

Legislative Decree No. () for 2008 regarding Statistics and the Census.

I, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Having examined the Constitution,

And the Civil and Commercial Procedure Laws by Decree No. (12) of 1971,
and their amendments,

And the Penal Law by Decree No. (15) of 1976, and its amendments,

And law by Decree No. (7) of 1977 regarding Statistics and the Census,

And the Civil Law issued by Decree No. (19) of 2001,

And Decree No. (38) of 2002 for renaming and reorganizing the Central
Statistics Organization.

And the Criminal Procedure Law issued by Decree No. (46) of 2002, and

resolution No. (4) of 2007 on the establishment of the Commission for

National Statistics issued by the Economic Development Board,

And Decree No. (13) of 2008 for reorganizing the Central Informatics
Organization,

And based on the presentation of the president of the Central Informatics
Organization,

Charted the following law:

Chapter I

Introductory Provisions

Article (1)

Definitions:

Organization: The Central Informatics Organization

Government Bodies: Ministries, agencies and public institutions

Private Bodies: Corporate and private institutions and all relevant public occupational, professional, commercial, industrial or social organizations

Committee: The Committee for National Statistics established under resolution No. (4) of 2007

President of the Organization: President of the Central Informatics Organization

Director of Statistics: Director of the Directorate of Statistics in the Kingdom who operates under the supervision and control of the president of the Central Informatics Organization

Directorate of Statistics: Directorate of Demographic, Environmental and Social Statistics, Directorate of Economic Statistics, and the Directorate of National Accounts which is entrusted with undertaking various kinds of statistical operations and falls under the authority of the Central Informatics Organization.

Statistical Survey: Any census, whether comprehensive or sample, or any other process for the collection, compilation and analysis of statistical data on an individual or group of people or objects and its accompanying compilation, preparation and publication processes

Interviewee: A normal or representative person who is asked to answer statistical questionnaires as demanded by the law

Individual Data: The characteristics which distinguish each individual such as name, address, place and date of birth, sex, religion, nationality, marital status and scientific & professional qualification, and occupation and also include civil events for the individual such as birth, marriage, divorce, change of nationality and death Minister: The Minister of the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs

Article (2)

Rescinds Law by Decree No. (7) for the year 1977 regarding Statistics and the Census.

Article (3)

Works on statistics and the census required by the Kingdom through the provisions contained in this Law.

Article (4)

The Directorate of Statistics within the Central Informatics Organization must begin its work in accordance with the directives of the National Statistics Commission, in particular, it must attend to the following tasks and duties:

- 1 - Collecting, standardizing, classifying, analyzing, preparing, summarizing, compiling and disseminating the results of commercial, industrial, financial, and social statistical data and all related social conditions and community activities.
- 2 - Cooperating with government agencies in the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistical information including statistics derived from activities conducted by these agencies.
- 3 - Encouraging statistical studies of economic and social activities as required by the development plan.
- 4 - Providing advice on matters relating to statistical programmes of government bodies and consulting with them to achieve this purpose.
- 5 - Training and rehabilitating Directorate personnel and contribute to the training of statistical personnel in ministries, agencies and governmental units.
- 6 - Spreading statistical awareness by any means deemed appropriate.
- 7 - Conduct Census of Population and Housing in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- 8 - Requiring different government agencies to deposit statistical bulletins issued by them and statistical information gathered to the Organization.
- 9 – Promoting the avoidance of duplication of information collected by government bodies.
- 10 – Publish statistical releases and the results of surveys and specialized research.
- 11 - Establish a central archive to document statistical releases.
- 12 - In general, promote and develop social and economic statistics relating to the Kingdom and Gulf Cooperation Council States and coordinate plans for the integration of those statistics.
- 13 – Strengthening the freedom of citizens to obtain accurate and comprehensive statistical information.

Article (5)

With the exception of work related to specialist work and employees and financial and economic issues of specialist work, no person shall carry out a census without the written consent of the Organization.

Article (6)

The Directorate of Statistics is responsible enforcing the intended purposes of this Law to the President of the Central Informatics Organization under the control of the Commission, and the Director of Statistics is considered directly responsible for the Directorate and the supervision of the application of this Law and the statistical operations and personnel of the Directorate of Statistics.

He must also provide consultation and advice on statistical programmes undertaken by other government bodies and discuss with them on this matter.

Chapter II

Detailed Provisions

Article (7)

The Directorate of Statistics, by mediation through the General Director of Statistics, must provide at the beginning of each fiscal year a comprehensive report to the President of the Central Informatics Organization on the activities of the previous year and include it in the annual report provided to the Cabinet.

Article (8)

The President of the Organization can, with the recommendation of the Director of Statistics and in accordance with the methods permitted by the law, use monitors, collectors and agents or any other persons whose use is essential for the Kingdom in order to collect statistics and information as he deems useful and achieves the national interests and the interests of commercial, industrial, financial, social, economic and other activities, and he determines their duties.

Article (9)

Every person appointed for a statistical job or entrusted with statistical work, before carrying out the tasks entrusted to him, must swear the following oath in front of the person determined by the General Director of Statistics:

"I swear by Almighty Allah to perform the duty that is imposed on me by the law truthfully and honestly and will not release any subject or information that comes to my knowledge due to or as a result of my work under the provisions of this law even if that occurs after my service or assignment, with the exception of cases where I legally committed to make or disclosure information or data entrusted to me".

Article (10)

The Directorate of Statistics must provide each employee or person entrusted by it with collecting statistical data and information with a identification card carrying his photo, name, and duration of work to be implemented and stamped with the Directorate's seal and signed by the General Director or his representative.

