Article 33:

The chairman of the council shall inform the ministries and governmental agencies of council's resolutions which have a direct bearing on them.

Article 34:

Minister and government agencies shall pay due regard to what is stated in items "a" and "b" of Article 23 of this law. If the Ministry or governmental agency concerned finds any such resolution unacceptable, it shall have to explain

to the region's council the reasons on which its objection is based. Should the region's Council remain unimpressed, it may refer the matter to the Minister of Interior to put it before the Prime Minister

Article 35:

Each ministry or governmental agency which maintains services of its own in the region shall inform the region's council, the moment the State budget is issued, of the project allocated to it in the said budget and also of what has been decided for it to obtain under the development plan.

Article 36:

Each minister and governmental agency head may sound out the region's council on any matter pertaining to its area of competence and the council shall give its opinion as requested.

Article 37:

The Prime Minister, acting upon a proposal from the Ministry of Interior, shall fix the bonuses of the chairman and members of the region's council. In the assessment of these bonuses due regard shall be paid to transportation and dwelling costs.

Article 38:

The region's council shall not be dissolved except by order of the Prime Minister, based on a proposal from the Minister of Interior. The Council shall be re-constituted within three months from the dissolution date. In the interim the members specified in items " c" and "d" of Article 16 of this Law shall exercise the

council's authority under the chairmanship of the region governor.

Article 39:

The council shall have a secretariat installed in the region's governorate and entrusted with the duty of drawing of the agenda, sending out invitations on time, keeping record of the deliberations which take place at meetings, separating votes, drawing up the minutes of meetings, editing resolutions, taking the necessary measures to maintain discipline at council meetings and noting down the council's resolutions.

Article 40:

The Minister of Interior shall issue the necessary regulations for the implementation of this law.

The Majlis Ash-Shura Law and Related Orders

No.A/91

Dated: 27.8.1412H.

By the Help of Allah,

We, Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz AlSaud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

Proceeding from the words of Allah, sublime be He, "And consult them in affairs of moment" and His words "who conduct their affairs by mutual consultation", and Following the good example of God's Messenger in consulting his companions, and acting according to the requirements of the public interest, and having taken note of Majlis Ash-Shura Law issued by a Royal Order in 1347H.

- I. The Majlis Ash-Shura Law shall be issued in the form herewith attached.
- II The Law shall replace the Majlis Ash-Shura Law of 1347H. The Majlis Ash-Shura shall be organized by a Royal Order
- III All laws, orders and resolutions, valid at the time this law comes into force, shall continue to be in affect until amended in accordance therewith.
- IV This Law shall come into affect within a maximum period of six months from the date of its publication.
- V The law shall be published in the official gazette.

The Majlis Ash-Shura Law

Article 1:

In line with the Almighty Allah's words:

159. It is part of the Mercy Of Allah that thou dost deal Gently with them .417

Wert thou severe or harsh -hearted, They would have broken away From about thee: so pass over (Their faults), and ask For (Allah's) forgiveness For them; and consult Them in affairs (of moment). Then , when thou hast Taken a decision, Put thy trust in Allah . For Allah loves those Who put their trust (in Him).

فبما رحمة من الله لنت لهم ولو كنت فظا غليظا القلب لانفضوا من حولك فاعف عنهم واستغفر لهم وشاورهم في الأمر فإذا عزمت فتوكل على الله إن الله يحب المتوكلين.

And , with Allah's words":

38. Those who respond 4578
To their Lord, and establish
Regular prayer; who (conduct)
Their. Affairs by mutual
Consultation; 4579
Who spend out of what
We bestow on them
For Sustenance;

والذين استجابوا لربهم واقاموا الصلاة وأمرهم شورى بينهم ومما رزقناهم ينفقون.

Then , following the example of God's prophet (PBUH) in consulting his companions and urging the nation to do appropriate tasks kin compliance with this law and the Basic law of Government , in adherence to the Book of God and the Prophet's Sunnah and in fostering the bonds of brotherhood as well as in cooperation in righteousness and piety.

Article 2.

The Majlis Ash-Shura shall be established on the Quranic in-

junction calling on Muslims to hold fast by the Rope of God, and on strict adherence to the sources of Islamic Legislation. The Members of the Majlis shall be keen to uphold the general good and to preserve the unity of the community as well as the entity of the State and the interests of the Nation.

Article 3:

The Majlis shall consist of a Chairman and sixty well - educated and qualified members to be selected by the king. The rights and duties of the members and all their affairs shall be determined by a Royal Decree.

Article 4:

A members of the Majlis shall be:

- (i) A Saudi National by descent and birth.
- (ii) Of proven integrity and efficiency.
- (iii) Not less than 30 years old.

Article 5:

The member of the Majlis may submit a request to the Chairman that he be relived from his post , and in turn , the Chairman shall forward the matter to the King.

