

Security Performance Governance in the UAE Ministry of Interior from an Islamic Perspective

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the governance of security performance in the UAE Ministry of Interior from an Islamic perspective. It does so by outlining the theoretical foundations of governance and security performance and linking them to the Sharia objectives governing the exercise of power. The study employs a descriptive-analytical approach, drawing on relevant administrative, security, and jurisprudential literature to analyze the extent to which institutional security governance practices align with the principles of integrity, justice, responsibility, accountability, and the achievement of the public interest. The study concludes that security performance governance is an institutional necessity for regulating the use of powers, enhancing the efficiency of security operations, and strengthening public trust. The results also demonstrate that the UAE's experience in security performance governance is based on strategic planning, institutional oversight, digital transformation, and human resource development, which are fundamentally consistent with the Islamic perspective, provided they adhere to the principles of justice and the preservation of human dignity. The study affirms that the integration of modern governance with Sharia objectives constitutes an effective approach to achieving sustainable and balanced security.

Keywords: Security Performance Governance, Corporate Governance, Community Security, Sharia Objectives, Islamic Perspective, Accountability and Transparency

Introduction

Institutional governance has emerged as a central concept in contemporary administrative and legal scholarship due to its pivotal role in enhancing institutional efficiency, consolidating transparency and accountability, and ensuring the prudent exercise of authority and management of resources. In light of the rapid transformations experienced by modern societies, there is a growing need to develop specialized governance models tailored to the specific nature of each sector, particularly the security sector, which is among the most sensitive and significant domains because of its direct responsibility for maintaining public order, safeguarding societal security, and protecting lives and property.

The governance of security performance occupies a distinctive position within security institutions, where legal, administrative, and ethical dimensions intersect with requirements of efficiency, preparedness, and rapid response. This intersection necessitates clear frameworks to regulate performance, guide security decision making, prevent abuse of power, and maintain a balance between security imperatives and respect for human rights. Accordingly, security governance is no longer a discretionary administrative option but a strategic necessity for ensuring institutional sustainability and strengthening public trust in security agencies.

From another perspective, the Islamic worldview offers a comprehensive normative and legal framework for governing authority and performance. It is grounded in enduring principles such as trust, justice, responsibility, accountability, the realization of public interest, and the prevention of harm. Islam accords particular importance to security, considering it one of the essential objectives of the Shariah due to its direct connection to the protection of life, religion, property, and honor. Thus, security governance in Islamic thought constitutes a legal and ethical obligation rather than a mere administrative procedure.

Against this background, the present study examines the governance of security performance in the Ministry of Interior of the United Arab Emirates from an Islamic perspective. It analyzes the theoretical foundations of security performance governance, clarifies the Shariah based principles that regulate the exercise of security authority in Islam, and evaluates the extent to which the UAE Ministry of Interior embodies governance principles in its security performance in alignment with Islamic values and objectives. The study also highlights the distinctiveness of the Emirati experience in managing security affairs and addresses the contemporary challenges it faces, offering an analytical perspective aimed at strengthening the integration between institutional efficiency and normative values in security governance.

The Concept of Governance

Governance is a relatively recent concept in contemporary administrative and organizational literature, although its intellectual roots extend to earlier efforts to regulate the relationship between authority and responsibility and to structure decision making processes within institutions in a manner that ensures efficiency and justice. Interest in governance has intensified in recent decades in response to financial and administrative crises, increasing societal demands for transparency and accountability, and the pursuit of improved institutional performance in both public and private sectors.

Linguistically derived from the notion of rule or judgment, governance conveys meanings of regulation, restraint, and sound administration. Terminologically, despite variations in definition across contexts, governance is generally understood as a comprehensive framework of rules, relationships, and mechanisms through which institutions are directed and controlled. It encompasses the system of laws, regulations, and processes that ensure a balance among stakeholders' interests while promoting efficiency, transparency, and accountability.

Within the public sector, governance refers to the manner in which authority is exercised in managing public resources, formulating and implementing policies, and monitoring performance to achieve sustainable development and safeguard societal rights. It extends

beyond organizational structures to include the values guiding decision making, such as integrity, justice, transparency, rule of law, and accountability. These values are particularly critical in sovereign sectors endowed with broad powers and significant influence over individuals' lives.

