

Executive Council Resolution No. (31) of 2021
Regulating Prayer Rooms in the Emirate of Dubai¹

**We, Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai,
Chairman of the Executive Council,**

After perusal of:

Federal Law No. (4) of 2018 Concerning the Regulation and Upkeep of Mosques;

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

Law No. (2) of 2011 Concerning the Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities
Department;

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

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

Decree No. (9) of 2015 Regulating the Raising of Donations in the Emirate of Dubai;

Executive Council Resolution No. (25) of 2013 Concerning Mosques and Religious
Activities in the Emirate of Dubai;

Local Order No. (2) of 1999 Concerning Classification and Regulation of Land Use in
the Emirate of Dubai and its amendments; and

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

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*¹Every effort has been made to produce an accurate and complete English version of this legislation.
However, for the purpose of its interpretation and application, reference must be made to the original
Arabic text. In case of conflict, the Arabic text will prevail.*

Do hereby issue this Resolution.

Definitions

Article (1)

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

Emirate:	The Emirate of Dubai.
IACAD:	The Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities Department.
Director General:	The director general of the IACAD.
Prayer Room:	A Public Prayer Room or a Private Prayer Room.
Public Prayer Room:	A place that belongs to a Government or non-Government entity, is designated for performing prayers, and is open to the public.
Private Prayer Room:	A place that belongs to a Government or non-Government entity, is designated for performing prayers, and is not open to the public.
Person:	A natural or legal person.
Curator:	A Person who is responsible for the management, operation, and upkeep of a Prayer Room.

Scope of Application

Article (2)

This Resolution applies to all Prayer Rooms existing, or to be established, in the Emirate, including those existing, or to be established, in Special Development Zones and free zones, such as the Dubai International Financial Centre.

Objectives of this Resolution

Article (3)

This Resolution aims to:

1. regulate Prayer Rooms in the Emirate with a view to ensuring that they serve the purposes for which they are established;
2. ensure proper performance of religious rituals at Prayer Rooms; and
3. ensure compliance with the legislation regulating the Religious Activities licensed by the IACAD and conducted in Prayer Rooms.

Functions of the IACAD

Article (4)

In addition to its functions under the above-mentioned Federal Law No. (4) of 2018 and Executive Council Resolution No. (25) of 2013, the IACAD will be responsible for supervising and monitoring Prayer Rooms in the Emirate. For this purpose, the IACAD will have the duties and powers to:

1. license Public Prayer Rooms in accordance with the rules, conditions, and procedures approved pursuant to the relevant resolution issued by the Director General;
2. approve the location, area, and classification of Prayer Rooms, and determine their occupancy capacity, in coordination with the Competent Entities in the Emirate;

3. issue permits to the staff of Prayer Rooms in accordance with the requirements approved pursuant to the relevant resolution issued by the Director General;
4. supervise the cleaning, the maintenance, and the provision of equipment and other needs, of Public Prayer Rooms;
5. determine the times for *adhan* (call for prayer) and *iqama* (call to commence prayer) at Public Prayer Rooms; and the method of installing, and rules and conditions for using, internal and external loudspeakers;
6. control and supervise Public Prayer Rooms and their staff, and evaluate their performance;
7. issue regulations and instructions on organising lessons, lectures, and Religious Activities at Prayer Rooms;
8. prepare the unified topics for sermons to be delivered at Public Prayer Rooms on Fridays, Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha, and other religious occasions; and approve the names of persons nominated for delivering them; and
9. exercise any other duties or powers required for the achievement of the objectives of this Resolution.

Establishment of Prayer Rooms

Article (5)

- a. No Person may build, or designate a place as, a Public Prayer Room; or perform any alterations or additions to, or maintenance of, a Public Prayer Room without first obtaining the relevant authorisation from the IACAD. The authorisation will be issued in coordination with the competent entities in the Emirate and in accordance with the requirements and rules adopted pursuant to the relevant resolution issued by the Director General.

- b. Private Prayer Rooms may be established in the Emirate subject to obtaining the relevant prior approval of the IACAD.

Restricted Activities

Article (6)

- a. The following activities are prohibited within Prayer Rooms unless the relevant prior authorisation of the IACAD is obtained:
 - 1. raising, or allowing the raising of, Donations; or announcing the same;
 - 2. holding Friday, Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha, lunar eclipse, or solar eclipse prayers;
 - 3. conducting any Religious Activity, or any charitable or cultural activity; or holding Quran memorisation classes;
 - 4. establishing traditional, audio, or video libraries;
 - 5. distributing books, pamphlets, compact discs, audio and visual recordings, and the like; or using stick-on notices and posters;
 - 6. commemorating religious or social occasions, or organising gatherings;
 - 7. holding *iftar* (break-of-fasting meal) or other banquets; and
 - 8. any other activity determined by the IACAD pursuant to the relevant resolutions issued by the Director General.
- b. The rules and procedures for issuing an authorisation to conduct any of the activities referred to in paragraph (a) of this Article will be determined in accordance with the legislation in force in the Emirate and the relevant resolutions issued by the Director General.