Article (11)

The employees or people assigned to conduct the census or statistical surveys must place their marks necessary to accomplish their duties on public and private buildings in accordance with the regulations and decrees governing their procedures, they may enter public places during the official working hours and access records, documents and papers of all kinds to verify the authenticity and integrity of the statistical data presented.

Article (12)

1 - Without reducing the duties of the Directorate of Statistics and without affecting any of its powers or authority in respect of any specific statistics which may be required under this law, government bodies may conduct any other census or survey to gather statistical data if related directly to its, and collect, compile, analysis and disseminate any abstract statistics after the approval of the Directorate for all or any of the following issues in the Kingdom:

- (A) Population;
- (B) Social welfare;
- (C) Health;
- (D) Law enforcement, administration of justice and correctional institutions;
- (E) Trading and financial companies;
- (F) Internal and external migration;
- (G) Education;
- (H) Labor and Employment;
- (I) Trade with other countries;
- (J) Prices and living costs;
- (K) Fishing;
- (L) Oil and wells;
- (M) Industry;
- (N) Construction;
- (O) Transport, storage and communications;
- (P) Electric power, gas, water and sanitation;
- (Q) Wholesale and retail trade;
- (R) Finance, insurance and real estate;
- (S) Public administration;
- (T) Community, business and personal services; and
- (U) any other matters specified by the minister or determined by the Cabinet.

2 – Private bodies may conduct statistical surveys after obtaining written approval from the Directorate of Statistics, provided that they are directly related to their work and to marketing their product, and they are not allowed to publish it. The Organization has the right to request information on the methodology used and the results.

Article (13)

The competent authorities, in the implementation of the powers conferred upon them, must abide by the principle of non-discrimination among the interviewees, whether individuals or companies, in matters relating to each of them.

Article (14)

The President of the Organization or his representative may allow the use of systematic sampling in conducting statistical operations.

Article (15)

The Directorate of Statistics may conduct agreements for exchange, tabulation and publication of information, with any body or authority regarding statistical information collected by the Directorate or that authority.

Article (16)

Government bodies must periodically provide the Organization with all the statistical data that they have either for statistical purposes or as direct results of their activity.

Private bodies and individuals must also submit to the Organization or its representatives the required data, as is compatible with the reality and truth and according to the method and specified dates, along with the necessary documents that support the validity of the data when requested.

Article (17)

The census of the Kingdom of Bahrain must be conducted every five years.
The questions asked in the census are under this law.

Article (18)

In addition to sending persons or bodies to collect statistical data, the Director of Statistics may issue a statistical form provided to interviewees from who that data is received.

Article (19)

1 - All individual data and information provided to the Directorate of Statistics for statistical purposes is considered confidential and may not be viewed or used by any individual or public or private body except for the purposes of preparing statistical tables.

2 – The Directorate of Statistics works to release official statistical tables as total tables which do not deal with any individual or personal data in order to preserve the confidentiality of the statistical data.

Article (20)

The President of the Organization, with the consent of the Minister, issue the rules and regulations, schedules and forms needed for statistical and census operations and collection, classification and publication and any other information conducted in the Kingdom.

Without prejudice to the general body of the foregoing, he may issue regulations to organize the following questions:

- A) The data and information required for submission when conducting any census or report.
- B) The methodology of the statistical data, the period in which the census is conducted, the persons entrusted with giving and collecting the information for statistics purposes and with whom the statistics are concerned.
- C) The data and information that may be requested from the Directorate of Statistics.
- D) The fees imposed for services performed by the Directorate of Statistics, as approved by the Ministry of Finance.

Chapter III

Penalties

Article (21)

Without interfering with any harsher penalty stipulated in any other law, persons shall:

1 – Any employee of the Directorate of Statistics or any delegate of statistics or census who, whether directly or indirectly, reveals any confidential information or statistical data on which they were briefed by virtue of their work to any other person or entity not authorized under the provisions of this law to see it, and within the meaning of Article (19) of this Law, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or a fine not exceeding (2000) two thousand dinars, or both.

2 – Any person who obtained confidential information or statistical data in any way without being legally authorized shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or a fine not exceeding (1000) one thousand dinars, or both.

3 –Any person purporting to be officials or delegates of the Directorate of Statistics shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or a fine not exceeding (500) five hundred dinars, or both.

4 - All interviewees who decline to provide the data required in accordance with the provisions of this Law or provide incorrect data or deliberately or carelessly interfered with the statistical, shall be fined not more than (6000) six thousand dinars, if a legal person, and punishable by a fine not exceeding (600) six hundred dinars, if a ordinary person.

Chapter IV

Final Provisions

Article (22)

The security services must, within their role of assisting government agencies in discharging their functions in accordance with the provisions of

the law, cooperate with persons conducting statistics or census to ensure the performance of their duties to the fullest.

Article (23)

Any information, data, records or documents obtained may not be provided or used as evidence in civil or criminal judicial proceedings offences except for the purpose of proving the offenses laid down in Article (19).

Article (24)

The Organization must provide governmental bodies and institutions, individuals and international bodies with official statistics when requested in accordance with the provisions of this law.

Article (25)

The Organization is considered the primary statistical source in the Kingdom, and publishes data, information and statistical indicators and determines the time, level and method of dissemination, and authenticates and preserves data and statistical information.

Article (26)

The Organization must provide all means to protect collected data, and preserve them in places which meet the requirements of security and public safety.

Article (27)

The Organize must develop various statistics in accordance with the standards and recommendations of the United Nations and other international bodies.

Article (28)

The Prime Minister and Cabinet - respectively – must implement the provisions of this law and employ it thirty days after the date of its publication in official newspapers.

King of the Kingdom of Bahrain

Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa

Issued at Riffa Palace:

Date: