

Bahrain Government

Notice

Issue 8 / 1963

We, Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Governor of Bahrain and its territories, on this day, the twenty eighth of Rabie Thani, corresponding to the sixteenth of September 1963 Order the the enacting of the following Act:

Bahraini Citizenship Act – 1963

Title and effective date

1. This Act shall be called the “ Bahraini Citizenship Act for 1963 “, and shall be put into force as of the twenty eighth of Rabie Thani, corresponding to the sixteenth of September 1963 .

Interpretation of Terms:

2. In this Act, unless the context specifically requires otherwise, the following words and terms shall have the meanings designated for each of them:

Alien: Means any person who is not a Bahraini national

Bahraini: means any person who has acquired the nationality of Bahrain by virtue of the provisions of this law.

A naturalized person: Means any person who has been granted the Bahrain nationality under the provisions of Article (6) herein,

A minor person: Means any person who has not yet completed eighteen Gregorian years of age.

A fully competent person: Means a person who is not minor or insane.

Citizenship Acquired by virtue of former law

3. Anyone who has acquired the citizenship of Bahrain by virtue of Notice No 20/1356 dated May 8th 1937, shall be regarded a Bahraini.

Bahrainis by descent:

4. Anyone shall be regarded a Bahraini national, if:

- (A) Was born in Bahrain after the effective date of this act and his father was a Bahraini at the time of birth.
- (B) Born outside Bahrain, after the effective date of this Act, and his father was a Bahraini national at the time of birth provided that this father or the grandfather was born in Bahrain.
- (C) Born in Bahrain or abroad, after the effective date of this Act, and his mother, at the time of birth was a Bahraini national provided that father was unknown, without nationality or fatherhood was not substantiated.

Bahrainis by birth

5. A person shall be regarded Bahraini by birth if:

- (A) Born in Bahrain, after the effective date of this Act, and his father was also born in Bahrain and has made Bahrain his permanent residence, at the time of birth of that person, provided, however, that this person is not holding another nationality.
- (B) Born in Bahrain, after the effective date of this Act, to unknown parents. Illegal child shall be deemed to have been born in Bahrain, unless otherwise has been proved.

Bahrainis by naturalization:

6. (1) The Bahraini Citizenship may be granted, by order from His Majesty the Governor, to any alien of full legal capacity, if requested by the alien who should meet the following requirements:

- (A) He has made Bahrain, his usual place of residence legally for at least twenty five consecutive years or fifteen years consecutively for Arab nationals, provided, however, that this period shall commences after the effective date of this act.
- (B) Shall be of good conduct
- (C) Must be conversant in Arabic.
- (D) Shall have a real estate in Bahrain registered in his name at the Land Registry Office of the Government of Bahrain.

(2) Notwithstanding, the above Bahraini citizenship may be granted to anyone, by order of His Majesty the Governor.

Bahraini Citizenship may also be granted, by Order of His Majesty the Governor, to any Arab person, upon his request, if that person has rendered Bahrain great services.

(3) An alien who has obtained the citizenship of Bahrain by virtues of this article, shall not be entitled to voting rights, representation, nomination or appointment in local councils (except clubs and private associations), except after the lapse of ten years from date of acquiring the citizenship. This provision is applicable to persons, who have acquired the Bahraini nationality before the effective date of this Act and the ten years span, begins from the effective date of this Act.

(4) If a person is granted the citizenship of Bahrain by virtues of this article, his wife and minor children, shall be regarded Bahraini by naturalization, starting from the date of granting the nationality.

Nationalities of wives

7. (1) If a foreign woman marries a Bahraini, after the date on which this Act enters into force, she will be a Bahraini. And if a Bahraini woman marries an alien, after the date on which this Act enters into force, she shall lose her Bahraini nationality, if and when she acquired the nationality of her husband; otherwise she remains Bahraini; and her Bahraini nationality will be retained to her upon her request, if marriage ceases to subsist and her usual residence is in Bahrain or she returns to live in Bahrain.

(2) If a woman has acquired citizenship of Bahrain by virtues of the above article, or by virtues of section (4) of article (6) of this Act, she shall not lose her nationality if marriage ceases to subsist, unless she retained her original nationality or acquired another nationality. Nationality of such woman may be retained by declaration of His Majesty the Governor, if she request such.

Deprivation of Bahraini nationality from Bahraini persons by naturalization

8. By the order of His Majesty the Governor, Bahraini nationality may be deprived from any person who has acquired the citizenship of Bahrain by naturalization, on the following two cases:

- (1) If a person acquired the citizenship of Bahrain by deception or based on false statements or has hidden substantial information. In such event, Bahraini nationality may be withdrawn from any person who has acquired through that person by virtues of the provisions of section (4) of article (6) herein.
- (2) If a person is found guilty on a case connected with honor and honesty (impugns integrity), within five years of his acquisition of Bahraini nationality. In such event, nationality will be withdrawn from the guilty person only.

Loss of Bahraini nationality

9. (1) A Bahraini citizen may lose his nationality in the following cases:

- (A) If he has voluntarily acquired another nationality and an order is issued by His Majesty the Governor to withdraw the nationality of that person.
- (B) If he renounces his Bahraini nationality and an order is issued by His Majesty the Governor to withdraw the nationality of that person.

(2) If a person has lost his nationality by virtue of this article, his under-aged children will also lose nationality.

Denaturalization of Bahraini nationality

10. Citizenship of Bahrain may be deprived by order of His Majesty the Governor from whoever enjoys such nationality on the following cases:

- (A) If he enters in military service of a foreign country and keeps on service despite an order issued by His Majesty the Governor ordering him to leave such service.
- (B) If he helps or engages in service of an enemy country, or
- (C) If he causes harm to the security of the State.

Restoration of citizenship of Bahrain

11. Citizenship of Bahrain may be restored to any person who has lost citizenship by virtue of the above three articles.

Nullity

12. This act nullifies all other contradicting provisions, stated in any other former law pertaining to citizenship of Bahrain, to the extend that such provisions are contradicting to the provisions of this act.

Isa Bin Sulman Al Khalifah

Governor of Bahrain and its Territories

Issued on 28th Rabie Al Thani 1383 H

Corresponding to 16th September 1963

Government of Bahrain

Announcement

Issue No 11 / 1963

We, Isa Bin Sulman Al Khalifah, Governor of Bahrain and its Territories, on this day twenty fifth Jumadah AlUlah 1383, corresponding to twelfth October 1963, declare the following:

Citizenship of Bahrain Act (Amended) – 1963

1. This Act is titled “Citizenship of Bahrain Act (Amended) – 1963” and reads and construed as one act together with Citizenship of Bahrain Act – 1963, referred to hereunder as original act.
2. The validity of this act shall commence as from the validity date of the original act.
3. The original act shall be amended as follows:
 - (1) At the end of article 3, the following phrase shall be added: “If he has obtained a valid or renewed passport of Bahrain since 1959, or Bahraini nationality or final judicial decision.
 - (2) In the articles 4 and 5 and before the phrase “after the date on which this act enters into force” will be added, wherever this phrase mentioned, the following two words: “before or”.

Isa Bin Sulman Al Khalifah
Governor of Bahrain and its Territories

Issued on 25th Jumadah Al Ulah 1383 H
Corresponding to twelfth October 1963