Article 6:

If a member of the Majlis plays his duties false, an investigation shall be conducted, and he shall be prosecuted in accordance with rules and procedures issued by a Royal Order.

Article 7:

If, for any reason, the seat of a Majlis member becomes va-

cant, the king shall name a substitute by a Royal Order.

Article 8:

The member of the Majlis may not exploit his membership to serve his own interests.

Article 9:

Membership of the Majlis may not be combined with a government post or a senior administrative job with a company unless the King sees a need for this.

Article 10:

The Chairman, members and the Secretary -General of the Majlis shall be appointed and may be relieved from their posts by a Royal Order.

Their grades, rights and duties as well as other affairs shall be determined by a Royal Order.

Article 11:

The Chairman, members and the Secretary -General of the Majlis shall take the following oath before reporting to work with the Majlis.

"I swear by Almighty God that I will be loyal to my Religion, then to my King and country, shall not divulge any secrets of the State, will uphold its interests and laws; and will perform my duties in good faith, honesty, sincerity and fairness."

Article 12:

The city of Riyadh shall be the headquarters of the Majlis. However, the Majlis may meet in any other place inside the

Kingdom if approved by the King.

Article 13:

The Majlis term shall be four Hegira calendar years beginning as of the date set in the Royal Order by which the Majlis was established. The new Majlis shall be set up at least two months before the expiration of the term of its predecessor. If the term ends before a new Majlis is formed, the old Majlis shall continue to discharge its duties until a new Majlis has been set up. When a new Majlis is established, its new members shall account, at least, for one half of the total number of members.

Article 14:

The King, or whomever he may deputize, shall deliver a Royal speech before the Majlis on a yearly basis dealing with State domestic and foreign policies.

Article 15:

The Majlis may express its opinion on the general policies of the State referred to it by the prime Minister. It may in particular:

- (i) discuss and express its opinion of the general economic and social development plan.
- (ii) study laws, regulations, treaties, international agreements and concessions, and offer its comments thereon.
- (iii) Interpret Laws.
- (iv) discuss and make suggestions concerning the annual reports submitted by various ministries and other government bodies.

Article 16:

A meeting of the Majlis shall be valid only if attended by at least two thirds of its members, including the Majlis Chairman or whomever he may deputize. Resolutions shall not be legal unless approved by the majority of the Majlis members.

Article 17:

Resolutions passed by the Majlis shall be submitted to the Prime Minister, who shall refer them to the Council of Minister for consideration. If the Majlis and the Council are of the same opinion , Royal endorsement shall be issued; but if their opinions are at variance , the King may take whatever he may deem proper.

Article 18:

Laws, international agreements, treaties and concessions shall be issued and amended by Royal Decree, after being reviewed by the Majlis.

Article 19:

The Majlis shall form specialized committees, from among its members, to carry out its various functions. The Majlis shall also have the right to set up special committees, from among its members, to discuss any item on its agenda.

Article 20:

The Majlis affiliated committees may, with the Chairman's approval, seek the help of anyone they consider suitable from among non-members.

Article 21:

The Mjlis shall set up its paned comprising the chairman of the Majlis, his deputies, and heads of the Majlis specialized committees.

Article 22:

The Chairman of the Majlis shall submit to the Prime Minister a request to call any government official to attend the Majlis sessions, while the Majlis is discussing matters within the area of competence of this official who shall have the right to take part in the discussions but not the right to vote.

Article 23:

Every group of ten members of the Majlis may make a motion for the enactment of a new regulation or the amendment of one already in effect and present it to the Chairman who shall forward it to the King.

Article 24:

The chairman of the Majlis shall submit an application to the Prime Minister requesting access to governmental documents and statements deemed necessary by the Majlis for the pursuit of its activities.

Article 25:

The chairman of the Majlis shall submit an annual report to the King detailing the activities carried out by the Majlis in accordance with its internal buy-laws.

Article 26:

Civil Service regulations shall be applied to the personnel of the Majlis, unless its internal by-law stipulates otherwise.

Article 27:

The Majlis shall have a special budget endorsed by the King, and dispensed in accordance with rules issued by a Royal Order.

Article 28:

The Majlis financial affairs, financial control and final accounts shall be organized in accordance with special rules issued by a Royal Order.

Article 29:

The Majlis internal by-law shall organize the duties of the Chairman, the vice-Chairman, and the Secretary-General. It also organizes the Majlis bodies, the manners in which its sessions are run, the way the Majlis and its committees go about their work and its method of voting. Likewise it organizes the rules of debate, rejoinder, and other matters that could enhance order and discipline in the Majlis and enable it to perform its duties in a manner that is beneficial to the Kingdom and the well-being of its people. This by-law shall be issued by a Royal Order.

Article 30:

This law shall be amended in the same manner in which it has been issued.

The Internal by -law of the Majlis Ash - Shura.