Governance is also viewed as an interactive system involving leadership, executive management, oversight bodies, and stakeholders. It is characterized by a clear distribution of powers and responsibilities, the prevention of excessive concentration of authority, and the promotion of institutional work governed by procedures and controls. In this sense, governance functions as a preventive mechanism that mitigates corruption, enhances decision quality, and improves institutional performance. Importantly, governance focuses not only on outcomes but also on the processes through which those outcomes are achieved, thereby serving as a strategic approach to institutional reform, sustainability, and the reinforcement of public trust.

The Concept of Security Performance

Security performance constitutes a central concept in security studies and public administration due to its direct relevance to a state's capacity to maintain public order, ensure societal stability, protect lives and property, and uphold the rule of law. The concept has evolved in parallel with changing security threats and the transformation of security work from a traditional model based primarily on deterrence and force to a modern institutional model emphasizing prevention, service quality, and community trust.

Conceptually, security performance refers to the level of efficiency and effectiveness with which security institutions carry out their assigned duties and powers in order to achieve defined security objectives, ensure appropriate and timely responses to risks and threats, and operate within the framework of legal legitimacy and respect for human rights. It encompasses not merely the execution of procedures but the attainment of meaningful results.

In the context of public administration, security performance represents the aggregate of security activities and operations undertaken by competent agencies and their capacity to prevent and control crime, manage crises, and achieve societal security with professionalism and competence. It therefore includes both preventive and reactive dimensions.

Security performance is not confined to operational indicators such as response time or number of cases handled. It also includes organizational, ethical, and legal dimensions, including compliance with laws and regulations, efficient resource utilization, professional competence, institutional discipline, and appropriate public engagement. Modern approaches distinguish between traditional performance measurement based on quantitative outputs and contemporary institutional models that incorporate qualitative indicators such as service quality, public trust, institutional readiness, and risk management. Effective security performance thus requires strategic planning, inter institutional coordination, and sustained investment in human capital and technology, reflecting institutional maturity and commitment to legal and ethical standards.

Shariah Foundations of Governance in Islam

Governance in Islam rests upon an integrated system of Shariah based principles designed to regulate the exercise of authority, rationalize decision making, ensure justice, and safeguard the interests of individuals and society. In Islamic thought, governance is not merely an administrative construct but a legal and ethical commitment governing the relationship between ruler and ruled, institution and society, and authority and responsibility.

The principle of trust represents one of the most fundamental foundations. Authority is regarded as a trust for which the holder is accountable, not a personal privilege or an opportunity for domination. Trust encompasses responsibility in decision making, protection of rights, and avoidance of abuse of power. Closely linked to this is the principle of justice, which constitutes a cornerstone of governance in Islam. Justice requires equality before the law, impartial application of rules, and a balanced distribution of rights and duties. It is both a moral imperative and a practical condition for legitimacy and stability.

Accountability and responsibility are equally central. Every individual entrusted with public authority is answerable for his or her actions, both before God and before society. Accountability functions as a mechanism for performance regulation, error correction, and institutional reform, extending beyond punitive measures to include evaluation and guidance.

The principle of consultation further enriches Islamic governance. Consultation embodies participatory decision making, collective deliberation, and avoidance of arbitrary rule. It enhances decision quality and aligns with contemporary notions of participatory governance. Finally, the realization of public interest and prevention of harm provide a purposive framework for evaluating policies and decisions, particularly in sensitive sectors. These foundations collectively establish a comprehensive normative and organizational framework characterized by justice, trust, responsibility, participation, and commitment to the common good.

Security Governance between Maqasid Al Shariah and Institutional Performance

Security governance is inherently complex because it involves the exercise of legitimate force and the protection of public order. It therefore requires regulatory and ethical safeguards to ensure that security objectives are achieved without infringing upon human dignity and rights. From an Islamic perspective, security is a means to realizing the higher objectives of the Shariah rather than an end in itself.

