

Law No. (16) of 2025
Concerning
Government Claims in the Emirate of Dubai¹

We, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai,

After perusal of:

Federal Law No. (6) of 2018 Concerning Arbitration and its amendments;

Federal Law by Decree No. (31) of 2021 Issuing the Crime and Punishment Law and its amendments;

Federal Law by Decree No. (38) of 2022 Issuing the Criminal Procedure Code and its amendments;

Federal Law by Decree No. (42) of 2022 Issuing the Civil Procedure Code;

Law No. (3) of 1996 Concerning Government Claims and its amendments;

Law No. (16) of 2006 Concerning the Interpretation of Article (3) of Law No. (3) of 1996 Concerning Government Claims;

Law No. (32) of 2008 Establishing the Government of Dubai Legal Affairs Department;

Law No. (21) of 2015 Concerning Judicial Fees of the Dubai Courts and its amendments;

Law No. (1) of 2016 Concerning the Financial Regulations of the Government of Dubai, its Implementing Bylaw, and their amendments;

Law No. (13) of 2016 Concerning the Judicial Authorities in the Emirate of Dubai and its amendments;

Law No. (4) of 2018 Establishing the Financial Audit Authority and its amendments;

Law No. (5) of 2021 Concerning the Dubai International Financial Centre;

Law No. (2) of 2025 Concerning the Dubai International Financial Centre Courts;

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¹Every effort has been made to produce an accurate and complete English version of this legislation. However, for the purpose of its interpretation and application, reference must be made to the original Arabic text. In case of conflict, the Arabic text will prevail.

Decree No. (11) of 2011 Concerning Following up Government Claims Pending before the Courts;
and

Decree No. (26) of 2013 Concerning the Rental Dispute Settlement Centre in the Emirate of Dubai,

Do hereby issue this Law.

Title of the Law **Article (1)**

This Law will be cited as "Law No. (16) of 2025 Concerning Government Claims in the Emirate of Dubai".

Definitions **Article (2)**

The following words and expressions, wherever mentioned in this Law, will have the meaning indicated opposite each of them unless the context implies otherwise:

UAE:	The United Arab Emirates.
Emirate:	The Emirate of Dubai.
Ruler:	His Highness the Ruler of Dubai.
Crown Prince:	His Highness the Crown Prince of the Emirate.
Deputy Ruler:	This includes Their Highnesses the First Deputy Ruler and the Second Deputy Ruler.
Government:	The Government of Dubai.
Judicial Body:	This includes the Dubai Courts, the Dubai International Financial Centre Courts, special judicial tribunals, the Rental Disputes Settlement Centre, and any other judicial authority, whether within or outside the UAE.
HHRC Director:	The Director General of H.H. the Ruler's Court.
Department:	The Government of Dubai Legal Affairs Department.
Director General:	The Director General of the Department.

Government Entity:	Any of the Government departments; public agencies or corporations; Government councils or authorities, including the authorities supervising Special Development Zones and free zones, including the Dubai International Financial Centre.
Complaint:	A substantive complaint submitted to the Department against the Government or a Government Entity, in which the claimant seeks a determination on the merits of the subject matter of the Complaint by means of a judgment that acquires the finality of <i>res judicata</i> . This does not include urgent or interim applications submitted to a judge reviewing urgent matters for an order granting interim judicial protection made without prejudice to the merits of the subject matter, nor does it include reports alleging the commission of criminal offences.
Claim:	Any substantive proceeding, or any urgent or interim dispute or application, to which the Government or a Government Entity is a party, including proceedings before Judicial Bodies of all types and levels; before conciliation or arbitration bodies, tribunals, or centres, within or outside the UAE; and before execution circuits for the enforcement of judgments and any enforceable instruments issued in favour of or against the Government or a Government Entity. Criminal proceedings are excluded.
Certificate of Procedural Compliance:	A certificate issued by the Department to a claimant stating that the Complaint submitted by them could not be settled amicably, and that all relevant requirements and procedures prescribed under this Law have been duly satisfied with regards to their Complaint.

Objectives of the Law

Article (3)

This Law aims to:

1. regulate, efficiently and effectively, the procedures for receiving Complaints and managing Claims to which the Ruler, the Crown Prince, the Deputy Ruler, the Government, or a Government Entity is a party, so as to achieve expeditious justice;
2. enhance transparency and governance in the procedures for disputes to which the Government or a Government Entity is a party;

3. strengthen the role of amicable settlement in resolving Government disputes thereby protecting the institutional reputation of the Government and Government Entities, and reducing the litigation costs and expenses incurred by parties to Claims brought by or against the Government and Government Entities;
4. safeguard the interests of the Government and Government Entities by the Department in its capacity as the central legal entity mandated with representing the Government and Government Entities in Claims brought by or against them; and
5. regulate the procedures for enforcing judgments and other enforceable instruments issued against the Ruler, the Crown Prince, the Deputy Ruler, the Government, or Government Entities.