No.A / 15 Dated 3/3/1414

By the help of Allah,

We, Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud

Having taken note

Of the law Majlis Ash -Shura issued by the Royal Decree No. A/ 91 dated 27/8/1412 H. Have ordered:

- 1- That Majlis Ash-Shura Internal by -law. Shall be issued in the form attached herewith.
- 2- Rights and duties of Majlis Ash-Shura members shall be issued in the form attached herewith.
- 3- Financial and staffing Affairs of Majlis Ash-Shura. Shall be issued in the form attached herewith.
- 4- The Rules governing The Investigation and Wial of the Majlis Ash-Shura member shall be issued in the form attached herewith.

Second: These two by-laws and rules shall be published in the official gazette and shall come into effect from the date of our order.

The Internal By-Law of the Majlis Ash-Shura

Chapter One

Terms of Reference of the Chairmen, the Vice -Chairman and the Secretary -General

Article 1:

The Chairman shall supervise the entire activities of the Majlis, represent it in its relations with other authorities, and act as its spokesman.

Article 2:

The chairman shall chair Majlis sessions and the meetings of the General assembly as well as the committee meetings he attends.

Article 3:

The Chairman declares the sessions open and declares them closed .He manages and participates in debates, given permission to speak, determines the topic of discussion, draws the speaker's attention to the need to bind himself to the subject and time limits, terminates the discussion and puts the subjects to the vote. He shall take what he deems appropriate to keep order during sessions.

Article 4:

The Chairman may call the Majlis, or the General assembly or any other committee to hold an emergency session to discuss any given matter.

Article 5:

The voice Chairman shall give assistance to the Chairman when he is available, and shall deputize for him in his absence.

Article 6:

The Vice -Chairman shall chair the Majlis sessions and the meetings of the General Assembly in the absence of the Chairman. If both are absent the chairmanship shall be taken up by whomever the King may choose. The one thus designated shall enjoy, in respect to session management the same power vested in the chairman.

Article 7:

The Secretary -General, or whoever he may deputize , shall attend the sessions of the Majlis and meetings of the General Assembly, supervise the details of minutes of meeting, notify members of the timetable of sessions and agendas, in addition to any other duties assigned to him by the Majlis, the General Assembly or the Chairman.

He shall answer to the Chairman for the financial and administrative affairs of the Majlis.

Chapter Two

General Assembly of the Majlis

Article 8:

The General Assembly of the Majlis shall consist of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the heads of specialized committees of the Majlis.

Article 9:

The meetings of the General Assembly shall not be considered valid unless attended by at least two thirds of its members. Resolutions shall be passed by approval of the majority present, and in case of a tie vote, the Chairman of the meeting shall have the casting vote.

Article 10:

For each meeting of the General Assembly minutes shall be drawn up listing the date and place of the meeting, names of present and absent members, a summary of debates and the texts of recommendations. The minutes shall be signed by the Chairman and the participating members.

Article 11:

The General Assembly shall have the following functions:

- (i) To draw up a general plan for the Majlis and its committees in order to help it discharge its duties and realize its objectives.
- (ii) To prepare agendas for Majlis meetings.

- (iii) To decide on objections to the contents of minutes of the meetings, or balloting results, or separation of votes, or any other objections which may be raise during the meetings. Its decision in this regard shall be final.
- (iv) To issue the necessary rules needed to organize the activities of the Majlis and its committees in a manner that shall not conflict with the Majlis Law and its by-laws.

Chapter Three

Sessions

Article 12:

The Majlis shall hold at least one ordinary session every two weeks. The date and time of the session shall be decided by the chairman who shall have the right to advance or set back the time of the session if necessary.

Article 13:

The agenda shall be distributed to the members prior to the session. Repots and other documents, deemed by the General Assembly to be related to the subjects on the agenda, shall be attached thereto.

Article 14:

A member of the Majlis shall study the agenda at the Majlis headquarters. Under no circumstances shall he take away with him outside the Majlis building any papers, lawas or documents related to his work.

Article 15:

A member who may wish to speak during the session shall put his request in writing. Requests to speak shall be listed in order of submission.

Article 16:

The Chairman shall give permission to speak to those who have requested to do so taking into account the sequence of their requests and their relevance to a fruitful debate.

Article 17:

A member may not speak for more than ten minutes on any one subject, except upon permission from the Chairman. A speaker may address himself to no one other than the Chairman. Only the Chairman may interrupt the speaker.

Article 18:

The Majlis may decide to, postpone the debate or reconsider a subject. The Chairman may suspend the session or a period not exceeding one hour.

Article 19:

Each session shall have its own minutes which make a note of the venue and date of the session, opening and closing times, name of Chairman, number of present and absent members, and the cause of absence, if any. They shall also include a summary of debates, the number of affirmative and negative votes, voting results, text of resolutions, session's adjournment or suspension and any other matters which the chairman may decide to put on record.

