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**Legislative Decree No. (1) of 1996 regarding Electricity and Water**

We, Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Emir of the State of Bahrain.

Having reviewed the Constitution;

Emiri Order No. (4) of 1975;

Legislative Decree No. (12) of 1980 regarding the Regulation of Groundwater Use;

Law No. (3) of 1975 regarding Public Health, and the laws that amend it;

Legislative Decree No. (15) of 1976 promulgating the Penal Code, and the laws that amend it;

And Decree No. (39) of 1995 on the Reorganisation of the Ministry of Electricity and Water;

And upon the submission of the Minister of Electricity and Water,

And after consulting the Shura Council,

And after the approval of the Council of Ministers,

**Hereby Decree the following Law:**

**Article - 1 -**

In applying the provisions of this Decision, the following terms shall have the meanings assigned to them below:

**Ministry:**

Ministry of Electricity and Water

**Minister:**

Minister of Electricity and Water.

**Consumer:**

Every natural or legal person to whom the Ministry provides electricity or water services or both.

**Contractor:**

Every natural or legal person authorised by the Ministry to work in the field of electricity and water, or in both.

**Article - 2 -**

The Ministry is responsible for producing, developing, transporting, distributing, and selling electrical energy for all purposes. It is also concerned with extracting, producing, distilling, desalinating, storing, delivering, distributing, and selling water for drinking and domestic, commercial, and industrial uses.

With the exception of cases of personal use for which a regulation is issued by the Minister, no natural or legal person or any entity other than the Ministry may produce or distribute electricity and water except with a written authorization issued by the Minister, in the cases and on the conditions for which a decision is issued by the Council of Ministers.

**Article - 3 -**

The Ministry shall have all the necessary powers and authorities to provide electricity and water, and for this purpose it may implement all necessary works and projects, and determine the priorities for their implementation within the framework of the general plan of the state, and it may in particular:

1. Establish, manage, and maintain electricity facilities related to the production, transport, development, distribution, and sale of electrical energy for all uses.

2. Conduct studies, research, experiments, and designs related to the production, distribution, consumption, and rationalisation of electrical energy.

3. Establish, manage, and maintain water facilities and everything necessary to provide, desalinate, store, distribute, and sell drinking water.

4. Conduct studies, research, experiments, and designs related to the extraction, desalination, storage, utilisation, delivery, consumption, and rationalisation of water.

5. Carry out excavation work in the streets, public roads, and private lanes necessary for the establishment and maintenance of electricity and water installations and their tasks, in cooperation and coordination with the competent authorities.

6. Take all necessary precautions to protect the environment from pollution in cooperation and coordination with the competent authorities, as well as working to make good use of natural resources when the Ministry carries out electricity works.

7. Prepare and conclude electricity and water connection contracts, and prepare connection request forms.

8. Determine electricity and water connection fees and set tariff schedules for electricity and water unit consumption in various regions after the approval of the Council of Ministers.

9. Determine the prices of other electricity and water services for which a decision is issued by the Minister.

10. Establish regulations and statutes related to work methods in the fields of electricity and water, as well as establish internal wiring systems in stores, and determine the specifications of the devices that can be used in cooperation with the competent authorities.

11. Develop rules and regulations for the registration and licencing of engineers, contractors, and technicians working in the fields of electricity and water, as well as wiring workers and pipe fitters.

**Article - 4 -**

Authorised employees of Electricity and Water Affairs at the Ministry have the right to enter any place connected to electricity and water to verify the implementation of the provisions of this Law and the decisions implementing it, and they may, in particular:

1. Examine the electricity or water installations and the internal wiring of any of them to ensure their safety.

2. Read electricity and water meters.

3. Carry out urgent work necessary to prevent any threat to the safety of individuals or the store.

**Article - 5 -**

The amount of consumption of electricity and water units shall be measured by the meters provided by the Ministry or by other means and methods it deems appropriate for that.

The consumption fees for electricity, water, and other services are collected according to an invoice prepared based on the reading recorded by the meters provided by the Ministry, the methods it adopts, or the estimates it deems appropriate in the event of a defect in the meter. The consumption fees must be paid within the period or periods specified by the Ministry for that.

**Article - 6 -**

The Ministry has the right to cut off electricity or water services, or both, after giving the consumer a sufficient deadline and after warning him by registered letter, in the following cases:

1. If the consumer fails to pay the fees that must be paid according to the bill for the consumption of electricity, water, and other services.

2. Non-conformity of equipment, devices, and internal extensions to safety requirements.

3. Establishing or constructing internal extensions without a licence from the Ministry.

**Article - 7 -**

Anyone who embezzles or fraudulently consumes any quantity of electricity or water supplied or owned by the Ministry shall be guilty of theft and shall be punished with the penalty prescribed for it in the Penal Code.

**Article - 8 -**

Without prejudice to any more severe punishment provided for by the Penal Code or any other law, anyone who violates the provisions of Paragraph Two of Article Two shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than two months and a fine not exceeding five hundred dinars, or either of these two penalties.

Furthermore, the court may order the removal of the causes or subject matter of the violation and the closure of the store, as the case may be, within a period specified in the ruling.

If the convicted person fails to implement the judgement within the period specified therein, the Ministry may remove the causes or subject matter of the violation at the expense of the violator and under his responsibility, and the Ministry may recover these expenses from the violator.

In the event of a repeat violation, the penalty will be imprisonment for a maximum of five months and a fine not exceeding one thousand dinars, or one of these two penalties.

Anyone who wilfully refuses to allow any authorised employee of the Ministry to enter any place connected to electricity and water shall be punished with a fine not exceeding one hundred dinars, in accordance with the provisions of Article (4) of this Law. In the event of a repeat violation, the penalty will be imprisonment for a maximum of one month and a fine not exceeding two hundred dinars, or one of these two penalties.

**Article - 9 -**

The Minister shall issue the necessary regulations, decisions, and statutes to implement the provisions of this Law, and every text that contradicts its provisions shall be repealed.

**Article - 10 -**

The Ministers - each within his jurisdiction- shall implement this Law, and it shall come into force from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

**Emir of the State of Bahrain**

**Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa**

**Issued at Riffa Palace:**

**On 29 Shaaban 1416 A.H.**

**Corresponding to 20 January 1996**