
**UNITED NATIONS
GROUP OF EXPERTS ON
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

CRP. 8

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**Item 18 of the Provisional Agenda:
Other toponymic issues**

The National Council for Geographical Names in the Sudan

Prepared by, Sudan.

The national council for geographical names In the Sudan

Sudan is the widest African country with an area of one million square miles 1000.000 The Sudan is a vast Country, with more than 100 languages. And dialects, such diversity necessitate various studies of names and their relations to history, culture, socioeconomic activities, and above all to write them according to the agreed upon specification of the Berlin conference, on the standardization of the Geographical names (August, 2002).

Sudan has border with several African countries:-

From the north: Arab republic of Egypt and Libya, in the east Ethiopia and Eritrea .

In the west: Chad and central African republic between all these countries there and some CO1nmon languages and tribes.

Sudan is divided to three lingual zone.

Zone one:-

Speaks Arabic as first Language, without any other language to complete ,this zone

covers the states of: Khartoum, the Nile state ,Gazeera and the white Nile state. .

Zone two:-

In this zone Arabic language is predominant, but other language to complete with Arabic" People dialects, these state are: Northern state and Darfor.

Zone Three:-

in this zone, the local language predominate the native people speak Arabic as second language for communication, these state are:-

All southern state ,and some areas in southern Kurdufan , Kasala state, Red Sea State in the Eastern Sudan.

We can say that most of the geographical names are originated from non Arabic, modern and old languages and some of them come with the emigrants.

The national committee for geographical names a presidential decree which was amended several times ,but was not developed to a law.In 1996 there came another presidential decree ,to reform a permanent committee with legal personality and a stamp .the objective is to name the description rooting ,countering recording and writing according to standard systematic which are international in all the maps ,atlases ,official documents also to publish a gazetteer for the geographical names in the Sudan.

What we mean by standard systematic writing the system set by the committee for writing the name in Arabic and Latin letters by spelling ,which must be a greed upon on the levels of Arabic zone and united nations regarding the geographic names.

What worth mentioning here with all what we mentioned about the lingual nature of the Sudan we found that the amended system of Beirut did not agree with most of the geographical names in the Sudan we mentioned that most of these names was affiliated with local Sudanese languages. there are the committee found that one of us duties is set up a standard system for writing the names in all the Sudanese languages.

Now after the war stopped and toe peace agreement between the south ,and other parts of the Sudan, the low of cJosed district policy which created hatred and malice between the people in the south and later become an armed muting in the city of Tawreet in the year 1955 ,since that time the war broke out, this war was the direct reason of the political disorder and the economical and social co]]apse .

AB governments failed to stop the war ,and to decJare peace and unity between the brothers of nationality, but the agreement between the of Addis Abala, Ethiopia in the year 1972 between the Sudan government and the Anyania, was an important station in self rule for the south which led to stability.

Southern Sudan:-

As we mentioned before about the lingual nature of this zone is divided into three parts, they called them provinces, but now it is divided into ten states :- -bahr-aljabal (mountain's sea) East

Equatorial ,west Equatorial (Before it was Known as Equatorial state) the capital is Juba ,inhabited by the troves of :Zandi , Bariya, Moro, Tabosa, Boba,Didnet , Latoka , they speak Different Languages named after the tribes then the state of unity state (was know as Upper Nile) the Capital is Malakal . the tribes are: Niwayr, shuluk , Anwak , Dinka , baron, Mory ,

and others they speak different languages, but most of them are in Nilotic tribes classification.

This is an example, which shows how words are used.

The word	Dinka	Shuluk	Niwayr	Hadar
peace	shiback	Madi	Mala	Mabiya
God	Nilij	Nil ij	Nilij	Ni lij
With Peace	Itshahaal Ijbaal	A baaj	Mufa	Afaaj
President	Yanj	Jaag	Kuwar	Jaag
Haman being	Ran	Dan	Nas	Dan
The Girl	Tija	Bandaj	Tabamar	Bandaj
Marriage	Tabibaf	Tayom	Kawain	Tayoum
Death	Tow	Taw	.lalo	Taw
Mother	Ma	Me	Man	Me
Father	Wa	We	-	Way

Most Important a achievements of the committee.

1. Commencement of Forming Committees in the states to do the Jobs of the Committee.
2. Held several local conference regarding the Geographical names.
3. released periodical Bulletins in Arabic Language.
4. corr.ected some names of places, and sights
5. mad a study about the areas blooded by the dam of Marawe
6. Gave names to some street's and quarters in collaboration with the ministry of architecture affairs in the capital

7. Starts a project of data base covering a bout seventy thousand name 70.000 collected by secretariat of the committee.

In this year the law of the committee was approved and the name of the committee was changed to the national council for the geographical names.

Group of experts of the Geographical names in East Africa:-

This group was Formed during the Conference of Berlin, Sudan was Elected as the head.

There was no any response from the experts in this committee , although we tried several times to contact them, in order to know their activities regarding the geographical names also there was no response for the invitation to attend the training course supervised by a group of experts from the U. N training course Division.

