

**SOMALILAND NATIONALITY AND CITIZENSHIP ORDINANCE 1960**

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**ORDINANCE  
No. 15 of 1960**

In her Majesty's name and on her Majesty's behalf,  
I assent

HARGEISA,  
23rd June 1960

D. B, HALL  
Governor

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**AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE PROVISION FOR SOMALILAND NATIONALITY AND CITIZENSHIP  
AFTER INDEPENDENCE**

Enacted by the Legislature of the Somaliland Protectorate

**Short title and commencement**

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Nationality and Citizenship Ordinance 1960, and shall come into operation on the 26th day of June 1960.

**Definitions**

2. In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires –

“normally reside” means normally has his home in the Territory of Somaliland and includes a person who from time to time temporarily absents himself from the territory for the purposes of grazing or herding livestock or in pursuit of his vocation, occupation, employment or education or for recreation;

“other nationality or citizenship” means the status of a full citizen of a foreign state and does not include the status of a protected person or other status of a like kind.

“Somali” means any person whose mother tongue is the Somali language and who follows Somali customs;

“Territory of Somaliland” means that territory which until the coming into operation of this Ordinance was known as British Somaliland or the Protectorate of British Somaliland or the Somaliland Protectorate and which on the coming into operation of this Ordinance will be known as Somaliland.

**Nationality on coming into operation of this Ordinance**

3. Upon the coming into operation of this Ordinance every Somali who does not then possess any other nationality or citizenship, and -

- (a) who was born in the Territory of Somaliland; or
- (b) whose father (or in the case of an illegitimate child whose mother) was born in the

said Territory,  
shall become a citizen of Somaliland.

**Nationality after coming into operation of this Ordinance**

4. After the coming into operation of this Ordinance every Somali who shall be born -  
(a) in the Territory of Somaliland; or  
(b) of a father (or in the case of an illegitimate child, of a mother) who is a citizen of Somaliland at the time of the child's birth,  
shall be a citizen of Somaliland.

**Application for registration as a citizen of Somaliland**

5. (1) Any Somali born before the coming into operation of this Ordinance who has not acquired citizenship under section 3 hereof notwithstanding that he possesses the qualifications set out in paragraph (a) or (b) thereof may apply for registration as a citizen of Somaliland provided that:-

- (i) at the time of his application he has normally resided in the Territory of Somaliland for a continuous period of twelve months immediately prior to such application; and
- (ii) he intends to continue normally to reside in the said Territory; and
- (iii) either –
  - (a) he has prior to making such application renounced or
  - (b) he will within six months of the grant to him of such application, renounce (in either case so far as he is able to do so) such other nationality or citizenship as he may possess:

Provided that in any case to which (b) applies, if the applicant fails (so far as he is able to do so) to make such renunciation during the said period of six months then the grant to him shall become void and of no effect.

(2) The provisions of sub-section (1) of this section shall also apply to any person other than a Somali who upon this Ordinance coming into operation possesses the qualifications set out in paragraphs (a) or (b) of section 3 hereof.

(3) Applications for the registration as citizens of persons under eighteen years of age may be made on their behalf by their parent or guardian.

(4) Applications for registration under this section shall be granted provided that the requirements of subsections (1) or (2) of this section, as the case may be, are complied with.

(5) Regulations as to the form of and procedure for such applications shall be made by the Government of Somaliland under this section.

**Nationality of married women**

6. Any woman who is at the time of the coming into operation of this Ordinance married to or thereafter marries a citizen of Somaliland shall by virtue of such marriage become a citizen of Somaliland unless she at the time of such marriage possesses another nationality or citizenship and does not by virtue of the law applying to such nationality or citizenship lose the same by such marriage, in which case such woman shall be entitled to apply for registration as a citizen of Somaliland upon the condition set forth in paragraph (iii) of

subsection (1) of section 5.

**Loss of nationality**

7. A citizen of Somaliland shall lose his citizenship by -

- (a) voluntary acquisition of the nationality or citizenship of a foreign state;
- (b) if a woman, upon marriage to a person who at the time of such marriage possesses the nationality or citizenship of a foreign State provided that she thereupon acquires her husband's nationality or citizenship by operation of the law of that State and renounces her Somali citizenship.

Passed in the Legislative Council on the 21st day of June 1960.

AHMED MOHAMED ADAM  
Clerk of the Legislative Council