



The Shura Council  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

# A Brief History

A nighttime photograph of a modern building with illuminated arches and a street lamp. The building has a contemporary design with large, illuminated arches and a central tower. The street lamp has three glowing lanterns. The scene is framed by a large, stylized archway.

1436 - 2015



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



King Abdulaziz ibn Abdulrahman Al-Saud  
-may Allah's mercy be upon him-

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## Introduction

Shura is an Islamic principle that stems legitimacy from the Holy Qur'an and the Noble Prophetic Sunnah; it is an approach that is connected with the Islamic Jurisprudence, in addition to being a deeply-rooted base that is largely accommodated in the spirits of individuals, as well as in the entity of the Muslim's community.

Shura can be defined as an exchange of opinions and views in a certain issue or topic, and the investigating of these opinions and views the people of authority and expertise,

in order to arrive to what is considered as true and best opinion. It aims at achieving the best results, as such opinions are generated from the essence of thought, experiment, efforts, research, knowledge, experience, in a way that copes with Sharia and does not contradict with the Qur'an and Sunnah.

Shura is a form of participation in the rule, that stems its roots from the fundamentals of Islam, and is one of the most religious principles on which the political system is based. It is not exclusive to the political system, as it handles all fields and addresses all levels, especially the social ones, and as such is considered as one of the Muslim features.

Shura has a great significance in any organization or group, as the Muslim State relies on it in achieving security and stability to its people. Thus, we find that it is one of the concepts that has instilled its roots in the Muslim's community, and has become a distinctive feature of the ruling system in Islam.





King Saud ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud  
-may Allah's mercy be upon him-

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Tracers of the history of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from the date of establishment, find that it is based on the principle of Shura. That continued without any intermittence since the era of its founder, King Abdulaziz ibn Abdulrahman Al Saud -may Allah's mercy be upon him-

The kingdom's experience in Shura is rich in the stages of the kingdom's development and practice, in addition to what it has witnessed in the development transitions throughout its history, to cope with the developments and the internal and external changes. Shura has passed through different stages since King Abdulaziz entered Makkah in 1343 A.H, during the kingdom's unification; he called for Shura at that time, and made it a main principle in his rule, to confirm the concept of consultation

according to the Islamic law, considering it a basis for an Islamic State that stems constitution from the Qur'an and Sunnah.

### **The First Phase:**

#### **The Consultative National Council 1343 A.H/1924 A.D**

The first elected council was on 24/05/1343 A.H, falling on 20/12/1924 A.D, and was called the Consultative National Shura Council.

It included (12) members. Since the construction of the Kingdom was not completed, this council was entrusted with drafting the basic laws for the administration of the country; there was no law to specify the functions of the council, which nevertheless lasted for six months.





King Faisal ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud  
-may Allah's mercy be upon him-

### The Second Phase:

#### The Consultative National Council 1343 A.H/1925 A.D

To expand the circle of participation, the previous council was dissolved, and a Sultanic decree was issued on 08/01/1344 A.H, falling on 28/07/1925 A.D to form a new elected council that represents the twelve districts of Makkah, and includes two scholars, and a member representing commerce, in addition to three members appointed by Sultan Abdulaziz from the distinguished citizens of Makkah.

This council was more organized than the previous one, because it had Vice Speaker and a secretary. The council was opened on Tuesday 13/01/1344 A.H - 02/08/1925 A.D.



The instructions of forming this council came in six articles that specified the qualifications of membership, the closing date for voting, and the eligible voters. These instructions were the source for the system of The Shura Council, which was formed later.





King Khalid ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud  
-may Allah's mercy be upon him-

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### The Third Phase:

#### The Shura Council 1345 A.H - 1926 A.D

On 21/02/1345 A.H - 29/08/1926 A.D, King Abdulaziz issued the approval of the new Basic Laws of the System of Governance, which included the Fourth Section that is mainly concerned with councils.



The instructions were concerned with The Consultative National Council, which was renamed as The Shura Council (Majlis Ash-Shura, in Arabic).

The instructions were also concerned with the formation of its members (12 members), determination of the convening of sessions, people eligible to attend the sessions, and the one-year membership.



