REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

Nationality Regulations, 2011
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Chapter 1: General and Preliminary Provisions

Preliminary Provisions
(1) In accordance with Section 27 of the Nationality Act, 2011 and the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan, 2011, the Minister of Interior issues the following Regulations.
(2) The Regulations shall be cited as the Nationality Regulations, 2011.
(3) All proceedings and orders governing the issuance of nationality certificates issued before the entry into force of these Regulations shall remain in full force, until they are repealed or amended in accordance with these Regulations.
(4) The Minister retains his competence to issue, in accordance with Section 27 of the Nationality Act, 2011 any further Regulations necessary for the effective implementation of the Act.
(5) Within the framework of his/her competences, the Director General of Nationality, Passports and Immigration is authorized to issue general directives and standing orders.

Interpretation of the Regulations
(6) In these Regulations, all words and expressions shall carry the same meaning as has been assigned to them by Section 5 of the Nationality Act, 2011.
(7) “Director” in the Act is interpreted to mean Director General
(8) “Competent Authority” in the Act is interpreted to mean any official authorized and delegated by the Minister and/or the Director General of the Directorate of Nationality, Passports and Immigration to exercise any of his or her powers under the provisions of the Act;
(9) Additionally, unless the context otherwise requires, the following terms used in these Regulations shall have the following meaning:
‘Director’: Means Director responsible for Directorate Departments of Nationality and ID Cards.
‘Department’: Means Departments of Nationality and ID.
‘Director General’: Means Director General of the Nationality, Passport and Immigration.
‘Directorate’: Means Directorate of Nationality, Passports and Immigration.
‘IGP’: Means The Inspector General of Police of the Republic of South Sudan.
‘Issuing Authority’: means any officer within the Directorate of Nationality, Passports and Immigration in the Ministry of Interior, appointed by the Minister and/or the Director General to process the applications for nationality certificates or naturalization certificates, and to issue the respective certificate

‘Minister’: Means The Minister in the Ministry of Interior Republic of South Sudan.

‘President’: Means The President of the Republic of South Sudan.

‘Regulation’: Means the Regulation of Nationality of South Sudan.

‘Relation’: means any South Sudanese individual who shares a common paternal or maternal ancestor with the person applying for a nationality certificate or a naturalization certificate;

‘South Sudan’: means the territory, including airspace and territorial waters of South Sudan as established in the Constitution.

‘Witness’: means a South Sudanese national who enjoys full legal capacity and testifies in front of the Issuing Authority in any administrative procedure under the Act;

(10) In case of doubt regarding the meaning of any of these Regulations, they shall be understood in a way that complies with, and gives optimal effect to, the Act and the Constitution.

Interpretation of the Act

(11) The date of entry into force of the Act is the 7th of July 2011.

(12) In Section 8 (1) (b) of the Act, the words “belongs to one of the indigenous ethnic communities of South Sudan” shall, with respect to transboundary ethnic groups, be interpreted in the sense that the respective person “belongs to the part of the indigenous ethnic community that traditionally settles in the territory of South Sudan”.

(13) In Section 8 (2) (a) and (b) of the Act, the word “domiciled” shall be interpreted in the sense that the respective person had his/her habitual residence in South Sudan.

(14) In Section 10 (1) (e) of the Act, the words “convicted of any offence” shall be interpreted in the sense that they only refer to convictions by a properly constituted South Sudanese court of law following due process, and that they do only encompass convictions after the entry into force of the Act.

(15) In Section 10 (2) of the Act, the words “a guardian” shall be interpreted to mean either the legal guardian appointed by a competent court to assume the responsibility for the respective person of unsound mind, or the guardian appointed to exercise this same function on the basis of local custom.

(16) In Section 11 of the Act, the words “issue a nationality by naturalization” shall be interpreted to mean “issue a naturalization certificate”.

In Section 24 of the Act, the reference to “SDG” shall be interpreted to mean “SSP”.

