

LAWS OF SOUTH SUDAN



MEDIA AUTHORITY REGULATIONS ON ACCREDITATION OF JOURNALISTS, 2018

Issued under Sections 67 of the Media Authority Act, 2013

Laws of South Sudan
Media Authority Regulations on Accreditation
of Journalists, 2018

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Laws of South Sudan
Media Authority Regulations on Accreditation
of Journalists, 2018

In accordance with the provisions of Section 18(1) read together with Section 67 of the Media Authority Act, 2013, the Authority with approval of the Competent Minister, hereby issue and promulgate the following Regulations:

Chapter I
Preliminary Provisions

1. Title and Commencement

These Regulations shall be cited as the Media Authority Regulations on Accreditation of Journalists, 2018, and shall come into force on the date of its signature.

2. Scope of Application

These Regulations shall apply to all journalists, operating within the territory of the Republic of South Sudan.

3. Interpretation

In these Regulations, all words and expressions that

are defined under the Media Authority Act, 2013, shall have the same meanings herein; unless the context otherwise requires:

“Act” means the Media Authority Act, 2013.

“Journalist” means any person with formal training in mass communication and has recognised qualification to work for a media house on news coverage, editing, news presentation, programming, photographing and film production.

“Accreditation” means to give official authorization to a recognised journalist to do journalistic work in a particular country.

“Code of Ethics” Means the Media

Authority Code of
Ethics for the conduct
of Journalists in South
Sudan.

Chapter II

Accreditation of National Journalists

4. Accreditation of journalists

- (1) Any journalist, being a citizen or resident of South Sudan, who wishes to be recognised as an “accredited journalist” may apply to the Authority for such status. The application shall be made by submission of Application Form to be provided by the Authority, and such other information or documents as the Authority may require. A journalist shall be deemed to be “ordinarily resident in South Sudan” if he/she has residence permit in South Sudan.
- (2) Accreditation shall be granted only to an individual, and not to an organisation. Where a media organisation wishes to seek accreditation for more than one journalist employed by it, each of the journalists concerned shall submit separate application for accreditation.
- (3) The Authority reserves the right to withdraw the accreditation from the journalist in case of proven misuse of the accreditation by the journalist concerned.

5. Consideration of applications

- (1) The Authority shall, on receipt of an application under Rule 4 above, proceed to consider it forthwith on the basis of the following factors and pass an appropriate decision as to:
 - (a) whether the applicant is a bona fide journalist;
 - (b) whether the applicant has the necessary qualifications and experience to be considered for accreditation; and
 - (c) whether it would be in the public interest to grant accreditation to the applicant.
- (2) If the Authority decides to grant accreditation, it shall notify the applicant in writing of its decision as soon as possible, but not later than fifteen (15) working days from the date of submission of the application. The Authority shall grant Applicant an “accreditation card” bearing his/her photograph, and signature. The said card shall constitute as official proof of accreditation.
- (3) If the Authority decides to reject application for accreditation, it shall notify the applicant in writing of its decision as soon as possible,

but not later than fifteen (15) working days from the date of submission of the application, stating the reasons for rejection.

- (4) Any applicant aggrieved either by a decision of rejection or silence by the Authority for more than fifteen (15) working days from the date of application, from the Authority may file complain to the Complaints and Monitoring Committee within thirty (30) days from the date of the receipt of information relating to such rejection or silence as the case may be.

6. Requirements for Accreditation

- (1) The requirements for the consideration of accreditation shall be, but not limited to the following:
 - (a) The applicant shall be a reporter/writer/editor/photographer and or film media production in any media organization or freelancer;
 - (b) University graduate in Journalism or a university graduate with a major in journalism with an internship of at least six (6) months in any media organisation; or

- (c) Any other graduate from a different profession, with at least one (1) year of training/internship in a media organization.
- (2) A journalist should produce a recommendation from the head of the media organization with whom he/she is working at present; and
- (3) If he/she is a freelance journalist, then he/she should produce recommendation from the Union of Journalist of South Sudan.

7. Obligations of Accredited Journalists

Accredited journalists shall:

- (a) observe the Code of Ethics for Journalists in the Republic of South Sudan;
- (b) observe the rules and procedures determined for those events;
- (c) not unnecessary interfere in the course of the event they attend; and
- (d) must carry the accreditation badge on them at all times.