**The Fourth Phase:****The Shura Council 1346 A.H - 1927 A.D**

Two days after the desolation of the previous council, (i.e, on 09/01/1346 A.H - 08/07/1927 A.D) a royal decree was issued to amend the Fourth Section of the Basic Law of Governance, which deals with The Shura Council.

The council works according to a new revised system, which was issued in fifteen articles, and consisted of 8 members who serve two-



year terms. According to the new law, the council should consist of four members elected by the government, after consultation with eminent experts, and four members appointed by the government. Two of them had to be residents of Najd region.

The council had to convene twice a week, and could convene more than that upon the request of its chairman, when necessary.

The year 1927 A.D is considered the actual founding date of The Shura Council, during the reign of King Abdulaziz who inaugurated the council's first session on Sunday 17/7/1927 A.D.





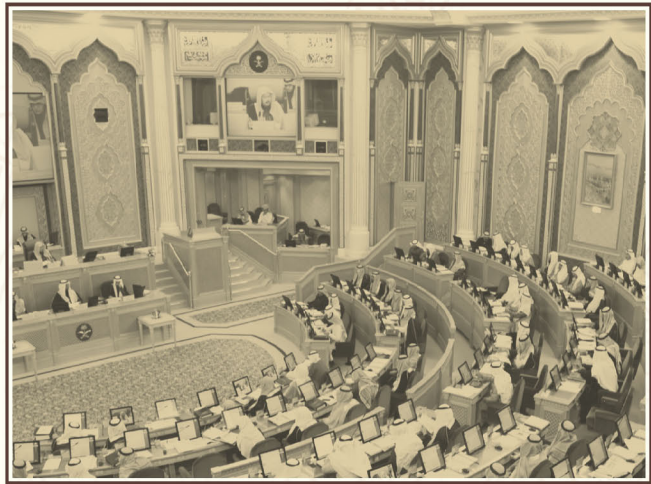
### The Fifth Phase:

#### The Shura Council in 1347 A.H - 1928 A.D.

The public interest necessitated some amendments on the law of this council, and thus an amended law was issued, and consisted of 14 articles. The amendments made on the law were as follows:

The number of the council members was increased to 12, instead of 8. The second Article indicated that a Permanent Vice Speaker for the council is to be appointed by the king, while a Second Vice Speaker is to be elected by the council. In addition, Article eight specified that the council sessions should be held every day instead of two sessions a week.

Later, after some amendments were made, an internal by-laws appendix for The Shura Council was issued, and came in 24 articles.



The council continued working under the above mentioned law without any amendments, and went on exercising wide jurisdictions until the foundation of The Council of Ministers in 1373 A.H - 1953 A.D, when many of the jurisdictions of The Shura Council were distributed between The Council of Ministers and other apparatuses of government which were developed according to their regulations. However, The Shura Council continued to hold sessions and discuss issues, referred to it in accordance with its regulations, though it was not to the level on which it used to be before.





King Fahd ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud  
-may Allah's mercy be upon him-

## Reconstitution of The Shura Council

In its new form, Shura in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is an apparatus to directly involve the citizen in the administration of the country's policies, planning for it, and following up the performance of its institutions. Free expression, freedom in conducting issues, constructive development, connection with issues related to the nation, and community have been achieved and practiced in The Shura Council. The council has achieved its goals and duties in an open way, strong presentation, objectivity of discussion, and the target of the higher interests of the kingdom and citizen.

There is no doubt that the issuance of the new form of The Shura Council (issued in 1412 A.H - 1992 A.D) represents a developmental transition that



cope with the ambitions of the leadership and citizen. Besides, the council continues to achieve more development and modernization in accordance with each phase and the change of events.





King Abdullah ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud  
-may Allah's mercy be upon him-

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There are great exerted efforts to establish the regulations that organize the functions of the committees and the council, and all procedural and organizational details, that can comprehensively ensure dealing with the raised issues, in a way that organizes the activities of the kingdom and the demands of the community.