Nationality Regulation, 2011
**Institution Framework**

(17) The Minister performs the functions authorized by the Act, through the Directorate which has its Headquarters in Juba, or any other place designated by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan as the national capital, and further local branches throughout the ten states of South Sudan and designated Embassies.

(18) The Directorate establishes with the consent of the Minister any local branches as deemed necessary for the proper implementation of the Act.

(19) On the basis of Section 21 (2) of the Act, the power to issue nationality certificates in accordance with Section 9 of the Act is hereby delegated to South Sudan Missions abroad. This power shall be exercised by Nationality, Passport and immigration officers who are appointed by the Director General and embedded in the South Sudan Missions abroad. This delegated power allows only for the issuance of nationality certificates to South Sudanese nationals who are permanent residents in the country where the respective South Sudan Mission is located.

**General Guidelines in All Administrative Procedures under the Act**

(20) While implementing the Act, all office holders, including all Issuing Authorities and Members of an Inquest Committee, shall in conformity with Articles 48 (1) (d) and 155 (6) of the Constitution abide by the standards of the rule of law, such as
   a. Transparency,
   b. Accountability,
   c. Observance of individual rights and freedoms enshrined in Constitution,
   d. Observance of international human rights obligations undertaken by the Republic of South Sudan;
   e. Due process principles, and
   f. Judicial redress against administrative decisions aggrieving an individual.

(21) Any administrative or executive decision falling within the scope of these Regulations and the Act, shall not be based on arbitrary or discriminatory grounds such as race, colour, ethnic affiliation, sex, religion, political or other opinion, property, disability, health status, geographical origin, or belonging to a particular social group.

**General Procedures for all Nationality and Naturalization Certificates: Inquiry and Standard of Proof**

(22) The Issuing Authority inquires into the facts relating to an application.

(23) The responsibility to adduce sufficient evidence to support the application remains primarily with the applicant.

(24) The applicant may establish the facts supporting his/her application by documentary evidence.
(25) The applicant must provide a witness(es) who is/are believed to be elders and next of kin.

(26) Where documentary evidence is not available to support an application, the Issuing Authority takes into consideration sworn statements by any witnesses adduced by the applicant. Such witnesses may be, primarily but not only,
   a. Community leaders,
   b. Traditional authorities,
   c. Church and/or religious leaders,
   d. County, Payam, and/or Boma officials,
   e. Chiefs and/or sub-chiefs from the applicant’s local indigenous group;
   f. Relations of the applicant, or
   g. Any other persons of good standing who has own firsthand knowledge of the identity of the applicant.

(27) The Issuing Authority decides on the application on the basis of the preponderance of evidence, considering whether the facts alleged by the applicant are more likely to be true than not.

Chapter 2: Applications

General Requirements for All Applications (Nationality Certificates and Naturalization Certificates)

(28) All individual applications falling within the scope of the Act must be submitted in writing to the Issuing Authority, represented by one of the bodies listed in Paragraphs (17) to (19).

(29) Where the applicant is not able to submit his/her application in writing, an oral presentation to be recorded by the Issuing Authority and authenticated by the applicant shall suffice. The Issuing Authority shall orally translate to the applicant all relevant forms and documents in a language that he/she understands. The applicant may authenticate such recorded submissions through his/her thumb prints and fingerprint.

(30) An applicant may include in his/her application any of his/her minor children. However, children represented by a parent or guardian may also submit an individual, separate application.

(31) In the case of a person who does not enjoy full legal capacity, his/her guardian may apply to the Issuing Authority on his/her behalf.
Chapter 3: Examination of Nationality Certificates

Guidelines when Issuing Nationality Certificates
(32) The Issuing Authority shall avail application forms of nationality certificate.
(33) If the legal requirements stipulated by the Act are met, the Issuing Authority grants a nationality certificate.
(34) The Issuing Authority shall respond to an application for a nationality certificate by birth within one month after the applicant has presented the complete evidence supporting his/her application.
(35) In accordance with Article 177 (2) (l) of the Constitution, the Minister prescribes the fees for the issuance of the nationality certificate upon recommendation of the Director General, such as listed in Annex F: List of Fees.
(36) The Issuing Authority hands the nationality certificate over to the applicant once he/she has paid the total amount of due fees and all regulations requirements have been met.