Legal Representation in Government Disputes and Claims Article (4)

- a. The Department is the legal representative of the Government and Government Entities in all Claims and disputes brought by or against them before Judicial Bodies, conciliation and arbitration bodies, tribunals, and centres as well as before the entities whose decisions are subject to appeal before Judicial Bodies through a special mechanism provided for by legislation, within or outside the UAE. The Director General may delegate or depute any of the Department's legal counsels or legal officers to represent the Government and Government Entities in such Claims and disputes.
- b. The management of any Complaint, Claim, or execution file falls within the competence of the Department. A Government Entity may not take any action in relation to a Complaint, Claim, or execution file, including concluding an amicable settlement in respect of a Complaint, without first coordinating with the Department and obtaining its approval for that action. In any event, the Government Entity must comply with the recommendations issued by the Department in this regard.
- c. The Department must keep the Government Entity it represents informed of the procedures and developments related to the Complaint, Claim, or execution file, in accordance with the procedures adopted by the Department in this regard.
- d. The Director General may delegate or confer powers upon whoever he deems fit from those of experience and speciality from among the advocates or legal consultants, or legal staff of the concerned Government Entity to represent the Government or Government Entities in the Claims and disputes brought by or against them, in accordance with the rules and procedures specified by the Department in this regard.

Submission of Complaints

Article (5)

- a. Any Person wishing to bring a Claim against the Government or a Government Entity must, prior to initiating any procedure for registering that Claim before a Judicial Body, or a conciliation or an arbitration body, tribunal, or centre, submit to the Department, through the means approved by it, a statement of Complaint containing the details of the Complaint together with its supporting documents.
- b. The statement of Complaint must include:
 - 1. the claimant's name, surname, identification documents' details, contact details, and domicile; and, where the claimant has no domicile in the UAE, he must provide a domicile of choice;
 - 2. the name, surname, identification documents' details, contact details, profession or occupation, details of the power of attorney, domicile, and place of work of the claimant's legal representative, if any;
 - 3. the name of the Government Entity against which the Complaint is submitted;
 - 4. the subject matter and the details of the Complaint together with the remedies sought and their legal grounds;
 - 5. the signature of the claimant or their legal representative; and
 - 6. any other information or documents specified by the Department.
- c. Where a statement of Complaint does not satisfy the information and documents referred to in paragraph (b) of this article, the Department may grant the claimant a specified period to satisfy them. In any event, if the required information and documents are not satisfied within that prescribed period, the statement of Complaint will not be accepted, and its submission will not suspend any time bar periods or periods relating to non-admissibility of the Claim, nor will it suspend any other statutory limitation periods prescribed under the applicable legislation in the Emirate.

Referral of Complaints

Article (6)

- a. The Department will refer the statement of Complaint to the Government Entity against which the Complaint is submitted within five (5) working days from the date on which the Department receives the statement of Complaint that meets the requirements for acceptance, or from the date on which any missing information or documents are provided within the period prescribed by the Department, in accordance with paragraph (c) of Article (5) of this Law.
- b. The Government Entity against which a Complaint is submitted is obligated to provide the Department with a response to all matters set out in the statement of Complaint, supported by the relevant documents, within fifteen (15) working days from the date of receiving the statement of Complaint.

Amicable Settlement of Disputes

Article (7)

- a. The Department shall endeavour to amicably settle the dispute subject matter of the Complaint within a period not exceeding sixty (60) working days from the date on which the statement of Complaint is submitted.
- b. The Department may request from the Government Entity against which a Complaint is submitted to provide any additional documents or information that may be required for reviewing the Complaint and attempting its amicable settlement.
- c. Upon the claimant's request, the Department will issue a Certificate of Procedural Compliance if the dispute is not amicably settled by the end of the period referred to in paragraph (a) of this Article. In any event, the claimant shall, upon the expiry of that period, have the right to bring their Complaint before a Judicial Body or a conciliation or an arbitration body, tribunal, or centre, as the case may be.
- d. Notwithstanding paragraph (c) of this article, the Director General may, upon the claimant's request, approve the issuance of a Certificate of Procedural Compliance prior to the expiry of the period specified in paragraph (a) of this article if it is established to the satisfaction of the Department that an amicable settlement of the dispute subject matter of the Complaint is not feasible, in accordance with the rules adopted by the Department in this regard.