Article 20:

The Chairman and the Secretary-General or whoever they may deputize, shall sign the minutes after reading them out to the Majlis. All members shall have access to the minutes.

Chapter Four

Committees

Article 21:

The Majlis shall appoint, from among its members, at the start of its term, the specialized committees required for the implementation of its functions.

Article 22:

Each specialized committee shall consist of a number of members as specified by the Majlis provided that such number may not be less than five. The Majlis shall choose these members and nominate the head of the committee and his deputy with due regard to the member's line of specialization and the requirements of the committees. It may set up ad hoc committees from among its members. In turn each committee may set up one ad hoc sub-committee or more from among its members.

Article 23:

The Majlis shall have the right to re-form its specialized committees, or form new ones.

Article 24:

A committee head runs the activities of his own committee and represents it at the Majlis. His deputy takes over in his absence. If both the committee head and his deputy are absent the eldest member of the committee takes charge.

Article 25:

The committee shall meet at the invitation of its head, the Majlis or the Chairman of the Majlis.

Article 26:

Committee meetings shall not be held in public and shall not be considered valid except when a minimum of two thirds of the members are present.

Each committee shall prepare its own agendas upon a suggestion from its head. Its recommendations are issued with the approval of the majority of members present. In case of a tie vote, the committee head casts the deciding vote.

Article 27:

Committees shall consider matters referred to them by the Majlis or the Majlis Chairman. If a matter is of concern to more than one committee, the Chairman of the Majlis shall decide which of them is more entitled to deal with the said matter, or shall refer it to a committee consisting of members from among all committees concerned. The said committee shall hold meetings under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the Majlis or the Vice-Chairman.

Article 28:

Each member of the Majlis may proffer his opinion on any subject referred to any committee, even if he is not a member thereof, provided that the said opinion is submitted in writing to the Chairman of the Majlis.

Article 29:

Minutes shall be drawn up for each committee meeting, and shall indicate the date and venue of the meeting, the names of those members present and absent, a summary of debates and the text of recommendations. The minutes shall be signed by the chairman of the meeting and members present.

Article 30:

Upon consideration of a given matter by the committee, a report shall be filed detailing the essentials of the referred subject, the committee's point of view and its recommendations relative to it , the fundamentals on which such recommendations are based and the opinion of the minority, if any.

Chapter Five

Voting and Passing of Resolutions

Article 31:

The Resolutions of the Majlis shall be passed by the majority stipulated in article 16 of the Law of the Majlis Ash-Shura. If such majority is not realized, the subject shall be rescheduled for voting at the next meeting.

If the majority is not obtained at this second meeting, the subject shall be brought before the King along with the study tat has already been made thereon and the voting results at the two meetings.

Article 32:

No debates or new points of view shall be accepted during voting. In all cases the Chairman of the Majlis shall vote after the completion of voting by members.

Chapter Six

General Provisions

Article 33:

The Chairman of the Majlis shall present the annual report, provided for in article 25 of the law of the Majlis Ash-Shura, within three months, after the end of the year.

The report shall contain what has been achieved in this year in terms of studies made and work done, of resolutions passed and o stages which the study of topics referred to the Majlis has gone through.

Article 34:

Financial and functional affairs of the Majlis shall be determined in accordance with the financial and functional by-laws.

The Chairman of the Majlis shall issue rules required tot organize financial and administrative affairs of the Majlis including the organizational structure and duties of the various departments of the Majlis, in a manner consistent with the law o the Majlis and its by-laws.

Right and Duties of the Majlis Members

Article 1:

Membership in the Majlis shall be established from the date of commencement of term as stated in article 13 of the Law of the Majlis. The substitute member's term shall commence from the date stated in the Royal Order of the member's nomination and shall end with the completion of the Majlis term. If the Majlis term ends prior to the formation of the new Majlis, the membership shall continue until the formation of the new Majlis all except in the case of termination of membership

Article 2:

The member of the Majlis shall receive during his term of membership; a monthly allowance of twenty thousand Saudi riyals, As for bonuses, compensations, benefits and vacations, the members shall be treated in accordance with the rules governing government officials of Grade 15. However, this shall not affect any pension salary to which the member may be entitled.

Article 3:

A full -time member, who has an official post with the government before his appointment to the Majlis, shall retain the same grade of that post. His Majlis membership term shall be added to his formed period of service for the purpose of determining such matters as the regular bonus, promotion and retirement benefits to which he is entitled. A member shall pay,

during is membership term, the pension deductions imposed on the salary of his original employment.

Members shall not be allowed to combine both the allowance and benefits assigned to members of the Majlis with the salary and benefits of his original post.

If the salary he was holding entitled him to greater benefits assigned to members of the Majlis with the salary and benefits of his original post.

If the salary of his original post is greater than the membership allowance, the difference shall be pad by the Majlis.

