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**Published on the website on May 2024**

**Legislative Decree No. (34) of 2022 amending Some Provisions of Legislative Decree No. (11) of 1995 regarding the Protection of the Artefacts**

We Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa King of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Having reviewed the Constitution, particularly Article (38) thereof;

Legislative Decree No. (11) of 1995 regarding the Protection of the Artefacts;

And Law No.(39) of 2009 regarding the Acquisition of Properties for the Public Benefit;

Upon the submission of the Prime Minister;

And after the approval of the Council of Ministers,

**Hereby Decree the following Law:**

**Article One**

The texts of Articles (1), (2), fourth paragraph (9), (31), (32) second paragraph, (33) paragraph (b) and (52) of Legislative Decree No.(11) of 1995 Regarding the Protection of the Artefacts shall be replaced with the following texts:

**Article (1):**

The competent authority established by a decree shall be responsible for supervising all matters related to the artefacts, particularly their preservation and protection in its museums, storage facilities, sites, archaeological and historical areas. It shall also be responsible for the discovery of artefacts located above the surface, excavation of those located underground, and within the territorial waters. It alone shall be responsible for determining the archaeological and historical nature of objects, sites, and buildings, assessing the significance of each artefact, and determining which artefacts shall be registered in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

**Article (2) Forth Paragraph:**

By a decision from the Prime Minister, based on the proposal of the head of the competent authority, any immovable or movable antiquity may be considered of historical or technical importance if it serves the national interest of the state in its preservation and maintenance. This may be done without adhering to the time limit specified in this Article.

**Article (9):**

The head of the competent authority may request the acquisition of any immovable artefact located within the lands of the Kingdom of Bahrain, along with the necessary properties for passage and improvement, in accordance with the provisions of Law No. (39) of 2009 regarding the Acquisition of Properties for the Public Benefit.

The head of the competent authority shall also have the right to acquire any movable artefact located within the Kingdom of Bahrain in exchange for compensation determined by the committee specified in Article (51) of this Law.

**Article (31):**

The competent authority shall notify the decision to register the privately owned immovable artefacts to the concerned authority responsible for property registration for annotation in the property register. The owners of such artefacts shall also be informed. The registration decision shall be published in the Official Gazette.

**Article (32) Second Paragraph:**

The compensation shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of Law No. (39) of 2009 regarding the Acquisition of Properties for the Public Benefit.

**Article (33) Paragraph (b):**

b- The acquisition of land or property is not permissible, except for adjacent lands, which may be acquired with the approval of the competent authority.

**Article (52):**

Employees authorized by the Minister concerned with Justice Affairs in agreement with the head of the competent authority shall have the status of judicial investigation officers for the crimes specified in this Law within their jurisdiction, related to their duties and functions.

Minutes drafted for these crimes shall be referred to the public prosecution by a decision of the head of the competent authority or his delegate.

**Article Two**

The phrase (Kingdom of Bahrain) shall replace the phrase (State of Bahrain) mentioned in Article (12) and the word (Bahrain) in Article (35), the phrase (the head of the competent authority) shall replace the phrase (the Minister of Information) mentioned in Article (19), the phrase (the head of the competent authority) shall replace the phrase (the Minister of Information) mentioned in Article (21) and the phrase (competent authority) shall replace the phrase (Ministry of Information) mentioned in Paragraph (e) of Article (33) of Legislative Decree No. (11) of 1995 regarding Protection of the Artefacts.

And the phrase (head of the competent authority) shall replace the phrase (Minister of Information) wherever it appears in the Articles of the mentioned law.

**Article Three**

The Prime Minister and the concerned Ministers - each within his jurisdiction - shall implement the provisions of this Law, and it shall come into force from the day following the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

**King of Kingdom of Bahrain**

**Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**

**Prime Minister**

**Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa**

Issued in Riffa Palace:

On: 23 Muharram 1444 A.H.

Corresponding to: 21 August 2022