Attendance at Amicable Settlement Sessions

Article (8)

- a. The parties to a Complaint must attend the sessions convened by the Department for the purpose of facilitating an amicable settlement of the dispute subject matter of the Complaint.
- b. The attendance of the claimant or their legal representative is a prerequisite for satisfying the requirements for amicable settlement procedures prescribed under this Law.
- c. Notwithstanding the attendance of the claimant's legal representative at the amicable settlement sessions, the Department may, at its discretion, require the claimant's personal attendance for achieving the purpose of the amicable settlement endeavours. In this case, the claimant's personal attendance is a prerequisite for satisfying the requirements for the amicable settlement procedures prescribed under this Law.

Continuation of Amicable Settlement Endeavours

Article (9)

The Department may, at its discretion and subject to the claimant's consent, continue its amicable settlement endeavours beyond the period specified in paragraph (a) of Article (7) of this Law, without prejudice to the claimant's right to obtain a Certificate of Procedural Compliance upon request.

Suspension of Legally-prescribed Time Limits

Article (10)

The time bar periods, periods relating to non-admissibility and statutory limitation periods prescribed by the applicable legislation in the Emirate will be suspended from the date on which the Department receives a statement of Complaint that meets the requirements for acceptance prescribed under this Law until the expiry of the period referred to in paragraph (a) of Article (7) hereof, or the date on which the claimant is issued with a Certificate of Procedural Compliance in accordance with paragraphs (c) and (d) of Article (7), and Article (9) of this Law.

Resubmission of Complaints

Article (11)

Where a claimant resubmits a Complaint that was previously submitted to the Department and processed in accordance with the procedures prescribed under this Law, the Department may

provide the claimant with a confirmation that they have satisfied those procedures, without repeating the procedures prescribed under this Law.

Seeking Assistance from Technical Experts Article (12)

For the purpose of reaching an amicable settlement of a dispute, the Department may seek assistance from technical experts and specialists it deems fit to examine the subject matter of the Complaint in accordance with the rules specified by the Department in this regard.

Commencement of Claims Article (13)

- a. A Claim will be commenced in accordance with the procedures set out in this Law. The Department will represent the Government and Government Entities, whether within or outside the UAE, before all types and levels of Judicial Bodies, and in any dispute brought by or against them before conciliation and arbitration bodies, tribunals, and centres; and before execution departments upon the enforcement of judgments or other enforceable instruments issued in favour of or against the Government or Government Entities.
- b. The claimant must, in registering a Claim or in the course of its proceedings, adhere to the grounds and the remedy sought as stated in the statement of Complaint submitted to the Department under this Law.
- c. Notwithstanding Article (26) of this Law, where the claimant presents new grounds or remedies related to the subject matter of the original Complaint beyond those previously submitted to the Department, the Department must make a motion for a stay of the Claim proceedings and to oblige the claimant to resubmit the Complaint with regards to those new grounds or remedies and to satisfy all procedures prescribed under this Law.

Procedures for Commencing Claims Article (14)

For the purposes of this Law:

- a. The procedures for commencing a Claim will include the preparation, signing, and submission of the statement of Claim, other ancillary applications, all judicial submissions, and the appearance and pleadings before Judicial Bodies, conciliation and arbitration bodies, tribunals,

and centres until the issuance of a final or definitive judgment or decision, or an arbitral award in respect of the Claim.

- b. Claims, applications, and appeals commenced by the Government and Government Entities under paragraph (a) of this article are not subject to the judicial fees prescribed under the applicable legislation in the Emirate, nor to any bonds or guarantees required for such Claims, applications, or appeals.

Recovery of Debts Article (15)

No debt may be recovered from, and no obligation may be enforced against, the Government or Government Entities by way of taking possession, seizure, sale by public auction, or acquisition by any other legal process affecting the property, funds, or assets of the Government or Government Entities, regardless of whether a final or definitive judicial judgment or decision or an arbitral award in respect of that debt or obligation has been issued.

Enforcement of Judgments and Enforceable Instruments Article (16)

Execution circuits may not register any execution process for the enforcement of judgments or other enforceable instruments issued against the Government or Government Entities, nor may they undertake any execution process for the enforcement of such judgments or enforceable instruments, and any procedure to the contrary will be deemed null and void.

Enforcement Procedures Article (17)

- a. The Director General will, upon the request of the judgment creditor, submit to the HHRC Director for the purpose of ordering enforcement, a certified copy of the final or definitive judgment, or any enforceable instrument issued against the Government or Government Entities.
- b. Where the judgment creditor delays in submitting an application for enforcement of a final or definitive judgment or any enforceable instrument for more than sixty (60) days from the date on which the final or definitive judgment is issued or the enforceable instrument becomes final, the awarded legal interest will cease accruing for the period commencing from the expiry of that sixty-day period and ending on the date on which the enforcement application is submitted.