**Engineer: Nasr Ibrahim Hasanain
General Secretary of the National
Council for the Geographic Name**

In the Name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful

The Names of Geographical Places (National Council) Bill, 2006

(As amended)

Be it hereby approved, by the National Assembly, and signed, by the President of the Republic, in accordance with the provisions of the Interim Constitution of the Republic of the Sudan, 2005 , the following Act:-

Chapter I

Preliminary Provisions

Title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the , “Names of Geographical Places (National Council) Act, 2006”, and shall come into force, as of the date of signature .

Revocation and saving

2. The Commission, established under the Republican Decision No. 588, 1997 shall be dissolved; provided that there shall remain in force all the measures made, or taken by the Commission, under such Decision, until revoked, or amended, under the provisions of this Act.

Interpretation

3. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, :-
“Commission”, means the Names of Geographical Places National Commission ;
“Council”, means the Names of Geographical Places National Council, established under section 4;
“General Secretariate”, means the General Secretariate of the Council, established under the provisions of section 12(1);

“Geographical Places”, mean any geographical features, natural, or artificial, specified through the Longitudinal and Latitudinal co-ordinates;

“Minister”, means the competent Minister of Environment and Construction Development;

“Secretary General”, means the Secretary General of the Council, referred thereto in section 12(2).

Chapter II

Establishment, Powers and Functions of the Council

Establishment and supervision of the Council

- 4.(1) There shall be established a council, to be known as the, “Names of Geographical Places National Council”, having corporate personality, a common seal and the right to litigate, in its own name.
- (2) The headquarters of the Council shall be in the Khartoum State; provided that it shall establish subsidiary branches, in any of the states.
- (3) The Council shall be subject to supervision of the Minister; and the Minister may issue general directions, in such matters, as he may deem that they affect the public interest; and the Council shall abide by such directions.

Constitution of the Council

- 5.(1) The Council shall be constituted, by a decision of the Council of Ministers, upon the recommendation of the Minister, of a full-time chairperson, and an appropriate number of members, from those possessed of experience and knowhow ; and regard shall be had to representation of the bodies having connection .
- (2) The Secretary General shall be a member and rapporteur.

- (3) The term of membership of the Council shall be four years; and members may be re-appointed thereat.

Targets of the Council

6.(1) The Council aims generally at originalizing and control of the criterions of Geographical Names. Without prejudice, to the generality of the foregoing, the Council targets achievement of the following, to :-

- (a) lay down a national criterion for writing Names of Geographical Places;
- (b) issue a national lexicon for Names of Geographical Places;
- (c) collect and originalize the Names of Geographical Places, and disseminate awareness of Geographical Names.

(2) To achieve such targets, the Council shall be guided by the following principles :-

- (a) granting priority to original Names, and evasion of repetition of Names;
- (b) non-use of names of living persons, save in exceptional circumstances;
- (c) encouragement of use of appropriate descriptive expressions, and granting priority to such Names, as have been entrenched by long usage;
- (d) non-use of such Names, as may injure public feeling.

Functions and powers of the Council

7.(1) The Council shall have competence to lay down the general policy for the Names of Geographical Places, originalize and promote the rules of control of the spelling thereof, to apply the same in the Sudan. Without prejudice, to the generality of the foregoing, they shall have the following functions and powers, to :-

- (a) collect a basic list of the Names of Geographical Places in the Sudan;
- (b) unify the Geographical terminology, at the Sudan level, in co-ordination with the states;
- (c) examine and prescribe the form, spelling, pronunciation, of the origin and date of the Names of Geographical Places in the Sudan, in co-ordination with the states;
- (d) examine the cases of doubt as to spelling of the true Names of Geographical Places, which have to be followed in the official maps, services and otherwise;
- (e) change or substitute the Name of any Geographical Place, in the official maps and records, and otherwise, in co-ordination with the state;
- (f) strive to originalize the Names of Geographical Places;
- (g) approve proposals of the state's Names of Geographical Places, submitted by the subsidiary branches in the states;
- (h) approve the organizational chart and scale of posts of the General Secretariate, and submit the same, to the Council of Ministers, in accordance with the followed procedure;
- (i) pass the draft general budget of the Council, and submit it, to the Minister, to approve the same;
- (j) approve the final accounts of the Council, and submit the same, to the Minister, to approve them;
- (k) approve the Names of Geographical Places, at the national level;
- (l) appoint the employees of the General Secretariate, upon recommendation of the Secretary General;
- (m) strengthen the relations with the bodies having connection, and tie the same with organs of the Council;

- (n) organize training courses, to qualify the cadres working at the Council and the subsidiary branches;
 - (o) strive to strengthen relations, and exchange of experiences with the regional and international similar bodies;
 - (p) be interested in effecting awareness of the mass media, hold debates and conferences, to achieve the targets and functions thereof;
 - (q) form technical, or specialized committees, to help them in performing the tasks thereof;
 - (r) make internal regulations, to organize the meetings and business of the same .
- (2) The Council may delegate any of the powers thereof, to the Chairperson of the same, the Secretary General or any member, or committee, constituted thereby; the same being as to such conditions and safeguards, as they may deem fit.

