

Federal Decree-Law No. (15) of 2024
Concerning the Collection of Debts of Federal Entities

We, Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

President of the United Arab Emirates,

- Having reviewed the Constitution,
- And Federal Law No. (1) of 1972 regarding the Competencies of Ministries and Powers of Ministers, and its amendments,
- And Federal Decree-Law No. (15) of 2018 concerning the Collection of Public Revenues and Funds, and its amendments,
- And Federal Decree-Law No. (26) of 2019 concerning Public Finance, and its amendments,
- And Federal Decree-Law No. (42) of 2022 promulgating the Civil Procedure Law,
- And based on the proposal of the Minister of Finance and the approval of the Cabinet,

Have issued the following Decree-Law:

Article (1)

Definitions

In the application of the provisions of this Decree-Law, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings assigned to each of them, unless the context otherwise requires:

State	: The United Arab Emirates.
Ministry	: The Ministry of Finance.
Minister	: The Minister of Finance.
Federal Government	: The government of the United Arab Emirates.
Federal Entity	: Federal ministries, authorities, and public institutions.
Creditor Entity	: The federal entity to which a debt is due from the debtor.
Head of the Creditor Entity	: The concerned minister, chairman of the board, head of the entity, or their equivalent, as the case may be.
Debt Collection Follow-up Unit	: An organizational unit within the Ministry responsible for following up and supervising the collection of debts of federal entities in accordance with the provisions of this Decree-Law.
Debt	: Any of the debts stipulated in Article (3) of this Decree-Law.
Debtor	

	: A natural or private legal person who owes a debt to a creditor entity and is late or refrains from paying it on its due date.
Competent Court	: The federal court within whose jurisdiction the debtor's domicile, place of residence, or place of business is located, or the nearest federal court to such domicile or place of business.
Execution Judge	: The execution judge at the competent court.
Writ of Execution	: The collection decision specified in Article (9) of this Decree-Law or Clause (4) of Article (16) thereof.
Business Day	: An official working day in the Federal Government.

Article (2)

Objectives of the Decree-Law

This Decree-Law aims to achieve the following:

1. Regulating and governing the procedures for collecting the debts of federal entities on their due dates.
2. Enabling federal entities to exercise their competencies and tasks related to collecting their debts according to a clear and transparent system of work and procedures.
3. Achieving the development and sustainable growth of public services and facilities.

Article (3)

Debts Subject to the Provisions of this Decree-Law

Without prejudice to any special provision contained in any effective federal legislation, the following debts shall be collected in accordance with the provisions and collection procedures stipulated in this Decree-Law:

1. Taxes, fees, and revenues imposed under federal legislation.
2. Administrative fines imposed under federal laws and Cabinet decisions.
3. Fees due to the creditor entity in exchange for the services it provides.
4. Financial obligations arising from lease contracts concluded by creditor entities.
5. Any other funds that federal laws or Cabinet decisions stipulate shall be collected in accordance with the provisions of this Decree-Law.

Article (4)

Debt Payment

1. The debtor must pay their debts on their due dates without delay or the need for a demand from the creditor entity.
2. A debt collected within the State shall be paid in UAE Dirhams into the account specified by the creditor entity, unless another legislation or an agreement between the creditor entity and the debtor provides otherwise.

3. A debt collected outside the State shall be paid into the account specified by the creditor entity in coordination with the Ministry, in the currency of the state where the collection takes place, according to the exchange rate determined by the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates.
4. The debtor shall bear all expenses incurred by the creditor entity to collect its debt in accordance with the provisions of this Decree-Law or any other effective federal legislation in the State.
5. If the debt is paid at the competent court, the competent court shall notify the creditor entity thereof within (7) seven business days, and it must transfer the amount within (7) seven business days from the date the creditor entity notifies it of the account details where these amounts are to be deposited.

Article (5)

Debt Due Dates

1. The debt shall be due and payable according to the dates specified in the legislation regulating the debt or in the lease contracts referred to in Clause (4) of Article (3) of this Decree-Law.
2. If the legislation regulating the relevant debt does not specify the due date, the due date shall be determined by a decision of the Cabinet based on a proposal from the Minister.

