

**THE AZAD JAMMU & KASHMIR URBAN IMMOVABLE  
PROPERTY TAX ORDINANCE, 1973**

**(ORDINANCE I OF 1973)**

Muzaffarabad the 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 1973.

No. 349/SL/73. The following Ordinance made by the President on the 6th February, 1973, is hereby published for general information:-

An Ordinance to provide the law relating to the levy of tax on Urban immovable property in the Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Whereas it is expedient to provide legislation relating to the levy of tax on Urban Immovable property in the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Territory;

And whereas the Legislative Assembly is not in session and the President is satisfied that the circumstances exist which render immediate legislation necessary;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 24 of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Government Act, 1970 and all powers enabling him in that behalf the President is pleased to make and promulgate the following Ordinance:-

1. **Short title, extent and commencement:-** (1) This Ordinance may be called the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Urban Immovable Property Tax Ordinance, 1973.
  - (2) It shall extend to the whole of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir.
  - (3) It shall come into force at once.
2. **Definitions:-** In this Ordinance unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions shall have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say:
  - (a) 'assessing authority' means the assessing authority constituted under this Ordinance;
  - (b) 'Collector' means an officer appointed by Government by name, or by virtue of his office to discharge the functions and

to perform the duties of a Collector under this Ordinance in any specified area;

(c) 'Commissioner' means an officer appointed by name, or by virtue of his office, to discharge the functions and to perform the duties of a Commissioner under this Ordinance in any specified area;

(d) 'Government' means the Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

(e) 'Member of the family of the owner' means:-

(i) Wife or husband, as the case may be; and

(ii) sons and daughters; and dependent children of the owner;

(f) 'owner' includes a mortgagee with possession, a lessee in perpetuity, a trustee having possession of a trust property and a person to whom an evacuee property has been allotted under the Rehabilitation Act, 1956;

(g) 'prescribed' means prescribed by rules made under this Ordinance;

(h) 'rating area' means urban area where tax is levied under the provisions of this Ordinance;

(i) 'tax' means the tax leviable under the provisions of Section 3; and

(j) 'urban area' means an area within the boundaries of a Municipal Corporation, Municipal Committee, Cantonment Board, Small Town Committee, or other authority (not being a District Board) legally entitled to, or entrusted by Government with the Control or management of a municipal or a local fund;

3. **Levy of Tax.-** (1) Government may by notification specify urban areas where tax shall be levied under this Ordinance:

Provided that one urban area may be divided into two or more rating areas or several urban areas may be grouped as one rating area.

(2) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (3) and (4) there shall be charged, levied and paid a tax on annual value of buildings and lands in a rating area at the following scales:-

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|-------|--|---|
| (i)   | in case the annual value exceeds two hundred and seventy rupees but does not exceed six thousand rupees. | Fifteen percent of the annual value.              |
| (ii)  | In case the annual value exceeds six thousand rupees but does not exceed twelve thousand rupees.         | Seventeen and a half percent of the annual value. |
| (iii) | In case the annual value exceeds twelve thousand rupees but does not exceed twenty thousand rupees.      | Twenty percent of the annual value.               |
| (iv)  | In case the annual value exceeds twenty thousand rupees.   | Twenty five percent of the annual value.          |

(3) Where a building is occupied for residential purposes by the owner himself and if such owners or any member of his family does not own other building in that rating area, he shall be allowed a deduction from the annual value at the following rates:-

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|------|--|---|
| (i)  | In case the building is situated in a first class Municipal Committee. | Four hundred and eighty six rupees.     |
| (ii) | In case the building is situated in any other urban area.              | Three hundred and seventy eight rupees. |

(4) Government may, by notification, for reasons to be recorded remit in whole or in part, the payment of the tax by any class of persons in respect of any category of property.

**Explanation:** The annual value for the purpose of this section shall be the aggregate annual value of all buildings and lands owned by the same person in a rating area.

(5) The tax shall be due from the owner of building and lands.