Material Requirements for Applications for Nationality Certificates
(37) With his/her application for a nationality certificate, each applicant must provide all of the following information to the Issuing Authority:
   a. Signature; if the applicant is unable to sign for any reason, the signature may be replaced by the applicants thumb prints and finger prints;
   b. All personal details indicated on the relevant application form, see Annex 1 A to these Regulations;
(38) If available, each applicant must present to the Issuing Authority with his/her application for a nationality certificate any identity document or passports in his/her possession. The Issuing Authority retains a written record of the
   a. Serial number of the identity document or passport;
   b. Date of issuance of the identity document or passport;
   c. Date of expiry of the identity document or passport; and
   d. Public entity who has issued the identity document or passport.
   If the applicant is not in possession of any identity document or passport, the Issuing Authority retains a written record of this fact.
(39) If available, each applicant must present to the Issuing Authority with his/her application for a nationality certificate his/her birth certificate. In case no birth certificate is available, it can be replaced by an assessment of age. The Issuing Authority retains a written record of the date of issuance and the issuer of the birth certificate or the assessment of age. If the applicant is not in possession of a birth certificate or assessment of age, the Issuing Authority retains a written record of this fact.
(40) With his/her application for a nationality certificate, each applicant must provide two photographs, size 45 millimetres high by 35 millimetres wide, to the Issuing Authority.
Additional Requirements for Nationality by Descent from Persons Born in South Sudan

(41) If the application is based upon Section 8 (1) (a) of the Act, the applicant must additionally provide to the Issuing Authority
   a. Name and surname of one of any parents, grandparents or great-grandparents on whom the application relies; and
   b. Date and place of birth of one of any parents, grandparents or great-grandparents on whom the application relies.
   c. Present of applicant parents or known legal Guardian whereas testify the proof to issuing authority.

Additional Requirements for Nationality by Descent from South Sudanese Nationals

(42) If the application is based upon Section 8 (3) of the Act, the applicant must additionally provide to the Issuing Authority
   a. Indication of the parent, father or mother, who was a South Sudanese National;
   b. Date and manner of acquisition of nationality of the respective parent; and
   c. Copy of the birth certificate, certificate of nationality, South Sudanese identity document or passport, or naturalization certificate of the respective parent.

Additional Requirements for Nationality by Ethnic Affiliation

(43) If the application is based upon Section 8 (1) (b) of the Act, the applicant must additionally provide to the Issuing Authority
   a. Name of the indigenous community;
   b. Name of the Payam, Boma, chief and sub-chief of the local unit that the applicant belongs to;
   c. In case of trans-boundary communities, confirmation that the applicant belongs to the South Sudanese part of the indigenous community.

Additional Requirements for Nationality by Residence

(44) If the application is based upon Section 8 (2) (a) of the Act, the applicant must additionally provide to the Issuing Authority
   a. Proved Address or addresses of any residence in South Sudan since 1.1.1956;
   b. Starting date of residence; and
   c. Confirmation, that the residence has not been interrupted since its inception.

(45) If the application is based upon Section 8 (2) (b) of the Act, the applicant must additionally provide to the Issuing Authority
   a. Name and surname of one of any parents or grandparents, on whom the application relies;
b. Date and place of birth of one of any parents or grandparents, on whom the application relies;
c. Address or addresses since 1.1.1956 of any residence of one of any parents or grandparents, on whom the application relies;
d. Starting date of residence of one of any parents or grandparents, on whom the application relies; and
e. Confirmation, that the residence in South Sudan of one of any parents or grandparents, on whom the application relies, has not been interrupted since its inception.

Additional Requirements for Nationality of Foundlings
(46) If the application is based upon Section 8 (4) of the Act, the legal guardian of the applying deserted infant must additionally provide to the Issuing Authority
a. Place and date the infant was found; and
b. Confirmation that his/her parents are unknown.