Prohibited Acts

Article (7)

The following acts are prohibited within Prayer Rooms:

1. begging;
2. interfering with the *adhan* (call for prayer), *iqama* (call to commence prayer), or prayer; or with the authorised activities and events;
3. causing damage to the Prayer Room, or any of its assets, artefacts, or appurtenances;
4. using the Prayer Room for purposes other than those prescribed by Sharia;
5. using loudspeakers in violation of the rules prescribed by the IACAD in this respect;
6. conducting any activity which may undermine the security or sanctity of the Prayer Room; and
7. any other acts determined pursuant to the relevant resolutions issued by the Director General.

Obligations of Curators

Article (8)

A Curator must:

1. provide all the needs of the Prayer Room and pay the costs of administration, supervision, maintenance, cleaning, and security of the same, in accordance with the relevant conditions and specifications prescribed by the IACAD;
2. place a sign, at the front side of the Prayer Room, indicating that it is a Public Prayer Room or a Private Prayer Room based on the relevant classification adopted by the IACAD;

3. not close, remove, replace, or change the use of, the Prayer Room without the prior written approval of the IACAD;
4. appoint a coordinator to liaise with the IACAD, and provide the IACAD with his details and contact information;
5. not appoint or engage any Person to work at the Public Prayer Room, on a paid or unpaid full-time or part-time basis, without first obtaining the relevant approval of the IACAD. To be appointed or engaged to work at a Public Prayer Room, a candidate must:
 - a. be of good character and repute;
 - b. not belong to any illegal group or to any group which engages in any prohibited political or organised activity;
 - c. successfully pass the personal interview and the tests prescribed by the IACAD; and
 - d. be medically fit.
6. pay all the entitlements, salaries, and financial benefits of the staff of the Public Prayer Room;
7. notify the IACAD upon appointing, or terminating the service of, any of the staff of the Public Prayer Room;
8. provide health insurance to the staff of the Public Prayer Room and their eligible family members in accordance with the health insurance legislation in force in the Emirate;
9. pay the fees for issuing work visas for the staff of the Public Prayer Room;
10. conclude employment contracts with the staff of the Public Prayer Room in accordance with the legislation in force, and provide the IACAD with copies of these contracts;

11. terminate the employment contract of any of the staff of the Public Prayer Room where so requested by the IACAD;
12. ensure that prayers are uninterruptedly performed at their prescribed times at the Public Prayer Room;
13. not use Prayer Rooms for a purpose other than that for which they are designated; and
14. meet any other obligations determined pursuant to the relevant resolutions issued by the Director General.

Administrative Measures

Article (9)

Without prejudice to any stricter penalty stipulated in any other resolution, a Person who violates the provisions of this Resolution or the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof will be punished by either of the following measures:

1. written warning; or
2. closure of the Prayer Room.

Law Enforcement

Article (10)

The IACAD employees nominated pursuant to a resolution of the Director General will have the capacity of law enforcement officers to record the acts committed in breach of the provisions of this Resolution and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof. For this purpose, they may access Prayer Rooms; inspect their various facilities; issue the necessary violation reports; and, where necessary, seek the assistance of police personnel.

Grievances

Article (11)

Any affected party may submit to the Director General a written grievance against any decision, procedure, or measure taken against him in accordance with this Resolution, within thirty (30) days from the date of taking the contested decision, procedure, or measure. The grievance will be determined, within thirty (30) days of its submission, by a committee formed by the Director General for this purpose; and the decision issued by the committee on the grievance will be final.

Compliance

Article (12)

All Curators of the Prayer Rooms existing in the Emirate by the effective date of this Resolution must comply with its provisions within six (6) months from that effective date. The Director General may, where required, extend this period once for the same period.

Powers of Competent Entities

Article (13)

The provisions of this Resolution apply without prejudice to the powers vested in the competent entities in the Emirate, including the authorities supervising Special Development Zones and free zones, such as the Dubai International Financial Centre, in relation to supervising, monitoring, and licensing construction works in accordance with the applicable legislation relevant to these entities.

Issuing Implementing Resolutions

Article (14)

The Director General will issue the resolutions required for the implementation of this Resolution. These resolutions will be published in the Official Gazette of the Government of Dubai.

Repeals

Article (15)

Any provision in any other resolution will be repealed to the extent that it contradicts this Resolution.

Publication and Commencement

Article (16)

This Resolution will be published in the Official Gazette and will come into force on the day on which it is published.

Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Crown Prince of Dubai

Chairman of the Executive Council

Issued in Dubai on 14 September 2021

Corresponding to 7 Safar 1443 A.H.