If he post he was holding entitled him to greater benefits than the benefits assigned to membership, he shall continue to receive the former.

Article 4:

As an exception to article 2 hereof, the member of the Majlis shall be entitled to an annual regular vacation of 45 days. The Chairman shall determine its timing. On granting permission for vacations and leaves of absence to start, due consideration shall be given to the need not to allow that to affect the quorum necessary to the Majlis meetings.

Article 5:

The Majlis member shall be completely impartial and objective in all activities he may exercise inside the Majlis. He shall not raise any matter before the Majlis that may serve a private interest or that may conflict with public interest.

Article 6:

The Majlis member shall regularly attend the meetings of the Majlis and its committees. The member who is obliged to absent himself from any meeting shall notify in writing the Chairman of the Majlis or the head of the committee.

The member shall not be allowed to leave Majlis or committee meetings prior to their adjournment except upon permission by the Chairman of the Majlis or the head of the committee, as the case may be.

Financial and Staffing Affairs of the Majlis Ash-Shura

Article 1:

The fiscal year of the Majlis shall be the same fiscal year of the State.

Article 2:

The Chairman of the Majlis shall prepare the draft of the annual budget of the Majlis and shall present it to the king for approval.

Article 3:

Following approval, the budget shall be deposited with the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA). Expenditure of funds shall require the signature of the Chairman of the Majlis or the Vice-Chairman.

Article 4:

If the amounts allocated in the budget are outstripped by the expenditures of the Majlis, or if an emergency outlay arises which could not have been foreseen while the budget was being prepared, the Chairman shall submit a statement of the needed amounts to the king for possible endorsement.

Article 5:

Titles and grades of the Majlis posts shall be included in its budget. Titles of posts may be amended and their grades scaled down the fiscal year at the discretion of the Chairman.

Article 6:

The posts of Grades 14 and 15 shall be filled with the approval of the King. Other posts of the Majlis shall be filled in accordance with the Civil Service Law and by-laws and shall be accepted from the provisions of the competitive examination.

Article 7:

The General Assembly of the Majlis shall establish rules governing allowances of government officials and other individuals, other than the Majlis members, whose work with the Majlis may be needed.

The rules shall be determined according to the discretion of the Chairman.

Article 8:

The Majlis shall not be subject to control by any other authority. The Majlis administration shall include a department for pre-disbursement financial control. The General Assembly of the Majlis shall undertake post disbursement control. The Majlis Chairman shall have the right to request a financial or administrative expert to prepare a report on any financial or administrative matter related to the Majlis.

Article 9:

At the end of the fiscal year, the general secretariat of the Majlis shall prepare the final accounts which the Majlis Chairman shall forward to the King for possible approval.

Article 10:

Without prejudice to the provisions of this by -law, the Majlis financial affairs and accounts shall be organized in accordance with the same rules observed in organizing the accounts of ministries and government services.

Rules Governing the Investigation and Trial of the Majlis Member

Article 1:

If a member of the Majlis betrays any of his duties, he shall be subject to one of the following penalties.

- (i) A censure in writing.
- (ii) The deduction of one month's salary.
- (iii) The forfeiture of membership.

Article 2:

Investigation of a member of the Majlis shall be conducted by a committee consisting of three members of the Majlis nominated by the Chairman.

Article 3:

The committee shall inform the member of the violation ascribed to him. It shall hear his testimony and record his justification (defence) in the investigation minutes. The committee shall submit a report on the outcome of investigation to the General Assembly.

Article 4:

The General Assembly of the Majlis shall form a committee consisting of its members, provided that none of them shall be the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman of the Majlis to prosecute the member to whom the violation is ascribed. The committee shall have the right to impose the penalty of censure or salary deduction.

If the committee decides to strip him of membership, the matter shall be submitted to the Chairman to forward it to the King.

Article 5:

Imposition of any of the foregoing penalties shall not impede the filing of a public or private suit against the member.

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

No. A/13

Dated : 3.3.1414H.

By the Help of Allah,

We, Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

having taken note

Of the Basic Law of Government issued by Royal Order No , A/ 90 dated 27 -8-1412 H., and

of the Law of the Council of Ministers issued by Royal Order of the law of the Majlis Ash - Shura issued by Royal Order No.

A/91 dated 27-8-1412 H, and

Of Royal Decree No. M/23 dated 26-8-1412 H. ,

Have ordered :

- (1) That the Council of Ministers Law shall be issued in the form attached herewith .
- (2) That this Law shall replace the Council of Minister's Law issued by Royal Decree No.38,dated 22-10-1377 H., and its amendments .
- (3) That all laws , ordinances and resolutions in force at the time this Law comes into effect shall remain valid until amended in agreement therewith .

(4) That this law shall be published in the official gazette and shall come into effect ninety days after the commencement of the term of Majlis Ash- Shura as stated in the Royal Order by which the Majlis was set up .

