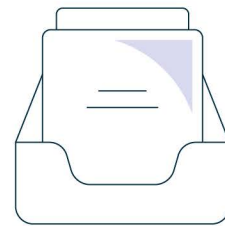


Every country has its own legal system that governs it, and no entity, individual, public, or private authority is allowed to engage in actions that violate the legal system. This principle imposes everyone to respect and abide while this is known as the sovereignty of the state. The legal system serves as a framework that regulates and manages the life of society. The importance of laws is indeed numerous since the legal system supports stability and social justice, contributes to providing security, and encourages economic development and innovation. Additionally, the legal system has a positive impact on achieving societal balance and meeting its needs.

The Legal System in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



A legal system is a set of general rules that regulate a specific aspect, prepared by the regulatory authority and issued by the executive authority.

The legal systems in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are divided into two categories:



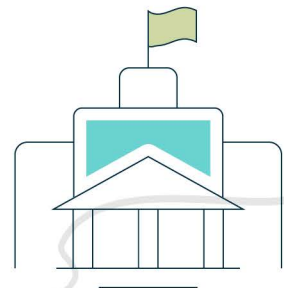
Fundamental Legal Systems

These are the legal systems related to governance.



Public Legal Systems

These are the legal systems related to the public affairs of the state.



The Fundamental Legal Systems of Governance in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

In most countries around the world, a state is composed of three authorities to organize its affairs, with different names depending on the type of governing system. There is a separation between these authorities. However, in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the state authorities consist of the following:

①

Basic Law of Governance

②

Law of the Council of Ministers

③

Shura Council Law

④

Succession Commission Law

⑤

Law of Provinces

Executive Authority

Regulatory Authority

Judicial Authority

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Power	The Executive Authority	The Regulatory Authority	The Judicial Authority
Definition	This authority is represented by the Council of Ministers, chaired by the King. The Council of Ministers oversees internal and external affairs, organizes government agencies, and implements the state's general policies.	This authority is represented by the Shura Council, which is responsible for formulating laws and regulations, as well as reviewing performance reports of government agencies.	This authority is represented by the Supreme Judicial Council and the Sharia Courts. The Council is responsible for issuing judicial rulings in accordance with Islamic law and any regulations issued by the ruler that do not contradict the Quran and Sunnah.
Its competence	Decisions/Administration	Systems/Regulations	Judgments/Dispute Resolution
Logo			


Council of Ministers

Formation of Council of Ministers:


The Council of Ministers is composed of members appointed by a royal decree, and they are accountable for their actions before the King. The appointment term is four years, after which it is reformed by a royal decree. The Council of Ministers is headquartered in Riyadh (the capital), with the flexibility to convene in any region of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Council of Ministers' Competencies:


The Council of Ministers holds executive authority, formulates state policies, supervises their implementation, and has several competencies, including:




Formulating internal, external, financial, economic, educational, defensive, and all public policies.




Supervising the implementation of decisions, regulations, and legal systems.



Approving the state's general budget.



Establishing and organizing public interests, creating committees to monitor the work of ministries.



Ratifying treaties and agreements in which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a party.

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Shura Council

Formation of the Shura Council:

The royal decree was issued to select members of the Shura Council in its first term (1418-1419 AH), consisting of a president and sixty members. The number of members was later increased to one hundred and fifty, and the selection of a Council's member term is four years, after which it is reformed by a royal decree. The Shura Council is headquartered in Riyadh (the capital), with the flexibility to convene in any region of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In 1434 AH, a royal decree was issued to appoint thirty Saudi women as members of the Council within its one hundred and fifty members.

Shura Council's Competencies:

Shura Council's Competencies:



Discussing the annual reports submitted by ministries and other government agencies and proposing the Council's recommendations regarding them.



Reviewing laws and regulations.



Studying laws, regulations, treaties, international agreements, and privileges.



Discussing the general plan for economic and social development.

The Authorities responsible for Issuing laws and the Mechanism for Amending laws in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

the Laws in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are issued by the regulatory authority (legislative) represented by the Council of Ministers and the Shura Council. The Basic Law of Governance is the foundation of these legislations, and Article V of the system stipulates that laws are issued by royal decrees.

Royal decrees are one of the regulatory tools of royal administration, expressing the King's approval as the Prime Minister on matters previously presented to the Council of Ministers and the Shura Council. Approval for a new law, or any international agreements and treaties, all of which shall be approved and issued through royal decrees, requiring the King's approval to become effective and official.

The process begins with proposing the issuance of a new law or an amendment to an existing one, either by a minister regarding the affairs of their ministry or by a member of the Shura Council, following the regulations outlined by the Council of Ministers and Shura Council Law. The proposal is then studied, each article is voted on, and the total votes are considered. Finally, the legislation is issued by royal decrees with the King's approval as the head of the Council of Ministers, The Council of Ministers Decision No. (V13), dated 1434/11/30 AH, has established the regulations that must be considered when preparing and studying projects of laws, regulations, and others related to the above.

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