

NOTICE

GUIDELINES ON PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR REGAINING OF KENYA CITIZENSHIP BY FORMERLY REGISTERED KENYA CITIZENS UNDER THE REPEALED CONSTITUTION

Following an advisory issued by the then Attorney General on 2nd December 2021, the Directorate of Immigration Services started processing applications to regain citizenship by previously registered citizens. These are persons who were deemed to have lost their citizenship upon acquiring citizenship of other countries.

To ensure Constitutional fidelity in the administration of Citizenship laws, the responsible Cabinet Secretary on 3rd March 2026 issued the following policy guidelines:

- i. That the entitlement to regain Kenyan Citizenship under Article 14(5) of the Constitution and Section 10 of the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act is strictly limited to Citizens by Birth.
- ii. That persons deemed citizens by birth under Section 30 of the sixth Schedule to the Constitution are equally eligible to regain citizenship under this framework.
- iii. That persons who had acquired citizenship by registration under Section 880) of the repealed Constitution before the specified deadline are deemed citizen by birth and therefore fall within the scope of Section 10 of the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration
- iv. That all other persons who acquired Citizenship by registration under any other legal provisions are not eligible to regain citizenship under Section 10 and must apply afresh under Article 15 of the Constitution.

The guidelines clarify on the regaining of citizenship under Article 14 (5) of the Constitution as read with Section 10 of Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act, 2011, and Section 30 of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya. Therefore, processing of applications for regaining of citizenship by persons who were previously registered as citizens of Kenya has been stopped.