On this basis, and through investigation of the basic law of governance, it can be observed that the system of The Shura Council stems its legislative frame from the Holy Qur'an and Sunnah, and its systematic frame from the basic system of the governance which was issued in 1412 A.H - 1992 A.D.

The eighth article of the basic law of governance states that governance in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is based on justice, Shura (consultation), and equality according to Islamic Sharia.

Article 68 of the same system states that "The Shura Council shall be established. Its Law shall specify the details of its forma-



tion, powers, and selection of members".

These two articles point out the importance of consultation in the administration of the country, and have left to its law, the formation of the council and the practice of functions.

As for the three authorities of the country, they are as they come in article 44 of the basic law of governance. They consist of the Judicial Authority, the Executive Authority, and the Regulatory Authority (legislative). The Shura Council is entitled with the regulatory authority, and is shared by The Council of Ministers, according to Article 67 of the basic law of governance. Besides, Article 68 has given the king the right to dissolve and reconstitute The Shura Council, a right that



The Shura Council was issued in 30 articles that specified its tasks, and the way of its formation. As for practicing duties, the law has left that to its internal regulations, as adopted by parliamentary councils. The Internal regulations of The Shura Council consist of 34 articles.

As the source of Shura is divine, and has not been defined by a specific means, the first article of the Law of The Shura Council stresses the consideration of consultation and its importance, according to the Holy Qur'an, and the Sunna (Traditions) of the Prophet (Peace be upon him), who is taken as an example of consultation with his companions. This is conditioned with the idea that the council is established, and practices its



duties, while preserving the connections of brotherhood and cooperation.

The main goal is achieving Shura without adopting one main system; in other words, the example applied in the kingdom is one of the various forms that are applied in other Muslim countries.



1. The National Council in 1343 A.H, Abdul Gadir Al-Shebi-Speaker.
2. The National Council in 1344 A.H, Mohammad Marzouqi-Speaker, and Abdul Gadir Al- Shebi, Vice Speaker.
3. The National Council in 1345 A.H, Prince Faisal ibn Abdulaziz, Speaker. This council lasted till 07/01/1346 A.H.
4. The National Council (1346 A.H-1400 A.H):
  - a. 1346 A.H/1927 A.D: Prince Faisal ibn Abdulaziz, Speaker.
  - b. 1347 A.H/1928 A.D-1929 A.D: Abdullah Fadl, 1<sup>st</sup> vice, and Saleh Shatta, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice.
  - c. 1351 A.H/1932 A.D-1933 A.D: Abdullah Fadl, 1<sup>st</sup> vice, and Ash-Shareef Sharaf Rida, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice.
  - d. 1353 A.H/1934 A.D-1935 A.D: Abdullah Fadl, 1<sup>st</sup> vice, and Abdullah Al-Shebi, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice.
  - e. 1355 A.H/1936 A.D-1937 A.D: Abdullah Fadl, 1<sup>st</sup> vice, and Saleh Shatta, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice.
  - f. 1369 A.H/1949 A.D-1950 A.D: Saleh Shatta, 1<sup>st</sup> vice, and Abdullah Al-Shebi, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice.
  - g. 1370 A.H/1950 A.D-1951 A.D: Abdullah Al-Shebi, a deputy minister and 2<sup>nd</sup> vice.
  - h. 1371 A.H/1951 A.D-1952 A.D: Ash-Shareef Sharaf Rida, 1<sup>st</sup> vice, and Ahmad Al-Ghazawi, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice.
  - i. 1373 A.H/1953 A.D-1954 A.D: Ahmad Al-Ghazawi, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice.
  - j. 1374 A.H/1954 A.D-1955 A.D: Ahmad Al-Ghazawi, a Deputy Minister and Vice Speaker.
  - k. 1384 A.H/1964 A.D-1965 A.D: King Faisal was given the charge of the kingdom, and his presidency of the council continued, and he gave the charge of the council's administration and chairing of sessions to his vices.
  - l. 1400-1401 A.H/1980 A.D-1981 A.D: Sadiq Abdullah Dahlan, Vice Speaker.



