

The Sudanese Nationality Act 1994

(1994/5/17)

**As amended 2006, 2011 and 2018
[unofficial consolidation]**

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The Sudanese Nationality Act 1994¹

Chapter I

Preliminary Provisions

Title

1. This Act may be cited as "The Sudanese Nationality Act 1994".

Repeal and saving

2. The Sudanese Nationality Act 1957, is hereby repealed, provided that the regulations issued thereunder shall remain in force until repealed or amended.

Interpretation

3. In this act, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Aliens"	means any person who is not Sudanese;
"Child"	means a legitimate child and includes an adopted child and a step child all children of the married couple ² ;
"Domicile" ³	means permanent residence of a person in the place where he resides and he come back to it as his permanent residence place, it does not include a place where he resides temporarily;
"Father"	includes the mother of a person born as the result of an unlawful relationship or a person whose filiation is not established;
"Responsible Father"	means the father or the mother if guardianship was transferred to her by order of a competent court or if the child was born as a result of an unlawful

¹ Provisional Decree No. 18 [?19] of 18/8/1993 was adopted with amendments by resolution of the Transitional National Assembly No.59 of 3/5/1994 and by signature of the President of the Republic on 17/5/1994. Amendments shown include those made between 1993 and 1994.

² "An adopted child and a step child" substituted by "all parents of the married couple" by Resolution of the Transitional National Assembly No. 59, 1994 passing the Provisional Decree No. 18, 1993.

³ Entry on "domicile" added by Sudanese Nationality Act (Amendment) 2018.

	relationship;
"Minister"	means the Minister of Interior;
"Age of majority and capacity"	a person reaches the age of majority if he has completed eighteen years and shall be of complete capacity if he is of sound mind; ⁴
"Minor"	means any person who has not attained the age of majority. ⁵

Chapter II

Nationality by birth

Definition of Sudanese national by birth

- 4.(1) In respect of persons born before the coming into force of this Act, a person shall be Sudanese by birth if he satisfies the following conditions:
- (a) if he has already acquired Sudanese nationality by birth;
 - (b) (i) if he was born in Sudan or his father was born in Sudan;
(ii) if he is residing in Sudan at the coming into force of this Act and he and his ancestors from the father's side were residing in Sudan since 1/1/1956.⁶
 - (c) if neither the person nor his father were born in Sudan, he may, if he satisfies the requirements of para. (b)(ii), apply to the Minister to grant him Sudanese Nationality by birth.
- (2) A person born after the coming into force of this Act shall be Sudanese by birth if his father is Sudanese by birth at the time of his birth.
- (3) A person born to a Sudanese mother by birth shall be entitled to Sudanese Nationality by birth whenever he applies for it.⁷
- (4) A person born to a parent who is a Sudanese national by naturalization shall be Sudanese birth if his parents acquired Sudanese nationality by naturalization domiciled in Sudan⁸ before his birth.

⁴ Added by Resolution of Transitional National Assembly No. 59, 1994 .

⁵ Added by Resolution of Transitional National Assembly No. 59, 1994 .

⁶ Date changed from 1/1/1924 by Resolution of Transitional National Assembly No. 59, 1994.

⁷ Sub-section (3) added by Miscellaneous Amendments Act No. 1, 2006.

⁸ "Domiciled in Sudan" added by Sudanese Nationality Act (Amendment) 2018.

Nationality of children born to unknown parents⁹

5. A person shall be Sudanese by birth until the contrary is proved, if found as a deserted minor of unknown parents.

Grant and Revocation¹⁰ of Nationality certificate

6. (1) The Minister shall grant a certificate of nationality by birth in the prescribed form to any Sudanese national by birth upon payment of the prescribed fees.

(2) The Minister may decide to revoke a certificate of Sudanese nationality by birth if the person has obtained it by fraud, forgery, misrepresentation or the concealment of any material fact; or other unlawful way.¹¹

Chapter III

Nationality by naturalization

Certificate of nationality by naturalization

- 7.(1) The Minister may grant Sudanese nationality by naturalization to any alien if he submits an application in the prescribed form and proves to the Minister that¹²:
- (a) he has attained the age of majority;
 - (b) he is of complete capacity;
 - (c) he has resided lawfully and continuously¹³ in Sudan for 10¹⁴ years or more;
 - (d) he is of good morals and was not previously convicted of a crime against honour or honesty;.
 - (e) to be of sound mind;

⁹ Resolution of Transitional National Assembly No. 59, 1994 passing the Provisional Decree No. 18, 1993.

¹⁰ The words "Grant and Revocation" added by Sudanese Nationality Act (Amendment) 2011.

¹¹ Subsection (2) added by Sudanese Nationality Act (Amendment) 2011.

¹² Resolution of Transitional National Assembly No. 59, 1994.

¹³ "Lawfully and continuously" added by Sudanese Nationality Act (Amendment) 2011.

¹⁴ Changed from five years by the Sudanese Nationality Act (Amendment) 2011.

- (f) to have a lawful way of earning a living.¹⁵
- (2) A certificate of Sudanese nationality by naturalization shall not be granted to any alien under the provisions of sub-section (1) save if the applicant performs an oath of allegiance in the form provided for in the schedule annexed hereto .
- (3) The alien shall acquire Sudanese nationality by naturalization from the date that the certificate is issued.
- (4) The Minister may, upon application, include in the certificate of Sudanese nationality by naturalization the names of minor descendents if the certificate is granted to their responsible father and those minors shall have Sudanese nationality by naturalization from the date of entry of their names in the certificate.
- (5) A certificate of Sudanese nationality by naturalization, if granted before the application of this Act, shall be deemed a certificate granted under the provisions of sub-section (1).

Married foreign women

- 8. The Minister may grant a certificate of Sudanese nationality by naturalization to any foreign woman who applies in the prescribed form and proves to the Minister that:
 - (a) she is the wife of a Sudanese national according to the provisions of the laws of Sudan;
 - (b) she resided in Sudan with her Sudanese husband for two years at least from the date of application, provided that the President of the Republic may, upon the recommendation of the Minister exempt her from the provisions of this paragraph if she resided in Sudan with her Sudanese husband for two years at least before the date of application.

¹⁵ Subsections (e) and (f) added by Sudanese Nationality Act (Amendment) 2011.

Power of the President of the Republic to grant
Sudanese nationality by naturalization

9. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in this Act, the President of the Republic may, upon the recommendation of the Minister, grant Sudanese nationality by naturalization to any alien.

Chapter IV

Loss of nationality

Revocation of nationality

10. (1) The President of the Republic may decide to revoke Sudanese nationality from any Sudanese national by birth of complete capacity who has attained the age of majority, if it is proved that:
- (a) he made a declaration renouncing his Sudanese nationality provided that the President of the Republic may reject such a declaration if it was made during any war which Sudan participated in, or;
 - (b) he joined the service of any foreign country or continued in such service contravening any express provision of any law prohibiting such an act.
- ~~(2) Sudanese nationality shall automatically be revoked if the person has acquired, de jure or de facto, the nationality of South Sudan.~~
- ~~(3) Without prejudice to Section 15, Sudanese nationality shall be revoked where the Sudanese nationality of his responsible father is revoked in accordance to section 10(2) of this Act.¹⁶~~
- (2) (a) without prejudice to article 4 section 3, Sudanese nationality shall automatically be revoked if the person has acquired, de jure or de facto, the nationality of South Sudan.
- (b) the Minister may exempt any person from the application of section 2 (a) if it is proved that his ancestors domiciled in Sudan in or before the first of January 1924.¹⁷

¹⁶ Section 10 (2) & (3) added by Sudanese Nationality Act (Amendment) 2011 (and repealed 2018).

¹⁷ Section 10 (2) (a) & (b) substituted by Sudanese Nationality Act (Amendment) 2018.

Withdrawal of nationality

11.(1) The President of the Republic may decide to withdraw Sudanese nationality from any Sudanese national by naturalization if it is proved that he:

- (a) acquired Sudanese nationality by naturalization by way of fraud or provision of a false statement or concealment of any material fact;
- (b) during any war that Sudan is or was participating in he traded with the enemy or contacted the same or traded with any person belonging to the enemy country or contacted the same or he is a party to any transaction and he knows that such transaction was meant to assist the enemy in war or has a connection with such a transaction.
- (c) was convicted in Sudan of an offence of espionage for the interest of any foreign country;
- (d) expressed through acts or words outside of Sudan his disloyalty to or hatred of Sudan;
- (e) was convicted in Sudan of an offence involving his disloyalty to or hatred of Sudan;
- (f) before the expiry of five years from the date of his naturalization he was sentenced in any country to imprisonment for a term of not less than one year for an offence involving obscene conduct;¹⁸
- (g) has made a written application or a declaration for withdrawal of his Sudanese Nationality.¹⁹

(2) The President of the Republic may before issuing a decision under sub-section (1) inform the person in writing of the reason for the decision, and inform him that he may refer the matter to an inquiry committee.

¹⁸ Subsections (d), (e) and (f) added by Resolution of Transitional National Assembly No. 59, 1994, passing the Provisional Decree No. 18, 1993.

¹⁹ Subsection (g) added by Sudanese Nationality Act (Amendment) 2011.

