

## Decision 294

Minister of Culture and National Guidance,

After examining Law of 1958 pertaining to the organization of the Ministry of Culture and National Guidance in the Syrian Region and the annexation of some public administrations to it, particularly item (2) of paragraph (e) of article 6 and articles 10 and 13,

Decreases the following:

### Chapter one

#### Department of Historical Documents

##### Article 1

The duties of the Directorate of Antiquities and Museums' Department of Historical Documents shall be as follows:

- a. Collect and keep all historical documents related to the history of the Syrian Region of the United Arab Republic in ancient and modern ages.
- b. Facilitate the access of researchers and historians to the said documents and study and publish these documents as instructed.

##### Article 2

The following duties shall be added to the duties of the management board of the Directorate of Antiquities and Museums and shall be part its jurisdictions:

- a. Classify the documents received from the ministries and public administrations and institutions in the Syrian Region as protected historical documents registered by virtue of a ministerial decision.
- b. Classify the documents possessed by groups, individuals and other as protected historical documents registered by virtue of a ministerial decision. The said groups or individuals shall submit the documents in their possession after being notified of their registration decision. These documents may be handed over for a price determined by the management board if necessary.
- c. Approve the publication of some historical documents and stipulate their publication method.
- d. Give opinion about the destruction of official documents related to the ministries and public administrations and institutions in the Syrian Region after examining the relevant report of the Department of Historical Documents.
- e. Approve the regulations adopted by the Department of Historical Documents to ensure the well progress of its work, the transfer the documents to it and the formulation the rules pertaining to the preservation and viewing of documents.

### **Article 3**

The core of the Department of Historical Documents' Archive Section shall consist of the following documents:

- a. Historical records received from the General Secretariat of the Executive Council's Leadership, which are the property of the former Presidency, Prime Ministry and Foreign Ministry of the Syrian Arab Republic.
- b. Historical records received from the General Secretariat of the Executive Council's Leadership and from the ministries and public Administration and institutions in the Syrian Region. The documents deemed secret and not for publishing shall be held in safekeeping by the said bodies.

### **Article 4**

The historical documents registered by virtue of a ministerial decision such as registered movable antiquities shall be subject to the provisions pertaining to movable antiquities stipulated in the Public Antiquities System issued by Decree 81 of 1964. Upon issuance of this Decision, the Department of Historical Documents shall contact all ministries and public administrations and institutions in the Syrian Region to receive all documents in their possession.

### **Article 5**

All historical documents deposited at the Department of Historical Documents shall be stamped with its official seal and may not be released from its headquarters without a decision issued by the management board. The said documents may be photographed or copied pursuant to the rules in force after payment of the legal fees.

## **Chapter two**

### **Directorate of the Institutes of Foreign Archeological Studies**

#### **Article 6**

The duties of this Directorate, as regards the institutes established by foreign or Arab cultural centers in the Syrian Region, shall be as follows for the purpose of contributing in the study of the archeological heritage, history and civilization of the Syrian Region.

#### **Article 7**

Examine the applications submitted by foreign cultural institutes and give opinion.

#### **Article 8**

Prepare the correspondences and petitions and grant the official licenses to these institutes by virtue of a ministerial decision based on a decision issued by the management board of the Directorate of Antiquities and Museums and on a proposal put forward by the General Director.

#### **Article 9**

Determine the duty, location and scope of work of each institute and the name of its manager and members and its licensing conditions, provided that these conditions are stated in the license itself.

#### **Article 10**

Cooperate with the director of licensed institutes of foreign archeological studies to develop their bylaws provided that they do not charge educational fees from the public and that the names of the bodies to which the property, furniture, books and money of these institutes shall be transferred in case of stoppage of work or permanent closure.

#### **Article 11**

Monitor the said institutions under the supervision of the General Director of Antiquities and Museums and verify their abidance by the regulations and licensing conditions and ensure that they adhere strictly to their determined duties, do not carry out any other activity inconsistent with these duties and that they do not interfere in the country's internal affairs.

#### **Article 12**

Accept a citizen from the Syrian Region who is specialized in archeological or historical studies as member of each institute, provided that the fees of that member are paid by the institute concerned.

#### **Article 13**

Contact the said institutes via the Directorate of Antiquities and Museums to assist them in conducting their archeological studies.

#### **Article 14**

Study the annual budget of each institute and submit a recent activity report at the end of every year to the Directorate of Antiquities and Museums.

#### **Article 15**

Propose the revocation of the license of any institute which ceases its activity without legitimate justification for three years or in case of any violation of the provisions of last paragraph of article 11 or in case of violation of the licensing conditions.

## Chapter three

### Guiding Subsection

#### Article 16

The name "Guiding Subsection" shall replace the name "Department of Guides and Translators" created at the Directorate of Antiquities and Museums. The duties of the Guiding Subsection shall be as follows:

#### Article 17

Cooperate with museum curators and with the Directorate of Antiquities and Museums' Department of Excavations and Studies to prepare simple and interesting brochures and films about museums and about the characteristics of historical buildings and archeological sites and circulate them to teachers, students and licensed tourist guides.

#### Article 18

Cooperate with the said department and all local and overseas tourism agencies to announce archeological discoveries and art activities conducted by the Directorate of Antiquities and Museums to the public via the written press and broadcast media.

#### Article 19

Formulate detailed museum programs for university and school students and the public to visit the country's museums and archeological sites and ensure that these visits are useful and interesting in agreement with museum curators and according to their instructions.

#### Article 20

Dedicate attention to protected archeological areas and museums, take part in their establishment, organize training programs for related works and estimate the funds that may be earmarked by the Directorate of Antiquities and Museum from its annual budget.

#### Article 21

Organize mobile archeological and art exhibitions in rural areas in cooperation with museum curators.

#### Article 22

Train licensed tourist guides, expand their archeological and cultural knowledge, enrich their information, monitor their conduct during visits with tourists to the country's museums and archeological sites and work in

partnership with the authorities concerned in examining candidate licensed guides.

### **Article 23**

Qualify guides and translators to be part of the personnel of the museums affiliated to the Directorate of Antiquities and Museums, lay down their appointment conditions, undertake their technical and steering supervision, expand their archeological and technical knowledge, enrich their information and monitor their conduct, progress and efficiency.

### **Article 24**

Prepare the messages broadcasted via the museum address system in many foreign languages to inform visitors about the museum's showpieces.

### **Article 25**

Dedicate special attention to official guests, cultural and art delegations, photographers and cinematographers from inside and outside the Syrian Region, prepare programs to visit historical buildings and archeological sites, provide tourist guides for them and facilitate their missions in coordination with the competent authorities.

### **Article 26**

Compile all statistics related to the activities of the Directorate of Antiquities and Museums and its departments.

## **Chapter four**

### **Job distribution**

### **Article 27**

Positions mentioned in table (2) attached to Law 107 of 1958 shall be distributed between the various administrations, departments and subsections of the Directorate of Antiquities and Museums as set forth in the attached table.

### **Article 28**

The General Director of Antiquities and Museums shall implement this decision, which shall enter into force as of date of its issuance and shall be published in the official gazette.

Damascus, 4/4/1965

Minister of Culture and National Guidance