5. The modern Shura Council, in its first and second terms, his highness Sheikh Mohammad ibn Ibrahim ibn Jubair - Speaker, and his highness Dr. Abdullah ibn Omar Naseef, Vice Speaker.
6. The presidency of his highness Sheikh Mohammad ibn Ibrahim ibn Jubair continued in the third term of the council, and his highness Mr. Bakri ibn saleh Shatta was appointed as the Speaker's vice on 03/03/1422 A.H.
7. Sheikh Mohammad ibn Ibrahim ibn Jubair passed away on 10/11/1422 A.H-24/01/2002 A.D, and his highness Sheikh Dr. Saleh ibn Abdullah ibn Hameed was appointed as a Speaker of the council on 24/11/1422 A.H, with the continuation of his highness Bakri ibn saleh Shatta as Vice Speaker.
8. Nominating his highness Dr. Saleh ibn Saud Al-Ali, Vice Speaker of the council on 02/10/1424 A.H, and then an assistant of the council's Speaker on 03/03/1426 A.H till 06/03/1428 A.H.
9. Nominating his highness Engineer Mahmoud ibn Abdullah Tibah Vice Speaker of the council in the fourth term on 03/03/1426 A.H till his death - may Allah's mercy be upon him - on 13/07/1429 A.H.
10. Nominating his highness Dr. Abdul Rahman ibn Abdullah Al-Barrak an assistant of the council's Speaker from 29/04/1428 A.H.
11. Nominating his highness Dr. Bandar ibn Mohammad Hamza Hajjar Vice Speaker from 25/10/1429 A.H.
12. Nominating his highness Dr. Abdul Rahman ibn Abdullah Al-Barrak as Assistant Speaker from 29/04/1428 A.H.
13. Nominating his highness Dr. Mohammad Amin Al-Jafri Vice Speaker of the council from 18/01/1433 A.H.
14. Nominating his highness Dr. Fahhad ibn Mu'tad Al-Hamad as Assistant Speaker from 18/01/1433 A.H.
15. The presidency of his highness Sheikh Dr. Sheikh Abdullah ibn Mohammad ibn Ibrahim Al-Sheikh in the council's sixth term which started on 03/03/1434 A.H.



## The Shura Council Speakers and their Vices and Assistants from 1346 A.H - 1436 A.H



King Faisal  
(may Allah's mercy be upon him)



Abdullah Al-Fadl  
(may Allah's mercy be upon him)



Saleh Shatta  
(may Allah's mercy be upon him)



Abdullah Al-Sahibi  
(may Allah's mercy be upon him)



Ahmad Al-Ghazawi  
(may Allah's mercy be upon him)



Sadiq Dahlan  
(may Allah's mercy be upon him)



Mohammad ibn Jubair  
(may Allah's mercy be upon him)



Dr. Abdullah Naseef



Bakri Shatta



Dr. Saleh ibn Hameed



Eng. Mahoud Tibah  
(may Allah's mercy be upon him)



Dr. Saleh Al Ali



Dr. Abdullah Al Ash-Sheikh



Dr. Bandar Hajjar



Dr. Mohammad Amin Al-Jafri



Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Barrak



Dr. Fahhad Al-Hamad



Dr. Yahya Abdullah Al-Sam'an

## Secretaries General from 1414 A.H-1436 A.H

1. His highness Dr. Hmoud ibn Abdulaziz Al-Badr, the Secretary General of the council from 26/12/1414 A.H-02/03/1426 A.H.
2. His highness Dr. Saleh ibn Abdullah Al-Malik from 03/03/1426 A.H till his death (may Allah's mercy be upon him) on 22/05/1429 A.H.
3. His highness Dr. Mohammad ibn Abdullah Al-Ghamdi, the Secretary General of the council from 10/06/1429 A.H.
4. His highness Dr. Mohammad ibn Abdullah Al-Amr, the Secretary General of the council from 25/06/1433 A.H.



Hmoud Al-Badr



Dr. Saleh Al-Malik  
(may Allah's mercy be upon him)



Dr. Mohammad Al-Ghamdi



Dr. Mohammad ibn Abdullah Al-Amr











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