Security contributes directly to the preservation of the essential values recognized in Islamic jurisprudence, namely religion, life, intellect, property, and honor. The protection of life highlights the central role of security institutions in preventing aggression and safeguarding individuals. Similarly, combating economic crimes protects property, while preventing violations and abuse safeguards honor and dignity.

The integration of Shariah objectives with institutional performance requires adherence to the principle of proportionality. Security authority must be exercised within the bounds of necessity, aiming to achieve legitimate objectives while minimizing harm and respecting

human dignity. This approach corresponds to modern governance principles emphasizing rule of law and accountability.

Institutionally, effective security governance demands clear regulatory frameworks that define powers, allocate responsibilities, and subject security decisions to institutional oversight rather than individual discretion. Such structuring prevents injustice, reduces errors, and promotes procedural fairness. Public trust emerges as a critical condition for sustainable security, since lasting stability depends not solely on coercive capacity but also on transparency, professionalism, respect for rights, and constructive engagement with the community.

Governance of Security Performance in the UAE Ministry Of Interior

The Ministry of Interior of the United Arab Emirates represents a sovereign institution that has played a central role in consolidating security and stability within a comprehensive institutional vision grounded in continuous development and the adoption of modern management principles, including security performance governance.

Security performance governance within the Ministry is anchored in a clear strategic framework that aligns security objectives with the national vision of the state. Strategic planning, measurable performance indicators, and periodic evaluation mechanisms constitute key governance tools. These instruments enhance efficiency, reduce arbitrariness, and ensure that security operations are guided by institutional standards rather than individual discretion.

The Ministry employs an integrated system of institutional oversight, including internal control, administrative inspection, and continuous performance evaluation. These mechanisms ensure compliance with laws and regulations, reinforce accountability, and regulate the exercise of security powers in a manner consistent with procedural justice and good governance standards.

Digital transformation constitutes another cornerstone of governance within the Ministry. The adoption of smart systems, integrated databases, and advanced technologies has enhanced operational efficiency, improved response times, strengthened data driven decision making, and promoted procedural transparency. By reducing excessive human intervention in sensitive processes, digital systems support institutional integrity and minimize errors.

Human capital development also occupies a central place in the governance framework. Continuous training, professional qualification, and the cultivation of discipline and responsibility among security personnel are recognized as essential for ensuring sound performance and adherence to legal and ethical standards.

Moreover, the Ministry emphasizes community partnership as part of a broader conception of societal security. By fostering cooperation with the public and strengthening mutual trust, the Ministry advances a preventive and service oriented model of security aligned with sustainable development principles.

In conclusion, the governance of security performance in the UAE Ministry of Interior reflects an integrated institutional model combining strategic planning, oversight, digital innovation, human resource development, and community engagement. When examined through an Islamic perspective, this model demonstrates significant compatibility with Shariah principles emphasizing justice, trust, accountability, and the realization of public interest. Such integration contributes to effective and legitimate security governance that safeguards stability while upholding ethical and legal standards.

The Extent of Compatibility between Security Performance Governance and the Islamic Perspective

Assessing the extent to which security performance governance aligns with the Islamic perspective constitutes a fundamental step in understanding the relationship between contemporary institutional practices and the Shariah based values governing the exercise of authority. From an Islamic standpoint, security is not viewed as a purely administrative function but as a legitimate objective and a social necessity, the practice of which is regulated by ethical and legal constraints aimed at achieving justice and safeguarding human dignity. Accordingly, compatibility is measured not solely by operational efficiency but by adherence to these normative principles.

This compatibility becomes evident when security authority is exercised within the framework of trust and responsibility. Powers granted to security institutions are regarded in Islamic thought as a trust that requires integrity, sound judgment, and the avoidance of arbitrariness. Security performance governance that clearly defines powers, regulates procedures, and subjects security decisions to institutional oversight corresponds with the Islamic principle that authority is a responsibility rather than a privilege, and that its holder is accountable for its proper use.

Compatibility is further reflected in adherence to the principle of justice and equality, which constitutes a cornerstone of Islamic governance. A governance framework that applies regulations according to unified standards, ensures procedural fairness, and prevents discrimination or favoritism is consistent with Shariah requirements emphasizing equality in rights and obligations. This dimension represents a decisive criterion for evaluating the legitimacy of security performance from an Islamic perspective.