3A. **Share of Municipal Committee and Town Committee in the tax:-** Out of the tax collected under the Ordinance from within the limits of a Municipal Committee or a Town Committee, the Government shall after retaining five percent thereof as collection charges, pay forty percent of the balance to such Municipal Committee or Town Committee, as the case may be;

4. **Exemption:-** The tax shall not be leviable in respect of the following properties, namely:-

(a) buildings and lands other than those leased in perpetuity:

(i) vesting in Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and not administered by a local authority;

(ii) owned or administered by a local authority when used exclusively for public purposes and not used or intended to be used for purposes of profits;

(b) (i) building and lands the annual value of which does not exceed two hundred and sixteen rupees; or

(ii) one building occupied by an owner for his residence the annual value of which:

(1) does not exceed six hundred and forty eight rupees in the rating areas of a municipality of the first class; or

(2) does not exceed three hundred and seventy-eight rupees in other rating areas, subject to the condition that the owner or any member of his family does not own any other property in that rating area and such other conditions as may be prescribed:

Provided that if such building or land is in the ownership of a person who owns any other building or land in the same rating area, the annual value of such building or land shall, for the purposes of this

clause, be deemed to be the aggregate annual value of all buildings or lands owned by him in that area;

(c) building and lands or portions thereof used exclusively for educational purposes including schools boarding houses, hostels and libraries;

(d) public parks and playgrounds;

(e) buildings and lands or portions thereof used exclusively for public workshop or public charity including mosques, churches, dharmshalas, gurdwaras, hospitals, dispensaries, orphanages, alms houses, drinking water, fountains, infirmaries for the treatment and care of animals and public or burning grounds or other places for the disposal of the dead:

Provided that the following buildings and lands or portions thereof shall not be deemed to be used exclusively for public worship or for public charity within the meaning of this section, namely: -

(i) buildings in or land on which any trade or business is carried on unless the rent derived from such buildings or lands is applied exclusively to religious purposes or such public charitable institutions as may be;

(ii) buildings or lands in respect of which rent is derived, and such rent is not applied exclusively to religious purposes or to public charitable institutions; and

(f) building and lands the annual value of which does not exceed one thousand rupees, belonging to widows and minor orphans.

5. **Ascertainment of annual value:-** The annual value of any land or building shall be ascertained by estimating the gross annual rent at which such land or building together with its appurtenances and any furniture that may be left for use or enjoyment with such building might reasonably be expected to be left from year to year, unless:-

(a) any allowance not exceeding twenty per centum of the gross annual rent may consider reasonable rent for the furniture lent with any such building;

(b) an allowance of ten percent for the cost of repairs and for all other expenses necessary to maintain such building in a state to command such gross annual rent. Such deduction shall be calculated on the gross annual rent after the deduction, if any, under clause (a); and

(c) any land revenue actually paid in respect of such building or land:

Provided that in calculating the annual value of any building or land under this section the value of any machinery in such building or any such land shall be excluded.

6. **Assessing authority:-** (1) There shall be an assessing authority for every rating area.

(2) The assessing authority shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as are conferred on it by this Ordinance or the rules made there under.

7. **Making and operation of valuation lists:-** (1) A valuation list shall be made by the prescribed authority in accordance with the rules framed under this Ordinance for every rating area so as to come into force either on the first day of the July or first day of January, and thereafter a new valuation list shall be made from time to time so that the interval between the dates on which one valuation list and the next succeeding valuation list respectively come into force shall be a period of five years:

Provided that Government may by order:-

(a) reduce by a period not exceeding one year or extend by a period not exceeding three years the interval which would otherwise elapse between the coming into force of any two successive valuation lists for any rating area or, where a valuation list has been lost or destroyed by operation of circumstances beyond control, cancel the list, direct the preparation of new list and order recovery of pending tax to be made on the basis either of the last preceding valuation list or of the new list prepared under this proviso; and

(b) divide any rating area into parts for the purposes of a new valuation list and determine the years in which the next following valuation list for each of such parts respectively shall be made and come into force.

(2) Subject to the provisions of any such order as aforesaid, every valuation list shall come into force on the first day of July or the first day of January as the case may be, next following the date on which it is finally approved by the assessing authority and shall, subject to the provisions of this Ordinance and the rules made there under (including the provisions with respect to the alteration of and the making of additions to the valuation list) remain in force until it is superseded by a new valuation list.

8. **Draft valuation list:-** (1) Where the assessing authority for any area has issued notices requiring returns in connection with the making of a new valuation list, the said authority shall as soon as may be after the expiration of the period allowed for the delivery of the returns, cause a draft valuation list to be prepared for the area and published in such manner as may be prescribed.

(2) Any person aggrieved by any entry in the draft valuation list, or by the insertion therein or omission there from of any matter, or otherwise with respect to the list, in accordance with the rules made under this Ordinance lodge an objection with the assessing authority at any time before the expiration of thirty days from the date on which the draft valuation list is published.

