

# ACT

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*dated 3rd July, 2008*

## THE NATIONAL REGISTRATION ACT, 2008

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#### SCHEDULE

SIGNED this 24th day of April, 2008

ERNEST BAI KOROMA,  
*President.*



No. 4



2008

**The National Registration Act, 2008.**

Short title.

**Being an Act to provide for the compulsory registration of citizens and non citizens resident in Sierra Leone and the issue of Identity Cards to such persons and for the use of public bodies; and to provide for other related matters.**

[

] Date of commencement.

ENACTED by the President and Members of Parliament in this present Parliament assembled.

## PART I—PRELIMINARY

Interpretation.

1. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

“Chief Registrar” means the Chief Registrar appointed under section 4, and includes a Registration Officer;

“Minister” means the Minister responsible for internal affairs;

“Register” means the National Register established by section 2;

“registration area” means a local council area declared as registration area by section 3;

“Secretariat” means the National Registration Secretariat and includes a provincial or district office of the Secretariat.

## PART II—OBLIGATION TO REGISTER

Establishment of National Register.

2. (1) For the purposes of this Act, there is hereby established a National Register in which shall be registered and maintained the particulars of every person who is—

(a) a citizen; or

(b) a non-citizen resident,

of Sierra Leone.

(2) The particulars referred to in subsection (1) shall be as prescribed in the Schedule.

(3) An electronic or computer data base version of the Register shall be kept so as to facilitate the maintenance of the particulars contained therein.

3. (1) Every locality in a province or district for which a local council is established under section 2 of the Local Government Act, 2004 is hereby declared a registration area for the purposes of this Act.

Declaration of registration areas and periods of registration. Act No. 1 2004.

(2) The Minister may, by notice made by statutory instrument, fix the period or periods and the time within which the registration of the persons referred to in subsection (1) of section 2 shall take place in any registration area; and may in such manner as he thinks fit bring the content of the notice to the attention of the persons affected thereby.

4. (1) For the purposes of this Act, the Public Service Commission shall appoint a Chief Registrar and such Registration Officers and other public officers as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act.

Appointment of Chief Registrar and Registration Officers.

(2) The Chief Registrar, in the exercise of his functions under this Act, shall be subject to the supervision of the Minister.

5. The functions of the Chief Registrar shall include the making of such arrangements and the doing of such things as are necessary for the preparation and maintenance of the Register in accordance with this Act and for that purpose to make arrangements for the printing and issue of the forms and instructions in connection therewith and for the collection of the forms when completed by applicants.

Registration functions of Chief Registrar.

6. (1) Subject to subsection (2) of section 3, every person referred to in subsection (1) of section 2 shall apply to the Registration Officer of his registration area to be registered under this Act.

Obligation of residents to register.

(2) An application under subsection (1) shall be in such form containing the particulars referred to in subsection (2) of section 2 as may be prescribed.

(3) Every application shall be signed by the applicant and the applicant shall permit his photograph to be taken in such manner as may be prescribed.

(4) The Minister or any person authorised by him in that behalf may require any person giving any information under this section to prove to his satisfaction the veracity of such information by the production of such documentary or other evidence as may be prescribed so as to ensure that the person giving the information is who he claims to be.

### PART III—IDENTITY CARDS

Identity cards  
of registered  
persons.

7. (1) It shall be the duty of the Chief Registrar to cause a card containing the particulars referred to in subsection (2) of section 2 (hereafter in this Act referred to as an “Identity Card,”) to be issued with respect to every registered person in accordance with Regulations made by the Minister under this section.

(2) Regulations made under subsection (1) shall –

- (a) prescribe the form of Identity Cards and require to be entered therein such particulars with respect to such of the matters specified in the Schedule as may be prescribed;
- (b) provide for the issue of an Identity Card, either directly or otherwise, to the person to whom it relates, or to such other person as is deemed under the Regulations to be in charge of the person to whom it relates;

- (c) provide for the transfer of an Identity Card from time to time to the person who for the time being is responsible under the Regulations for the custody of the card;
- (d) provide for the issue to such persons or classes of persons in such circumstances as may be prescribed of Identity Cards valid for such period as may be prescribed upon payment of the prescribed fees;
- (e) provide for the issue, subject to the payment of such fee and compliance with such condition as may be prescribed by Regulations, of fresh Identity Cards in place of cards which have been lost, destroyed or defaced;
- (f) provide for the surrender of Identity Cards by such persons and in such circumstances as may be prescribed, and, except where a person, to whom the card relates has died or is outside Sierra Leone for issue of a fresh Identity Card in place of the surrendered card or (in case of a card valid for a limited period only) for the endorsement of the card for a further period.

(3) In this section, “registered person” means–

- (a) a person registered under this Act;
- (b) a person registered under the Non-Citizens (Registration, Immigration and Expulsion) Act, 1965.

Act No. 14  
of 1965.