Chapter 4: Examination of Naturalization Certificates

Guidelines when Issuing Naturalization Certificates
(47) The Issuing Authority shall conduct an investigation into the facts alleged by the applicant in support of his/her application.
(48) The Issuing Authority may investigate into any circumstances that it reasonably deems to be relevant for the confirmation of requirements listed in Section 10 of the Act.
(49) In its investigation, the Issuing Authority is not limited to the evidence submitted by the applicant.
(50) The Issuing Authority has to respond to an application for naturalization within twelve months after the applicant has presented the complete evidence supporting his/her application.
(51) If the applicant fails to present the complete evidence supporting his/her application for a naturalization certificate, his/her application is disregarded. The failure of presenting the complete evidence supporting his/her application for a naturalization certificate does not preclude the applicant from submitting a new application at a later stage.
(52) In accordance with Article 177 (2) (l) of the Constitution, the Minister prescribes the fees for the act of naturalization and the issuance of the naturalization certificate, such as listed in Annex F.
(53) The Issuing Authority hands the naturalization certificate over to the applicant once he/she has paid the total amount of due fees, such as listed in Annex F.
Requirements for All Applications for Naturalization Certificates

(54) Each applicant must submit the prescribed application form, that is either the Application Form for a Naturalization Certificate for Aliens Married to South Sudanese Spouses as defined by Annex 1 C or the Application Form for a Naturalization Certificate for Aliens Not Married to South Sudanese Spouses as defined by Annex 1 B.

(55) With his/her application, each applicant must provide the following information to the Issuing Authority:
   a. All items listed in paragraphs (37) to (40);
   b. Finger prints of all his/her fingers;
   c. Confirmation that he/she has attained the age of maturity; and
   d. Confirmation that he/she is of sound mind, unless he/she represented by his/her legal guardian, in which case the legal guardian has to produce documentary evidence of his/her legal guardianship.

Requirements for Applicants NOT Married to a South Sudanese Spouse

(56) In addition to paragraph (55), if the applicant, be it a man or women, who is not married to a South Sudanese spouse, be it a husband or a wife, he/she must provide to the Issuing Authority:
   a. Proof of at least ten years of continuous and uninterrupted legal residence in South Sudan, which requires the following details:
      i. Address or addresses of any residence in South Sudan; and
      ii. Start and end dates of the applicant’s residence at the aforementioned addresses during the last 10 years preceding the application; and
   b. Confirmation that he/she intends to reside permanently in South Sudan.
   c. Immigration records on arrival of the applicant.
   d. Any other necessary requirement(Resident I.D)

Requirements for Applicants Married to a South Sudanese Spouse

(57) In addition to paragraph (55), if the applicant, be it a man or woman, is married to a South Sudanese spouse, be it a husband or a wife, he/she must provide to the Issuing Authority:
   a. Proof of the marriage
      i. through a marriage certificate; and,
      ii. through a sworn statement by a witness to the marriage; and
   b. Proof of at least five years of continuous and uninterrupted legal residence in South Sudan, which requires the following details:
      i. Address or addresses of any proved residence in South Sudan; and
      ii. Start and end dates of the applicant’s residence at the aforementioned addresses during the last 5 years from date of marriage preceding the application.
   c. If the applicant requests that the requirement of a five years residence period should be waived for him/her in conformity with Section 14 of the Act, he/she needs to present to the Issuing Authority a waiver to this effect.
Investigation when Issuing Naturalization Certificates

(58) The Issuing Authority shall gather information from any relevant public authority, including the Judiciary, in order to confirm that the applicant has not been convicted of any serious offence and thus complies with Section 10 (1) (e) of the Act.

(59) The Issuing Authority shall gather information from the South Sudan Police Service, represented by the Police Station in whose jurisdiction the applicant resides, and from the local judiciary in order to confirm that the applicant is not currently the subject of a criminal investigation into a serious offence.