Article (6)

Notifying the Debtor of Payment

1. If the debtor fails to pay the debt on its due date, the creditor entity shall, within (10) ten business days from the due date, notify the debtor of the obligation to pay.
2. The creditor entity shall specify in the notification the nature and value of the debt owed by the debtor and the obligation to pay it within (20) twenty business days from the date of notification. If the debtor fails to pay the debt within this period, the creditor entity shall issue a decision against them to collect the debt in accordance with the provisions of Article (9) of this Decree-Law.
3. Unless any other applicable legislation or an agreement between the creditor entity and the debtor provides for another period, as the case may be, the debtor must pay the debt within (20) twenty business days from the date of notification.

Article (7)

Procedures for Notifying the Debtor of Payment

1. Without prejudice to any other means prescribed by any other effective federal legislation in the State, the notification stipulated in Article (6) of this Decree-

Law shall be achieved by any of the following means:

- a. Hand-delivering the notification to the debtor at their usual place of residence or place of work.
- b. Hand-delivering the notification to a member of the debtor's family who has reached the age of majority, resides with them, works in their service, or legally represents them.
- c. Sending the notification by registered mail, email, fax, text message, or any other technical means, to the debtor's registered address with the creditor entity. If there is no registered address with the creditor entity, it may send the notification to any address of the debtor registered with any of the competent authorities in the State, unless the creditor entity and the debtor agree on another method.

2. If any of the persons mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (b) of Clause (1) of this Article refuses to receive the notification, the person serving the notification shall draw up a report in two copies, sign them, and affix one copy to a visible place at the location where the notification was served. The purpose of the notification shall be achieved and its legal effects shall arise from this procedure.
3. If it is not possible to notify the debtor in accordance with the provisions of Clauses (1) or (2) of this Article, the notification shall produce its legal effects once the creditor entity publishes it in two local daily newspapers, whether printed or electronic, provided that at least one of them is issued in Arabic. The date of publication in this case shall be considered the date of notification. The creditor entity must also post the notification on its website and send it to the debtor by email if it has their email address and data.

Article (8)

Debt Collection Unit at the Creditor Entity

The creditor federal entity shall designate an organizational unit from its departments or sections to undertake the procedures for collecting its debt in accordance with the provisions of this Decree-Law, and to exercise the following:

1. Managing the notification system provided for in this Decree-Law.
2. Following up on the payment of the debt or the due portion thereof on its due dates.
3. Verifying the fulfillment of the conditions for debt installment payments.
4. Following up on the execution procedures and the urgent and precautionary measures provided for in this Decree-Law.
5. Coordinating with the Debt Collection Follow-up Unit to enable it to exercise its competencies in accordance with the provisions of this Decree-Law and the decisions issued in its implementation.

Article (9)

Collection Decision

Without prejudice to the provisions for issuing a writ of execution contained in any other effective federal legislation in the State, if the debtor fails to pay the debt within the deadlines specified in Articles (6) and (19) of this Decree-Law, the head of the creditor entity or their authorized representative shall issue a decision to collect the debt. This decision shall be considered a writ of execution, and the creditor entity must submit it to the execution judge to commence its compulsory execution in accordance with the procedures stipulated in the Civil Procedure Law.

Article (10)

Tasks of the Execution Judge

1. The execution judge at the competent court shall refer any matter requiring the intervention and assistance of judicial authorities in any emirate of the State to the execution judge in any of the courts within whose jurisdiction the action is to be taken.
2. If the execution relates to an interim measure or a notification, and the place of execution of the measure or notification is within the jurisdiction of another court, the execution judge at the competent court shall delegate the execution judge in whose jurisdiction the action is to be taken to carry it out.

Article (11)

Exemption from Fees and Guarantees

1. The creditor entity shall be exempt from paying any fees to any federal government entity whenever they are related in any way to the collection of the debt in accordance with the provisions of this Decree-Law. This includes all judicial fees and expenses, public auction fees, and the fee for obtaining information related to the debtor or their assets.
2. The creditor entity shall not be obliged to provide any guarantees or securities when undertaking any urgent or precautionary measures or procedures for the execution of the writ of execution in accordance with the provisions of this Decree-Law.