9. **Amendment of current valuation list:-** Subject to such rules, if any, as the Government may think fit to make in this behalf, the assessing authority may at any time make such amendments in a valuation list as appear to it to be necessary in order to bring list into accord with existing circumstances and in particular may:

(a) correct any clerical or arithmetical error in the list;

(b) correct any erroneous insertion or omission or any misdescription:

(c) make such additions to or corrections in the list as appear to the authority to be necessary by reason of:-

(i) a new building being erected after the completion of the valuation list;

(ii) a building included in the valuation list being destroyed or substantially damaged or altered since its value was last previously determined;

(iii) any change in the ownership or use of any building or land:

Provided that not less than fourteen days before making any such amendment in the valuation list for the time being in force, other than the correction of a clerical or arithmetical error, or the correction of an erroneous insertion, omission or misdescription, the assessing authority shall send notice of the proposed amendment to the owner of the building or land and shall also consider any objection thereto which may be made by him.

10. **Appeal and Revision:-** (1) Any person aggrieved by an order of the appropriate authority upon an objection made before that authority under sections 8, 9, or 15 may appeal against such order at any time before the expiration of thirty days from the date of such order, to the Collector or to such other officer as the Government may, by notification, appoint in this behalf.

(2) The Commissioner or such other officer as may be appointed by the Government by notification in this behalf may of his own motion at any time or on application made within a period of one year from the date of the taking of any proceedings or passing of any order by an authority subordinate to the Commissioner call for and examine the record of the proceedings or the order for the purpose of satisfying himself as to the legality or propriety of the same and may pass such order in reference thereto as he may consider fit.

11. **Tax to be levied notwithstanding appeal:-** The tax shall be levied in accordance with the valuation list in force for the time being and shall be collected and be recoverable notwithstanding any appeal which may be pending with respect to that list.

12. **Tax when payable:-** The tax shall be payable half yearly by such dates as may be prescribed:

Provided that in respect of a rating area which is a hill station, Government may direct that tax shall be recovered in one yearly installment.

13. **Collection of tax:-** The tax shall be paid to such person or authority and in the such manner as the Government may prescribe.

14. **Recovery of tax from tenants:-** Where the tax due from any person on account of any building or land is in arrears, it shall be lawful for the prescribed authority to serve upon any person

paying rent in respect of that building or land, or any part thereof, to the person from whom the arrears are due, a notice stating the amount of such arrears of tax and requiring all future payments of rent (whether the same have already accrued due or not) by the person paying the rent to be made direct to the prescribed authority until such arrears shall have been duly paid, and such notice shall operate to transfer to the prescribed authority the right to recover, receive and give a discharge for such rent; If the person paying rent willfully fails or neglects to comply with the notice aforementioned, the prescribed authority may, after giving him an opportunity of being heard, proceed against him as it would have proceeded under the provisions of this Ordinance against the owner of the building or land in respect of which the tax is in arrears.

15. **Penalty for default in payment:-** (1) If any person on being served with such notice as may be prescribed falls to pay within the period specified in the notice any amount due from him on account of the tax, the prescribed authority may recover from him as penalty a sum not exceeding the amount of the tax so unpaid in addition to the amount of the tax payable by him.

(2) No such penalty shall be imposed unless the prescribed authority is satisfied that the person liable to pay the tax has willfully failed to pay the same,

16. **Recovery of unpaid dues;-** (1) If any sum due on account of the tax levied under section 3 or as a penalty imposed under this Ordinance is not paid within the time allowed for its payment and the person from whom it is due does not show cause to the satisfaction of the Collector or any other person authorised by him why he should not pay the same. Such sum (inclusive of all costs of recovery) may be recovered under a warrant in the prescribed form or in a form to the like effect to be signed by the Collector:-

- (i) by distress or sale of the movable property belonging to such person; or
- (ii) by attachment and sale of the immovable property belonging to him.

The warrant may be addressed to an officer of the Excise and Taxation Department for execution and in executing it he may

obtain such assistance from other servants of the Department as he may consider necessary;

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), any sum on account of the tax levied or penalty imposed under this Ordinance remaining unrecovered shall be recoverable as arrears of land revenue.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in any law and notwithstanding any rights arising out of any contract or otherwise whatsoever, any sum due on account of the tax levied under section 3 or as a penalty imposed under this Ordinance in respect of any building or land, shall, subject to the prior payment of the land revenues, if any, found within or upon such building or land and belonging to the person liable for such tax or penalty.