8. Rights of Accredited Journalists

Accredited journalists shall have the right to:

- (a) attend briefings, press conferences, press releases by the government or public sector organisations and other events organized for the press; and
- (b) inclusion in official visits by the State and Government officials.

Chapter III

Accreditation of Foreign Journalists

9. Accreditation of Foreign Journalists

- (1) Any journalist, who is not a citizen or who, being a citizen, is not ordinarily resident in South Sudan, shall apply for accreditation as a journalist through a third party to facilitate the journalists' application. The application shall be made in a form to be provided by the Authority. Foreign journalists must obtain a no-objection letter from the Authority in order to receive entry visa from a South Sudan Embassy.
- (2) The Authority shall, upon receipt of an application under Rule 9 (1) above, proceed to consider it forthwith and pass an appropriate decision by issuing an objection or no-

objection letter through the third party. In making its decision, the Authority shall have due regard to all relevant factors, including the following:

- (a) whether the applicant is a bona fide journalist;
 - (b) whether the applicant has the necessary qualifications and experience to be considered for accreditation; and
 - (c) whether it would be in the public interest to grant accreditation to the applicant.
- (3) If the Authority decides to grant accreditation, it shall notify the applicant of its decision as soon as possible, but not later than seven (7) working days from the date of submission of the application, and shall forward to him/her an “accreditation card”. The said card shall constitute an official proof of accreditation.
- (4) The Authority reserves the right to withdraw the accreditation from the journalist in case of proven misuse of the accreditation by the journalist concerned.

10. Who should be accredited

- (1) All qualified National Journalists;
- (2) Editors-in-Chiefs, Managing Editors and Copy Editors;
- (3) Freelance Journalists;
- (4) Student Journalists/ Trainees;
- (5) Foreign Journalists; and
- (6) Cartoonists.

11. Accreditation with Conditions

- (1) The Authority may, where it considers it necessary, make the accreditation subject to such conditions as it may specify, and, if the journalist concerned accepts such conditional accreditation, he/she shall be under an obligation to comply with those conditions at all times.
- (2) If the Authority decides to reject accreditation, it shall notify the applicant in writing of its decision as soon as possible, but not later than seven (7) working days from the date of application, stating the reasons for rejection.
- (3) Any accreditation granted under these Regulations shall be valid for duration of the

coverage of a particular event, or such shorter period as the Authority may specify or for a maximum period of three (3) months from the date of issuance of the accreditation card.

- (4) The accreditation granted under these Regulations may be renewed on the receipt of an application by the journalist to whom it was granted. An application for renewal of accreditation shall be made in writing in a form to be provided by the Authority.
- (5) An application for renewal of accreditation shall be made not earlier than thirty (30) days and not later than ten (10) days, prior to the date of its expiry. Any application made after the expiry of the said deadline of ten (10) days shall be rejected, and the journalist concerned will be required to make a fresh application for accreditation as provided for in Rule 9 (1) above.

Chapter IV

Miscellaneous Provisions

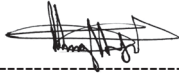
12. Register of Accredited Journalists

- (1) The Authority shall maintain a register, hereinafter referred to as “Registry of Accredited Journalists” in which the names, addresses and other details of all journalists to whom accreditation has been granted shall be entered in chronological order.
- (2) The Registry of Accredited Journalists shall be updated regularly, and any information as to revocation, cancellation or expiry of accreditation shall be noted as soon as possible against the names of those on the Registry.
- (3) The Authority shall make the Registry of Accredited Journalists available for the general public during office hours, if it is required so. The Authority may also make the information on the Registry available to the general public through the Authority’s website.

13. Amendments

The Authority, in consultation with the Minister, may amend these Regulations when it is required.

Issued by the Media Authority this day ^{the}~~2018~~ in the month of November in the year 2018.



Hon. Atong Majok Kur
Chairperson,
Board of Directors
Media Authority
Republic of South Sudan
Juba

In accordance with the provisions of Section 18(1) read together with Section 67 of Media Authority Act, 2013; I, Michael Makuei Lueth, Minister of Information, Communication Technology and Postal Services; do hereby grant approval and authorize the Media Authority to issue these Regulations.



Hon. Micheal Makuai Lueth
Minister,
Ministry of Information, Communication
Technology and Postal Services
Transitional Government of National Unity
Republic of South Sudan
Juba.