

EXTRACT FROM THE LAWS OF THE SUDAN
The Closed Districts Order, 1922 (as amended to March '53)
Released March 24, 1953

The text is given here for reference:-

In exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 22 of the Passports and Permits Ordinance 1922 the Governor-General of the Sudan hereby orders as follows:-

"1. The districts set forth in the Schedule hereto shall be closed districts to the extent following:-

(a) In the case of the districts named in the first part of the Schedule, no person other than a native of the Sudan shall enter or remain therein unless he is the holder of a permit in this behalf to be obtained from the Civil Secretary or from the Governor of the Province in which the closed district is situated and any native of the Sudan may be forbidden to enter or remain in the said districts by the Civil Secretary or the Governor of such Province.

(b) In the case of the district named in the second part of the Schedule, no person shall enter or remain therein unless he is the holder of a permit in his behalf to be obtained from the Civil Secretary or from the Governor of Upper Nile Province."

2. This order shall not apply to officials of the Sudan Government and officers of the Sudan Defence Force entering or remaining in the districts closed hereunder in the performance of their official duties nor to any person holding a permit to trade in such districts under the Passports and Permits Ordinance 1922 nor save as regards persons travelling by steamer in transit on the Sobat river in the district numbered 2 in the Schedule hereto to any person travelling by train or steamer in transit through any such district.

THE SCHEDULE

PART I

1. Bahr el Ghazal and Equatoria Provinces.
2. Upper Nile Province.
3. The Zalingei and Dar Masalit Districts of Darfur Province.
4. Cancelled.
5. The Jebels and Tegale Districts of Kordofan Province.

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N.B. The Passports and Permits Ordinance, 1922 Section 22, reads as follows:-

The Governor-General may by order published in the Sudan Government Gazette declare any part of the Sudan to be a closed district. He may in such order declare that any district shall be absolutely closed or that ingress shall be permitted subject to such conditions and for such purposes as may be set forth in the said order and he may limit the application of such order or conditions to such persons or classes of persons as he may deem fit. In like manner he may cancel, amend or alter any such order. And no person to whom such order applies shall enter a closed district or, being at the time of the promulgation of such order in a district which shall be closed thereby, shall remain after notification to him of the said order.

Section 30, reads as follows:-

Any person who contravenes the provisions of this ordinance or of any order or regulation made or permit granted thereunder shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to six months or with fine not exceeding ~~£~~100 or with both.

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PRO EXPLANATION OF PUBLICATION
 OF CLOSED DISTRICTS ORDER

Released 3/30/53

There has been some discussion recently in the press regarding the publication a few days ago by the P.R.O. of the Closed Districts Order. This was published in order that the public should know exactly what the terms of this Order are, and its publication was not on account of any alteration in the Order. In fact there has been no amendment to this Order since 1949. There has been some criticism of the clause whereby the Civil Secretary and Governors of Provinces are authorised to forbid Sudanese from entering a closed district. In each case where such prevention has been ordered, it has been because the Sudanese in question are being individually guilty of criminal offences against the people of the closed district. For instance, some years ago certain persons who had been convicted of slavery offences in 1929 and 1930 were not permitted to enter the closed district of the Southern Fung where their previous purchase of slaves had taken place. Enquiry at the Civil Secretary's Office shows that no such Orders have been made by the Civil Secretary for many years, and it may be of interest to the public generally to know that the Civil Secretary is enquiring to see whether in fact this part of the Order has been used at all in recent years. Should the public prove that in fact this part of the Order is little used, the Executive Council will be asked to consider whether it might not be at least suspended during the forthcoming elections.

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