Functions of the subsidiary branches in the states

8. The subsidiary branches in the states shall have competence of the following, to :-
- (a) list the Names of urban and natural features, and originalize the same historically and linguistically, and examine the prevalent pronunciation thereof;
 - (b) make a list of the Names of the features in the state, and fix the co-ordinates of the same;
 - (c) recommend, to the competent body in the state , to change any Name, and submit the same, to the Council, to approve and place it on maps;
 - (d) co-ordinate, in the field of the Names of Geographical Places, between the Council and the state;

- (e) effect mass media awareness, hold debates and conferences, to achieve objectives of the Council;
- (f) propose a budget, to organize business of the subsidiary branch in the state, and submit the same, to the Council
- (g) form such committees, as may be necessary to help them in the performance of the tasks thereof .

Meetings of the Council

- 9.(1) The Council shall annually convene at least three times , upon call of the Chairperson thereof; and call may be made for an emergent meeting, upon request of the Chairperson , or two-thirds of the members.
- (2) The quorum, for meeting of the Council, shall be constituted by the attendance of more than half the members. In case of non-constitution of quorum, call shall be made for another meeting, within a maximum period of two weeks; and the meeting shall be legal, by attendance of any number of members.
- (3) The Council shall adopt their decisions by majority of votes of the members present; and in case of equality of votes, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote .

Remuneration of the Chairperson and members of the Council

- 10. The Council of Ministers, upon recommendation of the Minister, shall specify the remuneration and emoluments of the Chairperson and members of the Council .

The General Secretariate

- 11.(1) The Council shall have a general secretariate, to practise the ordinary business, and execute the decisions thereof .

(2) The General Secretariate shall be presided by a secretary general, to be appointed by the Council of Ministers, upon recommendation of the Minister; and the appointment decision shall specify the emoluments thereof.

Functions and powers of the Secretary General

12. The Secretary General is the first responsible executive, at the Council, and he shall assume the charge of the administrative, financial and technical activity of the Council, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, and the policies and directions of the Council. Without prejudice, to the generality of the foregoing, he shall have the following functions and powers, to :-

- (a) perform the daily business of the Council;
- (b) supervise the business of the subsidiary branches in the states;
- (c) employ and discipline the employees, as to such laws and safeguards, as may organize the same;
- (d) prepare the draft annual budget, and submit the same, to the Council;
- (e) dispose of the allocated and approved budget, as to such safeguards, as may be specified;
- (f) propose terms of service of the employees of the Council, and submit the same, to the Minister , to pass and submit it, to the Council of Ministers, to approve the same.

Chapter III

Financial Provisions

Financial resources

13. The financial resources of the Council shall consist of the following :-

- (a) such funds and property, as the State may allocate thereto;

- (b) such aids, gifts and assistances, as they may accept, upon approval of the Minister;
- (c) any other lawful resources, as the Council may accept.

Use of financial resources

- 14.(1) The financial resources of the Council shall be used, to achieve the targets thereof.
- (2) Without affecting the generality of the provisions of sub-section (1), above, the financial resources of the Council shall be used in the following :-
- (a) management of the Council, and administration of the affairs thereof;
 - (b) payment of obligations of the Council;
 - (c) payment of remuneration and emoluments of the Chairperson and members of the Council ;
 - (d) payment of wages, gratuities and post-service benefits of employees of the Council.

Budget of the Council

- 15.(1) The Council shall have an independent budget, to be prepared in accordance with sound accountancy bases.
- (2) The Council shall submit the budget, to the Minister, to approve the same, in accordance with the general directives.

Accounts

- 16.(1) The Council shall keep regular accounts and records, with respect to the business thereof, in accordance with sound bases.
- (2) The Council may open accounts, in local, or foreign exchange, inside and outside the Sudan, as to such bases and safeguards, as may be specified, and approved by the Minister of Finance .

Audit

17. Accounts of the Council shall annually be audited by the General Audit Chambers, or any certified auditor, as the Auditor-General may approve, and under his Supervision .

Vesting of property

18. There shall vest, in the Council, all the property and funds of the Commission.

Funds of the Council

- 19.(1) The Council shall strive to preserve its funds, the good use and expenditure thereof.
- (2) Funds of the Council shall be deemed public funds, and they shall be disposed of, in accordance with the financial and accountancy regulations

Chapter IV

General Provisions

Secrecy of the Council's business

20. The Chairperson, and members of the Council, and the employees thereof shall have due regard to secrecy, and preserving the secrets of the business of the Council, save such as the nature of which may require declaration and disclosure thereof.

Employees to continue

- 21.(1) Employees of the General Secretariate of the Commission, at the date of coming into force of this Act, shall continue in service, until they are assimilated in the Council, in accordance with the approved organizational chart and scale of posts .

- (2) Rights of employees, who are not assimilated in the organizational chart of the General Secretariate, shall be settled, in accordance with the public service laws.

Making regulations

22. The Council, upon approval of the Minister, may make such regulations, as may be necessary, for implementation of the provisions of this Act.