Moreover, the adoption of accountability and oversight mechanisms within security performance governance directly aligns with the Shariah principle of holding officials responsible for their actions and decisions. Islamic teachings affirm the accountability of those entrusted with public authority for any negligence or excess. Contemporary institutional models that incorporate internal control, inspection, and continuous performance evaluation therefore resonate with this foundational norm.

Compatibility is also manifested in consideration of the higher objectives of the Shariah during the exercise of security functions, particularly the preservation of life, property, and honor. Governance oriented security performance does not seek to impose order through coercion alone but aims at prevention, harm reduction, and the realization of sustainable societal security. This approach accords with the jurisprudential maxims prioritizing the prevention of harm and the selection of the lesser of two harms in cases of conflict.

In practical terms, the model of security performance governance adopted by the Ministry of Interior of the United Arab Emirates reflects institutional foundations that regulate authority, enhance oversight, employ technology, and invest in human capital. These practices are substantively compatible with the Islamic perspective, provided that they remain firmly grounded in justice, legality, respect for rights, and the protection of human dignity.

It may therefore be concluded that security performance governance, when implemented in a prudent and disciplined manner, represents a contemporary framework compatible with the Islamic worldview. Indeed, it may be regarded as a practical extension of Islamic objectives in regulating authority, achieving security, and ensuring justice, thereby integrating institutional efficiency with normative commitment.

Conclusion

This study has demonstrated that the governance of security performance is no longer a procedural or temporary administrative choice but has become an institutional necessity for ensuring the effectiveness of security work, regulating the exercise of authority, and achieving sustainable societal security amid rapidly evolving contemporary challenges. Given its sovereign nature and high sensitivity, the security sector requires specialized governance models capable of maintaining a delicate balance between operational efficiency, legal compliance, and respect for rights and freedoms.

The study has shown that the Islamic perspective provides an integrated normative and legal framework for governing security performance, grounded in principles of trust, justice, responsibility, accountability, and the realization of public interest. These principles converge in substance with modern concepts of institutional governance. Security, in Islamic thought, is recognized as a legitimate objective closely linked to the preservation of essential values, thereby rendering the regulation of security performance a legal and ethical obligation rather than a mere administrative measure.

The experience of the Ministry of Interior of the United Arab Emirates was examined as an advanced institutional model in adopting security performance governance through strategic planning, performance indicators, institutional oversight, digital transformation, and investment in human capital. These practices have contributed to enhancing efficiency and strengthening public trust, and they are broadly compatible with the Islamic perspective when guided by justice, legality, and respect for human dignity.

In light of these findings, the study affirms that integrating modern institutional governance with the higher objectives of the Shariah constitutes an effective approach to developing security performance and balancing authority with responsibility in pursuit of sustainable security. It also underscores the importance of addressing future challenges, particularly those associated with technological advancement and artificial intelligence, through flexible and well regulated governance frameworks that combine technical efficiency with ethical oversight.

Finally, the study recommends reinforcing the normative dimension within security performance governance, advancing mechanisms of oversight and accountability, and linking institutional performance more explicitly to Shariah objectives. Such measures would

contribute to consolidating a model of prudent security governance that harmonizes institutional effectiveness with ethical and legal commitment, reflecting a balanced vision of security in the modern state.

Theoretical and Contextual Contribution

This study makes a substantive theoretical contribution by bridging the conceptual gap between contemporary governance frameworks and the normative foundations of Islamic jurisprudence, offering an integrated analytical model that situates security governance within both institutional and ethical paradigms. It advances existing scholarship by moving beyond descriptive analyses of security administration toward a value driven framework that aligns governance mechanisms with the higher objectives of the Shariah, thereby enriching the discourse on governance in Islamic and social science literature. Contextually, the study provides a grounded and policy relevant contribution through its examination of the United Arab Emirates as a practical model, demonstrating how abstract governance principles can be operationalized within a modern state. By linking theory with institutional practice, the research offers a replicable reference for other contexts seeking to reconcile efficiency, accountability, and ethical legitimacy in the governance of security performance, particularly in societies characterized by strong normative and cultural foundations.

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