The Law of the Council of Ministers

General Provisions

Article 1:

The council of Minister is an official body headed by the King.

Article 2:

The head office of the Council of Ministers shall be in the city of Riyadh. The Council may hold its sessions in any other place inside the Kingdom.

Article 3:

The member of the Council of Ministers is required to satisfy the following:

- (i) To be a Saudi National by birth and descent.
- (ii) To be a recognized as being of proven integrity and efficiency.
- (iii) Not to have been convicted of a crime offending against religion or honor.

Article 4:

Members of the Council of Ministers may take up their posts only after swearing the following oath:

"I swear by Almighty God that I shall be loyal to my Religion , State, shall uphold its interests and abide by its laws, and shall perform my duties in good faith, honor and sincerity".

Article 5:

No member of the Council of Ministers may hold another governmental post unless it is deemed necessary by the Prime Minister.

Article 6:

While in office a member of the Council of Ministers, may not purchase or rent, either directly or through a third party, or by public auction, any State-owned property. Likewise he may not sell or lease any of his properties to the government and may not engage in any commercial or financial undertaking or accept membership in the board of directors of any company.

Article 7 :

The meetings of the Council of Ministers shall be held under the chairmanship of the King (the Prime Minister) or any of his deputies , and their resolutions shall become final upon approval by the King.

Article 8:

Cabinet Ministers shall be appointed to their posts, dismissed there from and their resignations accepted by a Royal Order. Their responsibilities shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of articles 57 and 58 of the Basic Law a Government.

Article 9:

The term of the Council of Ministers shall not exceed four years, during which time it shall be re-formed by a Royal Order. In case of expiry of term prior to re-formation, the Council shall

go on doing its duties until it is re-formed.

Article 10:

A Cabinet minister shall be considered the direct head and final authority on the affairs of his ministry. He shall carry out his duties in accordance with this law and other by-laws and regulations.

Article 11:

- (i) Only another minister may act as a proxy for a minister upon the order of the Prime Minister.
- (ii) The acting minister shall exercise the powers of the minister in his absence.

Formation of the Council of Ministers

Article 12:

The Council of Minister consists of:

- (a) The Prime Minister.
- (b) Deputies of the Prime Minister.
- (iii) Active Ministers.
- (iv) State Ministers appointed as members of the Council of Ministers by a Royal Order.
- (v) King's advisors appointed as members of the Council of Ministers by a Royal Order.

Article 13:

Attending the meetings of the Council of Ministers is the ex-

clusive right of its members and the Secretary -General of the Council of Ministers.

Upon the request of the Prime Minister, or a member of the Council , following approval by the Prime Minister , a government official or an expert may attend the meetings of the Council to present whatever information and clarifications he may have, provided that the right of voting shall be confined to the Council's members only.

Article 14:

A meeting of the Council of Ministers shall not be considered valid unless attended by two thirds of the Council's members, and no resolution shall be considered legal unless approved by the majority of members present.

In case of a tie in voting, the casting vote shall be that of the Prime Minister. In exceptional cases, the meetings of the Council shall be considered valid if attended by half of its members. Its resolutions shall not be considered legal in such case unless approved by two thirds of members present. Exceptional cases are determined by the Prime Minister at his discretion.

Article 15:

The Council of Ministers shall not decide any matter related to a certain ministry unless the meeting is attended by the concerned Minister or whoever may deputize for him, unless necessity rules otherwise.

Article 16:

The deliberations of the Council shall be confidential. But its resolutions are meant in principle to be made public except what parts thereof that may be ruled confidential by a Council resolution.

Article 17:

Members of the Council of Ministers shall be prosecuted for violations they may commit in the course of their official duties. Their prosecution shall proceed according to special regulations stating the violations and indictment and prosecution procedures as well as the formation of the judicial and tribunal court.

Article 18:

The Council of Ministers may from committees from among Council members or other persons to discuss a particular matter on its agenda in order to submit a special report thereon.

The internal by -laws of the Council shall specify the number of such committees and their course of activities.

Jurisdiction of the Council of Ministers

Article 19:

Subject to the provisions of the Basic Law of Government and the Majlis-Ash -Shura Law, the Council of Ministers shall formulate and supervise the implementation of internal, foreign , financial , economic , educational and defense policies as well

as all policies pertaining to the general affairs of the state.

The Council of Minister shall also look into the resolutions passed by the Majlis Ash-Shura. The Council shall hold the executive power and have the final say in the financial and administrative matters of all ministries and other government bodies.

Organizational Affairs

Article 20:

With due regard to the provisions of the Majlis-Ash-Shura Laws, treaties, International agreements, concessions and other laws shall be issued and amended by Royal Decrees after being discussed by the Council of Ministers.

Article 21:

The Council of Ministers shall study the draft laws and by-laws referred to it , shall vote thereon article by article and shall subsequently put them to the vote as a whole in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Council's internal by -laws.