(60) The Issuing Authority shall gather information from the security organs in order to confirm that the naturalization of the applicant would not adversely affect any internal and/or external security interests of the Republic of South Sudan and its people.

(61) The Issuing Authority shall request the applicant’s residency record from the Directorates for Passports and Immigrations in order to confirm that the dates of residence alleged by the applicant are accurate.

(62) Before granting nationality by naturalization and issuing the naturalization certificate, the Issuing Authority administers the oath of allegiance, as set out in Schedule 1 of the Act, to the applicant.

(63) If the President naturalizes an alien in accordance with Section 11 (3) of the Act, the decision is binding for the Issuing Authority.

Chapter 5: Loss of Nationality

Procedure for Revocation of Nationality

(64) The reasons that entitle the President to revoke the nationality of a South Sudanese national by birth according to Section 15 (1) of the Act are equally valid and applicable reasons to revoke the nationality of a South Sudanese national by naturalization according to Section 15 (2) of the Act.

(65) The President’s revocation according to Sections 15 (1) or (2) of the Act is transmitted to the respective individual through the Directorate.

(66) Before the Minister communicates his/her recommendation according to Sections 15 (1) or (2) of the Act to the President, he/she consults the Directorate for its legal and factual assessment of the envisaged revocation of nationality.

(67) The voluntary declaration of a South Sudanese National renouncing his/her South Sudanese nationality according to Section 15 (1) of the Act

(68) An enemy country in the sense of Sections 15 (1) and (2) of the Act shall be any country that is named as such in the President’s declaration of war according to Article 190 (1) of the Constitution.
Set-up of the Inquest Committee
(69) The Minister of Justice designates the Chair of the Inquest Committee prescribed by Section 16 of the Act.
(70) The Inquest Committee prescribed by Section 16 of the Act shall always include a representative of the Directorate.
(71) The representative of the Directorate shall have the right and the duty to present the Directorate’s recommendation on the individual case to the other Members of the Inquest Committee.
(72) If the revocation of nationality relies upon Sections 15 (1) (b), 15 (2) (b), or 15 (2) (c) of the Act, the Inquest Committee shall include representatives of the Ministries of Defence and of Foreign Affairs.
(73) If the revocation of nationality relies upon Sections 15 (2) (c) or 15 (2) (d) of the Act, the Inquest Committee shall include a representative of the Judiciary. However, any member of the Judiciary who was previously involved in any procedures concerning the respective individual shall not be eligible to be part of the Inquest Committee.

Chapter 6: National Identity Cards
(74) Any South Sudanese national is entitled to a national identity card and
(75) National Identification card shall be the recognized personal identification document for the proof of evidence and references of individual by public and private Institutions of the Republic of South Sudan.
(76) The Directorate of Nationality, Passports and Immigration shall have the sole responsibility of verifying and authenticating the National Identity Cards.
(77) On the basis of Schedule (A) No. 49 of the Constitution, the Minister prescribes
  a. The Application Form for a National Identity Card as defined by Annex 2: Application for South Sudan National ID Card to these Regulations, and
  b. The Sample National Identity Card as defined by Annex 2: Sample National Identity Card to these Regulations.
(78) The Issuing Authority issues to the applicant a national identity card after acquiring the nationality certificate or the naturalization certificate, as the case may be, only upon application.
(79) The National Identity card shall be issued to South Sudan nationals of mature age of eighteen years and older. The Directorate may issue ID cards to South Sudan Nationals below the age of eighteen if deemed necessary, and where the applicant meets all the other requirements.
(80) With his/her application for a national identity card, each applicant must provide two additional photographs, size 45 millimetres high by 35 millimetres wide, to the Issuing Authority.
(81) In accordance with Article 177 (2) (l) of the Constitution, the Minister prescribes the fees for the issuance of national identity cards upon recommendation from the Director General of the Directorate, such as listed in Annex F.

(82) The Issuing Authority hands the national identity card over to the applicant once he/she has paid the total amount of due fees, such as listed in Annex F.

