



GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(Karnataka Act No. 26 of 1963)

**The Karnataka Official Language Act 1963
and Notifications thereon**

(Amended upto 1989)

NIEPA DC



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Sub. National Systems Unit,
National Institute of Educational
Planning and Administration
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**THE KARNATAKA OFFICIAL LANGUAGE
ACT, 1963**

(Karnataka Act No. 26 of 1963)



1988

THE KARNATAKA OFFICIAL LANGUAGE ACT, 1963

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KARNATAKA ACT No. 26 OF 1963

(First published in the Karnataka Gazette on the Tenth day of October 1963).

**THE KARNATAKA OFFICIAL LANGUAGE ACT,
1963**

(Received the assent of the Governor on the Fifth day of October, 1963).

(As amended by Acts 27 of 1974 and 6 of 1982).

An Act to provide for the adoption of Kannada as the language to be used for the official purposes of the State and for continuance of the use of English for transaction of business of the State Legislature.

1963.

Whereas it is expedient to provide for the adoption of Kannada as the language to be used for official purposes of the State of Karnataka and for continuance of the use of English for transaction of business of the State Legislature after the expiration of the period of fifteen years from the commencement of the Constitution ;

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Fourteenth Year of the Republic of India as follows :—

No.

1. Short title and extent.—(1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Official Language Act, 1963.

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(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

2. Kannada to be the official language of the State.—The official language of the State of Karnataka shall be Kannada.

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3. English to be continued to be used for official purposes until the Government otherwise directs.—Notwithstanding anything in Section 2 and without prejudice to the Provisions of Articles 346 and 347 of the Constitution, the English language shall continue to be used for all the official purposes of the State for which it was being used before the commencement of this Act until the State Government, by notification under Section 4, otherwise directs in respect of any official purpose specified in such notification.

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4. Government's power to notify the official purposes for which Kannada to be used.—The State Government may, from time to time, by notification in the Official Gazette, direct that Kannada shall be used in respect of such official purposes and in such areas as may be specified in the notification.

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5. [Language to be used in the Legislature etc].—(1) Notwithstanding the expiration of the period of fifteen years from the commencement of the Constitution, the English language may, as from the twenty-sixth day of

1. Substituted by Act 6 of 1982, S. 2 (9-3-1982).

2. Renumbered by Act 6 of 1982 S.2 (9-3-82).

January 1965, continue to be used, in addition to Kannada and Hindi for the transaction of business in the Legislature of the State.

¶(2) Kannada Language may also be used.—

(a) in any Bill to be introduced or in amendments thereto be moved in, or in any Act passed by the Karnataka State Legislature; or

(b) in any Ordinance promulgated by the Governor of the State of Karnataka; or

(c) in any order, rule, regulation or bye-law issued by the State Government under the Constitution or under any law made by the Parliament or the Karnataka State Legislature.]

¶5A. **Authorised Kannada translation of Central and State Acts.**—With effect from such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify a translation in the Kannada language published under the authority of the Governor in the Official Gazette,—

(i) of any Central Act or of any Ordinance promulgated by the President with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the List III of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution or of any State Act, of any Ordinance of rules made by the Governor; or

(ii) of any order, rule, regulation or bye-law issued by the State Government or other authority or officer of the State Government under the Constitution or under any Central Act or any State Act or any other law in force in the State, shall be deemed to be the authoritative text thereof in the Kannada Language.]

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1. Inserted by Act 27 of 1974, S. 2 (1-2-1975).
 2. Inserted by Act 6 of 1982, S. 2 (9-3-1982).

6. **Notifications issued under section 4 to be placed before the Legislature.**— every notification issued under section 4, shall be laid as soon as may be after it is issued, before each House of the State Legislature while it is in session for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two successive sessions and if, before the expiry of the session in which it is so laid or the session immediately following, both Houses agree in making any modification in the notification or both Houses agree that the notification should not be issued, the notification shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so however, that any modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that notification.

KARNATAKA ACT No. 27 OF 1974
(First published in the Karnataka Gazette Extraordinary
on the Seventh day of September, 1974)

**THE KARNATAKA OFFICIAL LANGUAGE
(AMENDMENT) ACT, 1974.**

(Received the assent of the Governor on the Seventh day of
September, 1974.)