Article 22:

Every minister shall have the right to propose a draft law or by -law related to the activities of his ministry. Likewise, and with the approval of the Prime Minister, every minister.

Shall have the right to propose anything that he deems should be discussed by the Council.

Article 23:

All Royal Decrees shall be published in the official gazette

and shall come into effect as from the date of publication unless another date is specified.

Executive Affairs

Article 24:

In its capacity as the direct executive authority, the Council shall have full control over executive action and administration, with the following being part to its area of competence:

- (1) To monitor the implementation of laws, regulations and resolutions.
- (2) To create and organize public utilities.
- (3) To follow up the execution of the general plan of development.
- (4) To form Committees with the purpose of gathering information, about the performance of various ministries and other government bodies or about any giving matter. The said committees shall submit their finding to the Council at the appointed time for its consideration. The Council may set up commissions to make inquiries in the light of these findings and arrive at a decision with the laws and by -laws taken into account.

Financial Affairs

Article 25:

The government shall not conclude a loan agreement unless approved by the Council of Ministers and after a Royal Decree thereon has been issued.

Article 26:

The Council Ministers shall study the State budget, issued by a Royal Decree, and shall proceed to vote on it chapter by chapter.

Article 27:

Any increase introduced to the State budget shall not be made except by a Royal Decree.

Article 28:

The Minister of Finance and National Economy shall present the final state accounts for the expired fiscal year to the Prime Minister who shall refer it to the Council of Ministers for approval.

Premiership

Article 29:

The King is the Prime Minister. He directs and guides the general policy of the State and ensures coordination and cooperation among various government bodies.

The King also guarantees homogeneity, continuity and co-

ordination of the activities of the Council of Ministers. He supervises the Council of Ministers and other government bodies and monitors the implementation of law, by -laws and resolutions.

Prime Minister, within ninety days from the start of each fiscal year, a report on their achievements during the expired fiscal year in comparison with the targets of the general development plan, and any difficulties they may have encountered as well as any suggestions they consider conducive to improved performance.

Administrative Setup of the Council of Ministers

Article 30:

The administrative setup of the Council of Ministers shall include the following:

Council of Minister's Court (Diwan)

Council of Minister's Secretariat General.

Court of Experts.

The internal by -laws of the Council of Ministers shall specify the makeup and functions of these bodies as well as their terms of reference and the way they function.

Article 31:

The Internal by -law of the Council of Ministers shall be issued by a Royal Order.

Article 32:

This law may not be amended except in the same manner in which it was issued.

under the chairmanship of the King (the Prime Minister) or any of his deputies , and their resolutions shall become final upon approval by the King.

Article 8:

Cabinet Ministers shall be appointed to their posts, dismissed there from and their resignations accepted by a Royal Order. Their responsibilities shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of articles 57 and 58 of the Basic Law a Government.

Article 9:

The term of the Council of Ministers shall not exceed four years, during which time it shall be re-formed by a Royal Order. In case of expiry of term prior to re-formation, the Council shall go on doing its duties until it is re-formed.

Article 10:

A Cabinet minister shall be considered the direct head and final authority on the affairs of his ministry. He shall carry out his duties in accordance with this law and other by-laws and regulations.

Article 11:

- (vi) Only another minister may act as a proxy for a minister upon the order of the Prime Minister.
- (vii) The acting minister shall exercise the powers of the minister in his absence.

Formation of the Council of Ministers

Article 12:

The Council of Minister consists of:

- (a) The Prime Minister.
- (b) Deputies of the Prime Minister.
- (viii) Active Ministers.
- (ix) State Ministers appointed as members of the Council of Ministers by a Royal Order.
- (x) King's advisors appointed as members of the Council of Ministers by a Royal Order.

Article 13:

Attending the meetings of the Council of Ministers is the exclusive right of its members and the Secretary -General of the Council of Ministers.

Upon the request of the Prime Minister, or a member of the Council , following approval by the Prime Minister , a government official or an expert may attend the meetings of the Council to present whatever information and clarifications he may have, provided that the right of voting shall be confined to the Council's members only.

Article 14:

A meeting of the Council of Ministers shall not be considered valid unless attended by two thirds of the Council's members, and no resolution shall be considered legal unless approved by

the majority of members present.

In case of a tie in voting, the casting vote shall be that of the Prime Minister. In exceptional cases, the meetings of the Council shall be considered valid if attended by half of its members. Its resolutions shall not be considered legal in such case unless approved by two thirds of members present. Exceptional cases are determined by the Prime Minister at his discretion.

Article 15:

The Council of Ministers shall not decide any matter related to a certain ministry unless the meeting is attended by the concerned Minister or whoever may deputize for him, unless necessity rules otherwise.

Article 16:

The deliberations of the Council shall be confidential. But its resolutions are meant in principle to be made public except what parts thereof that may be ruled confidential by a Council resolution.