Chapter 7: Register

Civil Registry of South Sudanese Nationals
(83) In accordance with Section 20 of the Act and within the limits of Schedule (B) No. 16 of the Constitution, which gives the exclusive executive and legislative power regarding the registration of marriage, divorce, inheritance, birth, death, adoption and affiliations to the states, the Minister confirms the mandate of the Directorate to establish a register of South Sudanese nationals. The register shall record the personal details, including civil status, of all South Sudanese nationals.

Chapter 8: Administrative Appeal and Judicial Procedures

Administrative Refusal
(84) Any decision by the Issuing Authority falling within the scope of the Act and denying a person’s application shall record its reason in writing to the applicant.

Administrative Appeal Procedure
(85) An aggrieved person can appeal to the Minister against any decision of the Issuing Authority falling within the scope of the Act.
(86) The person aggrieved may lodge his/her administrative appeal to the Minister within three months after the Issuing Authority has informed him/her about the aggrieving decision and the possibility of administrative appeal.
(87) The Minister shall request from the Director General of The directorate the related report on the matter of paragraph (84) to enable him assess the appeal on the basis of its own merits and the recommendation that he/she shall request from the Minister of Justice.
(88) The Minister may seek the recommendations of any other South Sudanese public authorities that he/she deems to be relevant.
(89) The Minister shall respond to an appeal within six months after the aggrieved person has presented the complete evidence supporting his/her appeal.
(90) As long as the appeal is pending, no executive measures that would further aggrieve the person shall be taken.
(91) The Minister can confirm or revise the decision of the Issuing Authority, or remit the case to the initially seized Issuing Authority.
(92) The Minister’s final administrative decision on the administrative appeal shall record its reasons in writing.

**Judicial Redress**

(93) In accordance with Section 26 of the Act, any person aggrieved by a decision of the Minister falling within the scope of the Act may appeal the decision in front of the Competent Court.

(94) A person aggrieved may only seek judicial redress against an administrative decision of an Issuing Authority once he/she has exhausted the administrative appeals procedure according to paragraphs (85) to (92) whereas the public attorney(s) takes up the case.

(95) The Competent Court shall be the High Court that exercises territorial jurisdiction at the place, where the Directorate’s branch which has taken the original administrative decision challenged by the aggrieved individual, is located.

(96) The person aggrieved may lodge his/her appeal within three months after the Minister has informed him/her about the aggrieving decision, the possibility of appeal, and the Competent Court.

(97) In case the President revokes the South Sudanese nationality of a person according to Section 15 of the Act, the aggrieved person may appeal the revocation in front of the Competent Court, which is, in accordance with Article 128 (2) (c) of the Constitution, the Supreme Court. The person aggrieved may lodge his/her appeal within three months after the President has informed him/her about the revocation, the possibility of appeal, and the Competent Court.

**Initiation of Criminal Cases**

(98) If the Director General becomes aware of any reasons to suspect that an applicant and/or a witness have/has infringed any provisions of the Act, he/she is authorized to initiate an internal administrative investigation into the matter.

(99) For the investigation, he/she has the powers to
   a. Summon applicants and/or witnesses,
   b. Take the testimony of these applicants and/or witnesses,
   c. Compel the production of documents, and
   d. Gather further relevant information from any South Sudanese public authorities.

(100) If the Director General concludes, after the completion of the internal administrative investigation, that there are reasons to belief that an applicant and/or witness has committed a criminal offence in the sense of Section 24 of the Act, he/she transmits the file to the public prosecutor who has the territorial jurisdiction for the place where the applicant and/or witness has committed his/her offence.
Signed and sealed under my hand on Thursday December twenty ninth in the year two thousand and eleven AD.

Gen. Alison Monani Magaya,
Minister,
Ministry of Interior,
Republic of South Sudan/RSS/Juba.
Annex: Forms and Certificates

Annex 1 A: Application Form for a Nationality Certificate By Birth
Annex 1 A: Sample Nationality Certificate By Birth
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