- c. Notwithstanding the provisions of this article, the HHRC Director may order an enforcement without following the procedures set out in paragraph (a) of this article. Where the judgment creditor has no specific address within the UAE, is outside of the UAE, or declines to receive the awarded amount, that amount will be deposited with the competent Judicial Body in accordance with its applicable procedures in this regard.

Submission of Documents and Information Article (18)

For the purposes of this Law, a Government Entity must provide the Department with all documents and information required by the Department. Where the Government Entity fails to provide, or delays in providing, the required documents or information in a manner that may adversely affect the legal position of the Government or the Government Entity, the Department shall, in consideration of the requirements of public interest, refer the matter to the Financial Audit Authority to take the necessary measures in this regard.

Representation of Public Service Employees and Members of Boards/ Councils and Committees Article (19)

- a. The Department will, in its discretion and in consideration of the requirements of public interest, represent directors general, chief executive officers/ executive directors, and other employees of the Government and Government Entities, as well as members of Government councils/ boards and committees, and members of special judicial tribunals, before Judicial Bodies and conciliation and arbitration bodies, tribunals, and centres where they are sued in their personal or official capacity in claims by reason of or in the course of performing their employment duties, whether during their period of service or thereafter.
- b. The provisions of Article (16) and Article (17) of this Law apply to any person represented in accordance with paragraph (a) of this article in respect of judgments or other enforceable instruments issued against them in their official capacity.
- c. The Department may delegate or confer powers upon whoever it deems fit from among advocates or legal consultants, or legal staff of the concerned Government Entity to manage the claims referred to in paragraph (a) of this article.

Dispute between Government Entities

Article (20)

- a. Without prejudice to the powers vested in the Department of Finance to settle financial transactions between Government Entities as set out in the above-mentioned Law No. (1) of 2016, the Department will have the jurisdiction to consider the complaints and disputes arising between Government Entities based on their respective legal positions; and to settle these disputes by means of a final resolution binding on the parties and issued in accordance with the rules and procedures adopted by the Department in this regard.
- b. A special judicial tribunal may be formed to settle disputes arising between Government Entities, or between them and companies wholly owned by the Government or by any other Government Entity. This tribunal must be formed by a decision of the Ruler based on the recommendation of the Department and on the approval of the Chairman of the Judicial Council of the Emirate.

Government Entity Disputes Under Mediation

Article (21)

A Government Entity must notify the Department of its disputes that are subject to mediation procedures before initiating these procedures. The Department will, upon request, provide the necessary legal support to the Government Entity.

Representation of Government Companies

Article (22)

The Department may, in consideration of the requirements of public interest and upon the request of companies owned by the Government or Government Entities or in which they hold shares, represent those companies in claims and disputes brought by or against them, within or outside the UAE, before Judicial Bodies, conciliation and arbitration bodies, tribunals, and centres, and the entities whose decisions are subject to appeal before Judicial Bodies through a special mechanism provided for by legislation. In such cases, the Department may delegate or confer powers upon whoever it deems fit from among advocates or legal consultants to represent those companies.

Conducting and Accepting Conciliation

Article (23)

A Government Entity may not conduct or accept any conciliation in respect of any Complaint, Claim, or enforcement proceedings being managed by the Department without first obtaining the relevant approval of the Department.

Representation in Criminal Reports and Claims

Article (24)

- a. The Department will represent Government Entities in initiating civil action during the evidence-gathering stage or investigation before the public prosecution or the court hearing the criminal proceedings, in accordance with the above-mentioned Federal Law by Decree No. (38) of 2022.
- b. The Department may, at its discretion and in consideration of the requirements of public interest, represent Government Entities in criminal reports filed by or against them.
- c. The Department may, at its discretion and in consideration of the requirements of public interest, represent any of the individuals referred to in paragraph (a) of Article (19) of this Law in criminal reports and proceedings arising by reason of or in the course of performing their employment duties, whether during their period of service or thereafter, in any of the following:
 1. criminal reports filed by or against them;
 2. criminal proceedings involving accusations or offences brought against them; or
 3. initiating civil action during the evidence-gathering stage or investigation before the public prosecution or the court hearing the criminal case, in accordance with the above-mentioned Federal Law by Decree No. (38) of 2022.
- d. In the cases referred to in this article, the Department may delegate or confer powers upon whoever it deems fit from among advocates or legal consultants, or legal staff of the concerned Government Entity to represent the Government Entities and the individuals referred to in paragraph (a) of Article (19) of this Law.