Article (12)

Urgent and Precautionary Measures

1. The creditor entity may, upon the due date of the debt or during the execution procedures against the debtor, request the competent court to impose a precautionary attachment on any of the debtor's assets, whether such assets are in their possession or with a third party, or to issue a travel ban against them or any other precautionary measure.
2. Notwithstanding what is stated in Clause (1) of this Article, the creditor entity may, before the due date of the debt, request the competent court to impose a

precautionary attachment on any of the debtor's assets, whether such assets are in their possession or with a third party, or to issue a travel ban against them or any other precautionary measure, if the creditor entity has strong evidence or indications that its rights are at risk of being lost or that the debtor has begun to smuggle or conceal their assets. In this case, the competent court must issue its decision on the request after setting a hearing and notifying the debtor to appear before it within (24) twenty-four hours, provided that the notification is made in accordance with the provisions of Clause (1/a) of Article (7), to verify the validity of the creditor entity's claims and to enable the debtor to present their defense or provide sufficient guarantees to settle the debt on the due date.

3. Decisions issued by the competent court in accordance with the provisions of Clauses (1 and 2) of this Article are subject to appeal before the Court of Appeal within whose jurisdiction the competent court is located at any time.
4. Subject to the provisions stipulated in Clauses (1), (2), and (3) of this Article, if a substantive lawsuit is filed before the competent court and a judgment is rendered in favor of the debtor, the urgent and precautionary measures taken against the debtor under the provisions of this Article shall be terminated.
5. If the garnishee dies, loses legal capacity, or their status or the status of their legal representative ceases to exist before declaring what they owe, the competent court shall notify the heirs of the garnishee or their legal representative of a copy of the attachment order and shall require them to submit a declaration of what is owed within (10) ten business days from the date of this requirement.
6. The procedures and provisions stipulated in the Civil Procedure Law regarding urgent and precautionary measures shall apply to matters for which no special provision is made in this Article.

Article (13)

Payment of Debt after Submission of the Writ of Execution

In the event of payment of the debt after the submission of the writ of execution to the execution judge, the debtor must deposit the due debt in the treasury of the competent court for the benefit of the creditor entity.

Article (14)

Special Provision Regarding Public Auction

1. The sale of movable or immovable property by public auction shall follow the provisions and procedures stipulated in the Civil Procedure Law, with the exception of the provision contained in Clause (2) of Article (298) of that law. The auction shall not be cancelled for reasons of non-pursuit by the creditor entity, and this shall not result in a re-auction.

2. Execution by selling the debtor's movable or immovable assets does not require the presence of a representative from the creditor entity.

Article (15)

Expenses of Selling Seized Assets

In all cases where the debtor's assets are sold by public auction in accordance with the provisions of this Decree-Law, the debtor shall bear all fees and expenses resulting from the seizure and sale of these assets, and any subsequent fines and compensations. These shall be deducted from the final sale value before paying the value of the debt to the creditor entity, provided that any remaining proceeds from the sale, if any, are returned to the debtor.

Article (16)

Grievance

1. Without prejudice to the procedures for review, grievance, and objection regulated by any other federal legislation concerning the collection of a specific debt, the debtor may file a grievance against the collection decision, the decision to reject debt installment payments, or the cancellation of the installment decision before the committee provided for in Clause (2) of this Article, within (20) twenty business days from the date of being notified of the decision. The grievance must be reasoned and accompanied by all supporting documents and records.
2. A committee or more shall be formed in each federal government entity by a decision of its head to consider grievances submitted against debt collection decisions issued in implementation of the provisions of this Decree-Law, chaired by at least an Undersecretary of a ministry or their equivalent. The formation decision shall specify the committee's mechanism and system of work.
3. The committee provided for in Clause (2) of this Article must decide on the grievance within (10) ten business days from the date of submitting the grievance request. It shall notify the grievant of its decision of acceptance or rejection within (5) five business days from the date of its issuance. The decision issued regarding the grievance shall be final, and failure to respond within the mentioned period shall be considered a rejection of the grievance.
4. If the grievance is proven to be valid, the creditor entity shall issue a decision to amend or cancel the grieved decision, as the case may be. The new decision issued based on the committee's decision to amend the debt collection decision shall be considered a writ of execution. The debtor shall be notified thereof by one of the notification methods stipulated in Article (7) of this Decree-Law.
5. Submitting a grievance shall result in the suspension of the execution procedures until it is decided upon.

Article (17)

Outsourcing of the Creditor Entity's Debts

1. The creditor entity, based on a proposal from the Minister and the approval of the Cabinet, may entrust the collection of any of its debts to one of the companies licensed for debt collection, in accordance with the controls and provisions issued by a decision of the Cabinet.
2. If the collection of the creditor entity's debts is entrusted to a company in accordance with the provisions of Clause (1) of this Article, the procedures undertaken by the company to collect the debts in accordance with this Decree-Law shall be considered as if they were carried out by the creditor entity.
3. Without prejudice to the liability of the company and its employees, the creditor entity shall not be held responsible for errors made by the company or its employees as a result of their undertaking of debt collection procedures in accordance with the provisions of this Article.