17. **Remuneration of local authority:-** When the tax is collected by any local authority such local authority shall be entitled to such remuneration on account of the cost of collection as may be prescribed.

18. **Powers of assessing authority to require returns for valuation list:-** (1) In every case where a new valuation list is intended to be made for any rating area, the assessing authority shall give public notice of such intention in such manner as may be prescribed and may serve a notice on the owner, occupier or lessee of any building or land in the said area, or on any one of them, requiring him, or them, to make a return containing such particulars as may be prescribed.

(2) Every person on whom a notice to make a return is served in pursuance of the provisions of this section shall, within thirty days of the date of the service of the notice make a return in such form as is required to the assessing authority.

(3) If any person on whom such notice has been served fails within the required period to submit such return, the assessing authority may proceed to value such property in such manner as it deems fit.

19. **Powers of assessing authority to require returns at any time:-** If the assessing authority at any time desire any person, who is the owner, lessee or occupier of any building or land wholly or partly within the rating area, to make a return with respect to any

of the matters regarding which a return may be prescribed, it may serve a notice on that person requiring the return, and that person shall within thirty days from the service of the notice send the required return to the assessing authority:

Provided that the assessing authority may, in the discretion, extend the period for the delivery of any such return:

20. **Valuation list not to be rendered invalid by certain failures or omission:-** Any failure on the part of the assessing authority to complete any proceedings with respect to the preparation of a valuation list within the time required by this Ordinance or the rules made there under, or the omission from a valuation list of any matters required by the rules to be included therein shall not, of itself, render the list invalid.
21. **Assessing authorities officers and servants to be deemed public servants:-** Every assessing authority, and every officer working under the orders of such authority for the purposes of this Ordinance, shall be deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of section 21 of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Penal Code.
22. **Exclusion of jurisdiction of civil Courts:-** No civil court shall have jurisdiction in any matter which the Government or an assessing authority or any officer or servant is empowered by this Ordinance or the rules made thereunder to dispose of, or take cognizance of the manner in which the Government, or any assessing authority, or servant exercise any powers vested in it or him by or under this Ordinance or the rules made thereunder.
23. **Power to make rules:-** (1) The Government may make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Ordinance.  
  
(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions such rules may provide for any or all of the following matters, namely:
  - (a) the appointment, powers and duties of assessing authority;
  - (b) the placing of identification marks on, and entry into or upon, any building or land;
  - (c) the preparation and publication of valuation lists, including publication and inspection of drafts valuation lists, notices of

objections and hearing of objections, and other matters incidental thereto;

- (d) the practice and procedure to be followed on and in connection with appeal, including:-
  - (i) notices of appeal:
  - (ii) prescription of scales of costs;
  - (iii) prescription of fees to be charged in connection with appeals;
- (e) the prescription of the form of any notice, valuation list, statement, return, or other document whatsoever which is required or authorised to be used under or for the purposes of this Ordinance;
- (f) the mode of service of any notices, order or document required or authorised to be served.
- (g) the inspection and taking copies of and extracts from any draft valuation list, valuation list notice of objections, proposal for amendment to the valuation list, notice of appeal, valuation made by valuer, and fees for such inspection or copies;
- (h) the appointment of valuers to advise or assist in connection with the valuation of buildings or lands and their powers and duties;
  - (i) the time at and the manner in which the amount of tax shall be paid to the Government;
- (j) the portion of the tax to be refunded or remitted and the manner in which and the conditions subject to which such refund or remission may be granted;
- (k) the prescription of fees to be charged in connection with any application made under this Ordinance or the rules made thereunder;
- (l) any matter which is required by this Ordinance to be prescribed.

(3) In making any rules under sub-section (1) and (2) Government may direct that the prescribed authority may impose a penalty not exceeding two hundred rupees on a person who is guilty of a breach of the provisions thereof.

(4) Rules made under this section shall be laid before the Assembly of Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir as soon as may be after they are made,

Sd/- (Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan)  
President,  
Azad Government of the State of  
Jammu and Kashmir

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Sd/- (Malik Mohammad Aslam Khan)  
Secretary Law,  
Azad Government of the State of  
Jammu and Kashmir

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