

Arab Republic of Egypt

Ministry of Awqaf

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Public Facilities between Maximizing their Benefits and the Dangers of Trespassing

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, **“It was He who brought you into being from the earth and made you inhabit it.”** I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. May Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow their path to the Day of Judgment.

In fact, Islam is a religion of building, construction, righteousness and reformation. All Divine Messages came to promote these noble principles, as the Almighty Allah said, **“Moses said to his brother Aaron, ‘Take my place among my people: act rightly and do not follow the way of those who spread corruption.’”** Also, reporting the speech of Prophet Shu‘ayb, Allah said, **“I only want to put things right as far as I can. I cannot succeed without Allah’s help: I trust in Him, and always turn to Him.”**

Undoubtedly, preserving public facilities established by the state is a form of reformation that benefits the whole society. This is because the right to benefit from these facilities is not confined to a particular person or a specific group. Rather, it is the right of every person in the society. Thus,

as we all benefit from public facilities, we all must preserve them, and prevent the wrongdoers from doing any attempt to corrupt them.

Everyone who is entrusted to manage these public facilities must perform his work with sincerity and perfection, as our Prophet (PBUH) said, “Allah loves someone who when works, he performs it in perfect manner.” In addition, those using these facilities must do so in a way that does not cause any damage or corruption to them as the Prophet (PBUH) said, “There should be neither harming nor reciprocating harm.” In that way, cooperation is achieved between individuals in the society for the public interest as the Almighty Allah said, **“Help one another to do what is right and good; do not help one another towards sin and hostility.”**

Preserving public facilities is a religious, patriotic and human duty. It is not only about the preservation of these facilities. Rather, it is about working to maximize them and contribute to their development .our Prophet (PBUH) said, “Seven deeds of a servant continue to be rewarded after his death while he is in his grave: knowledge to be learned, constructing a canal, digging a well, planting a date-palm tree, building a Mosque, handing down a written copy of the Qur’an, and leaving a righteous child who seeks forgiveness for him after his death.” The phrase “constructing a canal” applies to any waterway. Thus, it is our duty to clean and expand waterways, not to do act of trespassing or infringement. The same thing applies to public roads which we must preserve, not to trespass or narrow them or throw waste in them.

Even if one is not able to maximize the benefit of these facilities, he can call others to do so, as our Prophet (PBUH) said, "Whoever calls to something good, he is like the one who does it." Even if he is not able to do so, he has to avoid corrupting them as the Almighty Allah said, "**Allah does not love the corrupters**" and "**Allah does not love corruption.**" Thus, we have to preserve these facilities and rationalize using them.

We affirm that all public facilities and properties such as institutions, schools, hospitals, roads, and means of transportation are entrusted to us to preserve, and we will be held accountable before Allah for this. Thus, it is not permissible to corrupt them with any way either by damaging or misusing them.

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; may Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his companions and followers: -

There is no doubt that preserving public facilities and avoiding misusing them are among the manifestations of goodness and the ways of success. Therefore, our Prophet (PBUH) stated that prevention of harm is one of the branches of faith as he (PBUH) said, "Faith has over seventy branches or over sixty branches, the uppermost of which is the declaration that there is no god but Allah, and the humblest of which is the removal of harmful objects from the road." He (PBUH) also said, "A true Muslim is the one from whose tongue and hands people are secure." The Prophet (PBUH)

also said, "I saw a person enjoying himself in Paradise because of the tree that he cut from the path which was a source of inconvenience to people." The Prophet (PBUH) also said, "You should restrain yourself from doing wrong to people, because it (serves as) charity which you bestow upon yourself."

How much we need to be aware of the importance of public facilities, and the necessity of preserving them through implanting a sense of religious and national responsibility to preserve our homeland, protect its capabilities and develop its resources, as the Almighty Allah says, **"For those who are conscious of Allah and live righteously, there will be no fear, nor will they grieve."**

O Allah, We ask You to protect Egypt and all other counties of the world!