An Act to amend the Karnataka Official Language Act,
1963.

Whereas it is expedient to amend the Karnataka Official
Language Act, 1963 (Karnataka Act 26 of 1963) for the
purposes hereinafter appearing :

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the
Twenty-fifth Year of the Republic of India as follows :—

1. Short title and commencement.—(1) This Act may be
called the Karnataka Official Language (Amendment) Act,
1974.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the State
Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette,
appoint.

[Section 2 incorporated in the Principal Act.]

KARNATAKA ACT No. 6 OF 1982
(First published in the Karnataka Gazette Extraordinary
on the ninth day of March, 1982)

**THE KARNATAKA OFFICIAL LANGUAGE
(AMENDMENT) ACT, 1982.**

(Received the assent of the Governor on the
Sixth day of March 1982)

An Act further to amend the Karnataka Official
Language Act, 1963.

Whereas it is expedient further to amend the
Karnataka Official Language Act, 1963 (Karnataka Act
26 of 1963) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in
the Thirty-third Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. Short title and commencement.—(1) This Act may
be called the Karnataka Official Language (Amendment)
Act, 1982.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

[Section 2 incorporated in the Principal Act.]

NOTIFICATION

No. GAD 31 OCM 67, Bangalore, dated 12th March, 1968.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 4 of the Mysore Official Language Act, 1963 (Mysore Act 26 of 1963), the Government of Mysore hereby directs that with effect on and from the 1st April, 1968, Kannada shall be used in respect of all official communications from all Government offices located (in every Taluk the Jurisdiction of which is limited to such taluk);

Provided that :

(a) English Language may continue to be used in communications :--

(i) addressed to the Central Government Offices, the Accountant General, the Controller of State Accounts and the Treasuries :

(ii) relating to pay bills, contingent bills, travelling allowance bills .

(iii) relating to orders made under any law which are subject to appeal or revision by any authority :

(iv) addressed to Courts other than Village Courts :

(b) If the population of Linguistic minority in any Taluk is not less than fifteen per cent :—

(i) petitions shall continue to be accepted in the minority language concerned and replies given in that language as far as possible ;

(ii) handouts and publicity material shall continue to be given in such minority language ;

(iii) Government Notices shall continue to be published in such minority language.

By Order, and in the name of the Governor of Mysore.

K. NARAYANASWAMY,
Chief Secretary to Government.

General Administration Secretariat

NOTIFICATION

Bangalore, dated 6th September 1970

S.O. 2018.—In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 4 of the Mysore Official Language Act, 1963 (Mysore Act 26 of 1963), the Government of Mysore hereby directs that with effect on and from the 1st November 1970 Kannada shall be used in respect of all official communications from all Government Offices located in every revenue or other sub-divisions the jurisdiction of which extends beyond a taluk, but is limited to a part of a revenue district.

Provided that :

(a) English Language may continue to be used in communications :—

(i) addressed to the Central Government Offices, the Accountant General, the Controller of State Accounts and the Treasuries ;

(ii) relating to pay bills, contingent bills, travelling allowance bills ;

(iii) relating to orders made under any law which are subject to appeal or revision by any authority ;

(iv) addressed to Courts other than Village Courts.

(b) If the population of Linguistic minority in any Taluk is not less than fifteen per cent :—

(i) petitions shall continue to be accepted in the minority language concerned and replies given in that language as far as possible ;

(ii) handouts and publicity material shall continue to be given in such minority language ;

(iii) Government Notices shall continue to be published in such minority language.

(No. GAD 10 POL 70)

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Mysore,

R. N. VASUDEVA,

Chief Secretary to Government.

General Administration Secretariat

NOTIFICATION

Bangalore, dated 26th June 1972

S.O. 1246.—In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 4 of the Mysore Official Language Act, 1963 (Mysore Act 26 of 1963), the Government of Mysore hereby directs that with effect on and from the 15th day of August 1972, Kannada shall be used in respect of all official communications from all Government Offices, the jurisdiction of which extends beyond a revenue or other sub-division but does not extend beyond a revenue district.

Provided that.