Article (18)

Authorization to Undertake Collection Procedures

1. Notwithstanding what is stated in any other effective federal legislation in the State, the creditor entity may authorize any private lawyer to undertake, on its behalf, any procedure for debt collection.
2. For the purposes of the provisions of this Article, the power of attorney must be in writing and certified by the head of the creditor entity or their authorized representative.
3. The provisions of this Decree-Law shall not prejudice the powers vested in the State Cases Department to represent federal government entities. A decision by the Cabinet, based on a proposal from the Minister of Justice, shall regulate the cases in which law firms or lawyers may be engaged, and the rules and procedures for coordination between federal government entities and the State Cases Department for engaging a firm or lawyer to carry out one or more collection procedures.

Article (19)

Debt Installment

1. The creditor entity may, at any stage of debt collection and upon the request of the debtor or their legal representative, allow the debt or part of it to be paid in installments by a debtor who is unable to pay it in a single payment, in accordance with the regulations and conditions specified in a decision issued by the Cabinet based on a proposal from the Minister.
2. Approval of the debt installment request shall result in the suspension of enforcement procedures.
3. If the debtor fails to pay any installment on its due date, the creditor entity shall issue a decision to cancel the installment plan and proceed with enforcement

measures against the debtor to collect the debt or its remainder, without the need for any further notice or procedure.

4. The creditor entity shall cancel the installment decision if it becomes apparent that its rights are at risk of being lost. In this case, the debtor shall be notified of the cancellation of the installment decision, and the creditor entity shall resume debt collection procedures, unless the debtor provides new guarantees acceptable to the creditor entity for the continuation of the installment decision.

Article (20)

Debt Collection Follow-up Unit

The Debt Collection Follow-up Unit shall be responsible for the following:

1. Following up on the federal entities' implementation of the debt collection procedures stipulated in this Decree-Law by reviewing the reports submitted to it by the federal entities in accordance with Article (21) of this Decree-Law.
2. Submitting periodic reports to the Minister regarding the volume of uncollectible debts of federal entities and the reasons therefor.
3. Preparing studies and submitting proposals aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the debt collection system for federal entities and submitting them to the Minister.
4. Considering debt installment requests referred to it by federal entities in cases where a Cabinet decision is required.
5. Requesting any information or documents from federal entities that it deems necessary to exercise its competencies.
6. Any other tasks assigned to it by the Minister.

Article (21)

Reporting on Debts

The creditor entity must submit a quarterly report to the Debt Collection Follow-up Unit, according to the designated form. The report shall include a detailed statement of its debts as of the date of submission, the measures taken for collection, and any other information or documents that support the information contained in the report or are requested by the Debt Collection Follow-up Unit.

Article (22)

Debt Due Before the Effective Date of this Decree-Law

Creditor entities may collect their debts that became due before the effective date of this Decree-Law in accordance with the procedures stipulated herein and without being bound by the notification period mentioned in Article (6) of this Decree-Law, provided that the notification was correctly made in accordance with the provisions of the previous law. If no notification was made, or it was made incorrectly under the

provisions of the previous law, the creditor entity must notify the debtor in accordance with the provisions of this Decree-Law.

Article (23)

Final Provisions

Federal entities must provide the necessary assistance to enable the creditor entity to collect its debt in accordance with the provisions of this Decree-Law, each within its own jurisdiction and according to the legislation in force in the State.

Article (24)

Applicability of the Civil Procedure Law

The Civil Procedure Law shall apply to matters for which no specific provision is made in this Decree-Law.

Article (25)

Executive Resolutions

The Minister shall issue the resolutions necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this Decree-Law.

Article (26)

Repeals

Federal Decree-Law No. (15) of 2018 on the Collection of Public Revenues and Funds is hereby repealed, as is any provision that contradicts or conflicts with the provisions of this Decree-Law.

Article (27)

Publication and Entry into Force of the Decree-Law

This Decree-Law shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall enter into force three (3) months after the date of its publication.

Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

President of the United Arab Emirates

Issued by us at the Presidential Palace - Abu Dhabi:

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