Article 17:

Members of the Council of Ministers shall be prosecuted for violations they may commit in the course of their official duties. Their prosecution shall proceed according to special regulations stating the violations and indictment and prosecution procedures as well as the formation of the judicial and tribunal court.

Article 18:

The Council of Ministers may from committees from among Council members or other persons to discuss a particular matter

on its agenda in order to submit a special report thereon.

The internal by -laws of the Council shall specify the number of such committees and their course of activities.

Jurisdiction of the Council of Ministers

Article 19:

Subject to the provisions of the Basic Law of Government and the Majlis-Ash -Shura Law, the Council of Ministers shall formulate and supervise the implementation of internal, foreign , financial , economic , educational and defense policies as well as all policies pertaining to the general affairs of the state.

The Council of Minister shall also look into the resolutions passed by the Majlis Ash-Shura. The Council shall hold the executive power and have the final say in the financial and administrative matters of all ministries and other government bodies.

Organizational Affairs

Article 20:

With due regard to the provisions of the Majlis-Ash-Shura Laws, treaties, International agreements, concessions and other laws shall be issued and amended by Royal Decrees after being discussed by the Council of Ministers.

Article 21:

The Council of Ministers shall study the draft laws and by-laws referred to it , shall vote thereon article by article and shall subsequently put them to the vote as a whole in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Council's internal by -laws.

Article 22:

Every minister shall have the right to propose a draft law or by -law related to the activities of his ministry. Likewise, and with the approval of the Prime Minister, every minister.

Shall have the right to propose anything that he deems should be discussed by the Council.

Article 23:

All Royal Decrees shall be published in the official gazette and shall come into effect as from the date of publication unless another date is specified.

Executive Affairs

Article 24:

In its capacity as the direct executive authority, the Council shall have full control over executive action and administration, with the following being part to its area of competence:

- (5) To monitor the implementation of laws, regulations and resolutions.
- (6) To create and organize public utilities.
- (7) To follow up the execution of the general plan of development.
- (8) To form Committees with the purpose of gathering information, about the performance of various ministries and other government bodies or about any giving matter. The said committees shall submit their finding to the Council at the appointed time for its consideration. The Council may set up commissions to make inquiries in the light of these findings and arrive at a decision with the laws and by -laws taken into account.

Financial Affairs

Article 25:

The government shall not conclude a loan agreement unless approved by the Council of Ministers and after a Royal Decree thereon has been issued.

Article 26:

The Council Ministers shall study the State budget, issued by a Royal Decree, and shall proceed to vote on it chapter by chapter.

Article 27:

Any increase introduced to the State budget shall not be made except by a Royal Decree.

Article 28:

The Minister of Finance and National Economy shall present the final state accounts for the expired fiscal year to the Prime Minister who shall refer it to the Council of Ministers for approval.

Premiership

Article 29:

The King is the Prime Minister. He directs and guides the general policy of the State and ensures coordination and cooperation among various government bodies.

The King also guarantees homogeneity, continuity and co-

ordination of the activities of the Council of Ministers. He supervises the Council of Ministers and other government bodies and monitors the implementation of law, by -laws and resolutions.

Prime Minister, within ninety days from the start of each fiscal year, a report on their achievements during the expired fiscal year in comparison with the targets of the general development plan, and any difficulties they may have encountered as well as any suggestions they consider conducive to improved performance.

Administrative Setup of the Council of Ministers

Article 30:

The administrative setup of the Council of Ministers shall include the following:

Council of Minister's Court (Diwan)

Council of Minister's Secretariat General.

Court of Experts.

The internal by -laws of the Council of Ministers shall specify the makeup and functions of these bodies as well as their terms of reference and the way they function.

Article 31:

The Internal by -law of the Council of Ministers shall be is-

sued by a Royal Order.

Article 32:

This law may not be amended except in the same manner in which it was issued.

In the of Allah , Most Gracious , Most Merciful

No . A/14

Dated : 3.3.1414 H.

By the Help of Allah ,

We, Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz AlSaud , King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia ,

having taken note

of the Basic Law of Government issued by Royal Order No. A/90 dated 27-8-1412 H. , and

of the Law of the Council of Ministers issued by Royal Order No. A/91 dated 27-8-1412 H, and

of Royal Decree No. M/23 dated 26-8-1412 H.,

Have ordered

- (1) That the Council of ministers law shall be issued in the form attached herewith.
- (2) That this Law shall replace the Council of Ministess Law issued by Royal Decree no. 38,dated 22-10-1377 H., and its amendments.
- (3) That all laws, ordinances and resolutions in force at the time this Law comes into effect shall remain valid until amended in agreement therewith.
- (4) That this law shall be published in the official gazette and shall come into effect ninety days after the commencement of the term of Majlis Ash- Shura as stated in the Royal Order by Which the Majlis was set up.