(a) The English Language may continue to be used in communications:—

(i) addressed to the Central Government Offices the Accountant General, the Controller of State Accounts and the Treasuries;

(ii) relating to pay bills, contingent bills, travelling allowance bills;

(iii) relating to orders made under any law which are subject to appeal or revision by any authority;

(iv) addressed to Court other than Village Courts.

(b) If the population of Linguistic minority in any Taluk is not less than fifteen per cent:

(i) petitions shall continue to be accepted in the minority language concerned and replies given in that language as far as possible;

(ii) handouts and publicity material shall continue to be given in such minority language;

(iii) Government Notices shall continue to be published in such minority language.

(No. GAD 55 POL 71)

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Mysore,

R. J. REBELLO,

Chief Secretary to Government.

General Administration Secretariat

Notification No. GAD 2 POL 75

Bangalore, dated 22nd January 1975

S.O. 2731.—In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 1 of the Karnataka Official Language (Amendment) Act, 1974 (Karnataka Act No. 27 of 1974), Government of Karnataka hereby appoints 1st February 1975 for the purposes of the said sub-section.

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Karnataka,

M. SANKARANARAYANAN,
Additional Secretary to Government,
General Administration Department.

CHIEF SECRETARIAT
(General Administration Department)

Notification No. GAD 4 POL 75.
Bangalore, dated 3rd February 1975.

S.O. 486-A.—In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 5-A of the Karnataka Official Language Act, 1963 (Karnataka Act No. 26 of 1963) the Government of Karnataka hereby specifies the 6th day of February, 1975 as the date for the purpose of the said section.

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Karnataka,

T. RAMACHANDRA BADHYA,
Under Secretary to Government,
General Administration Department (General).

NOTIFICATION

No. DPAR 1.PQL 79, Bangalore, dated 6th September 1979.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 4 of the Karnataka Official Language Act, 1963, (Karnataka Act 26 of 1963) the Government of Karnataka hereby directs that with effect on, and from, the 1st November 1979 Kannada shall be used in respect of all Official communications from all State Government Offices, in the State of Karnataka:

Provided that—

(a) the English Language may continue to be used in communications :—

(i) addressed to Central Government Offices, the Accountant General, the Controller of State Accounts and the Treasuries;

(ii) relating to pay bills, contingent bills, travelling allowance bills;

(iii) relating to orders made under any law which are subject to appeal or revision by any authority;

(iv) addressed to courts other than Village Courts;

(v) between State Government Offices above district level where : (1) the use of English language cannot be dispensed with due to administrative reasons or

(2) such communications are purely technical and scientific in nature.

(b) If the population of linguistic minority in any Taluk is not less than fifteen per cent :—

(i) petitions shall continue to be accepted in minority language concerned and replies given in that language as far as possible.

(ii) hand-outs and publicity material shall continue to be given in such minority language.

(iii) Government Notices shall continue to be published in such minority language.

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Karnataka,

N. NARASIMHA RAO,

Chief Secretary,

NOTIFICATION

No. DPAR 29 POL 79, Bangalore, dated 4th March 1980.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 4 of the Karnataka Official Language Act 1963 (Karnataka Act 26 of 1963) and in supersession of all previous Notifications issued in this behalf, the Government of Karnataka hereby directs, that with effect from the date of publication of this Notification in the Official Gazette, Kannada shall be used in respect of Official Communications from all offices of the State Government in the State of Karnataka.

Provided that :

(a) The English Language may be continued to be used in Communications :—

(i) Addressed to offices of the Central Government, Offices of any other State Government, and the Accountant General.

(ii) Relating to orders, made under any law, which are subject to appeal or revision by any authority ;

(iii) Addressed to courts other than village courts ;

(iv) Between offices of the State Government above district level where (1) the use of the English language cannot be dispensed with due to administrative reasons; or (2) such communications are purely technical or scientific in nature.

(b) If the Population of any Linguistic Minority in any Taluk is not less than Fifteen per cent :—

(i) Petitions shall continue to be accepted and replies thereto shall, as far as possible be given.

(ii) Hand-outs and publicity material shall be continued to be issued, and

(iii) Government Notices shall continue to be published, in the language of the minor concerned.

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Karnataka,

National Institute of Education

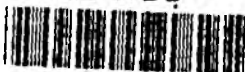
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Aurbindo Marg,

No. D-5850

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HA RAU,
Secretary.

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