Claims Involving the Ruler, the Crown Prince, or the Deputy Ruler
Article (25)

- a. No claim whatsoever may be registered before a Judicial Body against the Ruler, the Crown Prince, or the Deputy Ruler without first obtaining the approval of the Ruler.
- b. An application to file a claim against the Ruler, the Crown Prince, or the Deputy Ruler will be submitted to the HHRC Director, stating the subject matter, details, and grounds of the application. The HHRC Director will present the application to the Ruler and, if approved, will notify the head of the Judicial Body for the purpose of informing the applicant to complete the necessary procedures in this regard.
- c. The claims against the Ruler, the Crown Prince, or the Deputy Ruler will be filed against the HHRC Director in his capacity as defendant or co-defendant. The claims on behalf of the Ruler, the Crown Prince, or the Deputy Ruler will be filed by the HHRC Director in his capacity as a claimant or co-claimant. The HHRC Director may, in all cases, depute the Department to represent him or delegate or confer powers upon any advocates or legal consultants for such representation.
- d. The claims, applications, and appeals filed by the HHRC Director under paragraph (c) of this article will not be subject to judicial fees prescribed by the applicable legislation in the Emirate, nor to any bonds or guarantees required for such claims, applications, and appeals.
- e. No debt or obligation may be recovered from the Ruler, the Crown Prince, or the Deputy Ruler by way of taking possession, seizure, sale by public auction, or acquisition by any other legal process of their property, funds, or assets, regardless of whether a final or definitive judgment or an arbitral award has been issued in respect of that debt or obligation.
- f. Execution circuits may not register any execution process for the purpose of enforcement of judgments or other enforceable instruments issued against the Ruler, the Crown Prince, or the Deputy Ruler; nor may they undertake any execution process in relation to such judgments or enforceable instruments, and any procedure to the contrary will be deemed null and void.
- g. The Director General will, upon the request of the judgment creditor, submit a certified copy of the final or definitive judgment, or any enforceable instrument issued against the Ruler, the Crown Prince, or the Deputy Ruler to the HHRC Director, who will present it to the Ruler for the purpose of ordering enforcement.
- h. Where the judgment creditor delays in submitting an application for enforcement of the final or definitive judgments or enforceable instruments referred to in paragraph (g) of this article

for more than sixty (60) days from the date on which the final or definitive judgment is issued or the enforceable instrument becomes final, the awarded legal interest will cease accruing for the period commencing from the expiry of the sixty (60) days and ending on the date on which the enforcement application is submitted.

- i. The HHRC Director may present to the Ruler any final or definitive judgment or enforceable instrument issued against the Ruler, the Crown Prince, or the Deputy Ruler to order their enforcement without following the procedure set out in paragraph (g) of this article. Where the judgment creditor has no specific address within the UAE, is outside of the UAE, or declines to receive the awarded amount, that amount will be deposited with the competent Judicial Body in accordance with its applicable procedures in this regard.

Effect of Procedural Non-Compliance

Article (26)

No Claim will be admissible before Judicial Bodies, or conciliation and arbitration bodies, tribunals, and centres, in case of failure to satisfy, or comply with, the procedures prescribed in this Law.

Charges, Fees, and Expenses

Article (27)

- a. In return for the services it provides under this Law, the Department will collect the charges approved under the applicable legislation.
- b. Government Entities and Government companies will bear all fees and expenses incurred by the Department in appointing advocates and legal consultants, in accordance with this Law.

Issuing Implementing Resolutions

Article (28)

The Director General will issue the resolutions required for the implementation of the provisions of this Law.

Supersession and Repeals

Article (29)

- a. This Law supersedes the following legislation:
 - 1. the above-mentioned Law No. (3) of 1996 Concerning Government Claims and its amendments;
 - 2. the above-mentioned Law No. (16) of 2006; and
 - 3. the above-mentioned Decree No. (11) of 2011.
- b. Any provision in any other legislation is hereby repealed to the extent that it contradicts the provisions of this Law.
- c. The resolutions and bylaws issued in implementation of the legislation mentioned in paragraph (a) of this article will continue in force, to the extent that they do not contradict the provisions of this Law, until new superseding resolutions and bylaws are issued.

Publication and Commencement

Article (30)

This Law will be published in the Official Gazette and will come into force on the day on which it is published².

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Ruler of Dubai

Issued in Dubai on 17 November 2025
Corresponding to 26 Jumada al-Ula 1447 A.H.

² The Law was published on 26 November 2025 in issue No. 749 of the Dubai Official Gazette.