- (3) If the person submits a request pursuant to sub-section (2) before the expiry of six months from the date of notification, the President of the Republic may refer the matter to an inquiry committee.

The inquiry committee

- 12.(1) The President of the Republic shall form the inquiry committee under the chairmanship of an individual with at least the position of a general court judge to undertake an inquiry into the matter referred thereto from the President of the Republic according to section 11(3).
- (2) The person against whom it is proposed to issue a decision under section 11(2) has the right to appear before the inquiry committee in person or through his advocate or authorized agent;
- (3) The inquiry committee shall have all the powers of a first criminal court in respect of the following:
 - (a) summoning witnesses and examining them under oath or declaration and issuing authorization to hear witnesses outside of Sudan;
 - (b) issuing an obligatory order to produce documents.
- (4) The inquiry committee shall, upon referral of the matter before it, inquire in the prescribed way and submit its report to the President of the Republic who shall issue his decision according to the committee's opinion.

Date of revocation or withdrawal of nationality

13. The President of the Republic's decision of revocation or withdrawal of nationality shall take effect from the date he so determines and the concerned person shall lose Sudanese nationality from such date.

Effect of loss of Sudanese nationality

14. Revocation or withdrawal of nationality shall not exempt the person concerned from any obligation or duty in respect of any act or thing he did or neglected to do before the revocation or withdrawal of nationality.

Effect of revocation or withdrawal of nationality to minors

15. If Sudanese nationality is revoked from the responsible father of a minor under the provisions of section 10 the minor shall not lose his Sudanese nationality save if he is or was the national of any country other than Sudan according to the laws of that country.

Reinstatement of nationality²⁰

16. Without prejudice to Section 10(2), the President of the Republic may, upon application, reinstate nationality to any person whose Sudanese nationality was revoked or withdrawn.

Publication of revocation or withdrawal of nationality

4617. The name and address of each person whose Sudanese nationality was revoked or withdrawn in accordance with the provisions of this Act shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Chapter V

General Provisions

Children born after death of their father²¹

4718. Any reference made in this Act to the nationality or status of the father where the child is born after the death of the father shall be interpreted to refer to the nationality or status of the father at the time of his death. If the death occurred before this Act entered into force and the birth occurred after the Act entered into force, the nationality and status of the father shall be determined pursuant to this Act as though it were the nationality and status of the father at the time of his death.

²⁰ Section 16 added by Sudanese Nationality Act (Amendment) 2011 and subsequent sections renumbered.

²¹ Resolution of Transitional National Assembly No. 59, 1994 passing the Provisional Decree No. 18, 1993.

Penalties

4819. Without prejudice to any more severe punishment,²² A person shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or a fine or both if he:

- (a) intentionally submits a false statement or a false declaration on a material fact, or;
- (b) uses the certificate of naturalization of any person or pretends that he is that other person, or;
- (c) permits any other person to use his certificate of naturalization with intent to impersonate him or has knowledge of the same; or;
- (d) ~~neglects~~ refuses²³ to return a certificate of naturalization whenever demanded by the Minister after withdrawal of his nationality under section 11;
- (e) obtains Sudanese nationality by fraud, misrepresentation, forgery or presenting false statements or the concealment of a material fact, or any other unlawful way;
- (f) violates any of the provisions of this Act.²⁴

Power to make regulations

4920. The Minister may make the regulations necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this Act, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing such regulations may include the following matters:

- (a) forms and records;
- (b) performance of the oath of allegiance, and the manner of performance and writing;
- (c) payment of fees in respect of any registration, declaration or grant of any certificate under this Act and the fees to be paid in respect of administration or registration of the oath;

²² "Without prejudice to any more severe punishment" added by Sudanese Nationality Act (Amendment) 2011.

²³ "Refuses" substituted for "neglects" by Sudanese Nationality Act (Amendment) 2011.

²⁴ Subsections (e) and (f) added by Sudanese Nationality Act (Amendment) 2011.

- (d) the procedure to be followed by the inquiry committee formed under section 12.

This is to certify that the above law is a true copy of Sudan Nationality Act 1994, passed by the Transitional National Assembly in its session no (59) dated 3rd May 1994.

Signature

Mohammed Al-Amian Khalifa

The Speaker of the Transitional National Assembly

I Agree

Signature

General Omer Hassan Ahmed El Bashir

President of the Republic

Date: ____ Shawwal 1414 hijri

3 May 1994

Schedule

Section 7(2): formula for oath of allegiance

(I swear by almighty Allah (or declare sincerely) to be loyal and sincere to the Constitution of the Republic of Sudan, and faithfully observe the laws of the Sudan and perform my duties as a Sudanese citizen).