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**Legislative Decree No. (26) of 1976 Regulating Hajj Affairs**

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

Having reviewed the Constitution,

And upon the submission of the Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs,

And after the approval of the Cabinet,

Hereby Decree the following Law:

Article – 1 –

A permanent committee for Hajj affairs shall be established, named "The Supreme Committee for Hajj Affairs," which shall be affiliated with the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs.

Article – 2 –

The committee shall be composed of the Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs as Chairman, and eight members who are knowledgeable about Hajj affairs, appointed by a decision from the Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs. This will include representatives from the Ministries of Justice and Islamic Affairs, Interior, Foreign Affairs, Health, and a representative from the Red Crescent Society, for a term of two years, renewable.

Article – 3 –

1- The committee shall be responsible for the care of pilgrims from the citizens of the State and residents, particularly concerning the following matters:

a. Taking the necessary measures to ensure the welfare and comfort of the pilgrims.

b. Determining the procedures and requirements necessary for the health care of the pilgrims.

c. Organising the rules and procedures related to Hajj campaigns, their travel arrangements, safety guarantees, and granting the necessary licences for their operation.

d. Considering requests from those desiring to obtain a licence to practise as contractors for Hajj campaigns.

e. Reviewing violations committed by contractors of Hajj campaigns as specified in Article (8) of this Law.

2- The Chairman of the committee shall submit an annual report to His Highness the Emir and the Prime Minister regarding the Hajj mission and the conditions of the pilgrims, within three months of the conclusion of the Hajj season.

Article – 4 –

The Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs shall issue a decision regarding the internal regulations of the committee, specifying the procedures related to its system and the manner in which it conducts its work.

Article – 5 –

1- The profession of contractors for Hajj campaigns shall not be practised without obtaining a licence from the Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs. This licence is personal and shall not be transferred under any circumstances, and application for the licence shall be submitted to the Chairman of the Supreme Committee for Hajj Affairs.

The Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs shall specify, by decision, the registration and renewal fees.

The licence shall be valid for five years, renewable.

2- The following conditions must be met to grant the contractor the licence referred to in the previous paragraph:

a. The individual must be a Bahraini national and a resident of Bahrain.

b. They must be at least twenty-five years old and fully legally competent.

c. The individual must have a good reputation.

d. The Individual must not have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanour involving dishonour or breach of trust.

e. The individual must be able to read and write proficiently.

f. They must be knowledgeable about the rites of Hajj.

Article – 6 –

1- The licensed contractor must obtain a licence from the Supreme Committee for Hajj Affairs to operate each campaign before its commencement.

They must submit to the aforementioned committee a list of the names of the pilgrims and all obligations they have undertaken towards them.

2- They must also deposit an amount determined by the committee in the treasury of the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs as security to ensure their obligations towards the pilgrims are fulfilled. This security shall not be returned to the contractor until at least two months after the return of the pilgrims and with the approval of the Supreme Committee for Hajj Affairs.

Article – 7 –

Those licensed to operate Hajj campaigns must comply with all conditions set by the Supreme Committee for Hajj Affairs to ensure the pilgrims perform the Hajj rites properly and are provided with health and safety measures.

Article – 8 –

1- The Supreme Committee for Hajj Affairs is responsible for investigating any violations by contractors of Hajj campaigns concerning the licence conditions or conditions established by the committee. It shall summon the licence holder to hear their statements regarding the allegations made against them. If they fail to appear, the committee may proceed with considering the violation without hearing their statements. Additionally, the committee may rely on reports submitted by the head of the official Hajj mission, the Embassy of Bahrain in Saudi Arabia, or the head of the medical mission.

2- In the event that a violation is established, the committee may impose the following penalties on the violating licence holder:

a. A warning.

b. A one-year suspension of the licence to operate a Hajj campaign.

c. Removal of their name from the register of Hajj campaign contractors.

The committee's decision shall be final.

These penalties do not preclude any criminal or civil liability that may result from the violation.

Article – 9 –

1- Without prejudice to any harsher penalty stipulated by any other law, a person who violates the provisions of Articles 6 and 8 of this Law shall be punished with imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months, a fine not exceeding five hundred dinars, or either of these penalties.

2- A public prosecution lawsuit against the violator may only be initiated with the permission of the Chairman of the Supreme Committee for Hajj Affairs.

Article – 10 –

The Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs 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 8 Sha’ban 1396 AH

Corresponding to 4 August 1976