



How to Change Your Data on Your Nigerian International Passport

Description

Changing your data on a Nigerian international passport can seem like a daunting process, but with the right information and guidance, it becomes straightforward.

Whether you need to correct a spelling mistake, update your name due to marriage or divorce, or reflect changes in personal information, this article provides a detailed step-by-step guide to help you navigate the process seamlessly.

In this comprehensive guide, we will cover the requirements, costs, and steps involved in making changes to your passport data.

We will also address frequently asked questions and common misconceptions to ensure you have all the answers you need.

Why You May Need to Change Your Data on Your Nigerian Passport

Several scenarios may necessitate updating or correcting your passport information:

1. **Marriage or Divorce:** A change in marital status may require updating your last name.
2. **Spelling Errors:** Incorrect data entry during the application process.
3. **Change of Name:** For legal or personal reasons.

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4. **Change in Personal Details:** Such as date of birth, gender, or other personal information.
 5. **Data Mismatch:** When discrepancies between your passport and other official documents arise.

Understanding your reason for the change is important as it determines the type of documents you will need to provide.

Requirements for Changing Your Passport Data

To modify your passport information, you must provide the following:

Basic Requirements

1. **Current Nigerian International Passport:** Your original passport.
2. **Application Letter:** A formal letter addressed to the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS), stating your request and the reason for the change.
3. **Evidence Supporting the Change:** Depending on the type of update:
 - **Marriage Certificate or Divorce Decree:** For a name change due to marital status.
 - **Sworn Affidavit or Court Order:** For other legal name changes or corrections.
 - **Birth Certificate:** For changes in date of birth or corrections to personal details.
4. **National Identification Number (NIN):** To ensure consistency across government records.
5. **Two Passport-Sized Photographs:** Recent, clear photographs.
6. **Police Report (if applicable):** Required if you are correcting data due to fraudulent activity or a stolen passport.

Additional Documents for Specific Cases

- **Newspaper Publication:** For name changes, you may need to publish your new name in a national newspaper.
 - **Supporting Documents from Employers or Schools:** If the change is related to professional or academic reasons.
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Step-by-Step Guide to Changing Your Passport Data

Step 1: Visit the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) Website

Start by visiting the official NIS website: <https://portal.immigration.gov.ng>. This portal provides up-to-date forms and guidelines.

Step 2: Fill Out the Data Modification Form

Navigate to the "Passport Data Modification" section and fill out the form. Provide accurate details and double-check the information before submission.

Step 3: Make the Necessary Payment

Pay the prescribed fees online via the NIS portal. Fees vary depending on the type of change requested. Save the payment receipt as proof.

Step 4: Submit Your Application

Visit the nearest NIS office to submit your application along with the supporting documents. Ensure you have:

- Your current passport.
- The completed data modification form.
- Payment receipt.
- Supporting documents (marriage certificate, affidavit, etc.).

Step 5: Attend an Interview (If Required)

You may be asked to attend an interview to clarify your application. Be prepared to answer questions and provide additional documentation if requested.

Step 6: Biometric Data Capture

You will need to have your biometrics captured again to ensure that your updated details are linked correctly.

Step 7: Wait for Approval

After submitting your application, the NIS will review your request. Processing times may vary depending on the type of change and the volume of applications.

Step 8: Collect Your Updated Passport

Once approved, you will be notified to collect your updated passport. Ensure you bring proof of application and identification when picking up your passport.

Costs Involved in Changing Your Passport Data

Below is a breakdown of the costs you might incur during the process:

Service	Cost (NGN)
Data Modification Fee	₦30,000 – ₦50,000
Newspaper Publication (if required)	₦5,000 – ₦10,000
Sworn Affidavit	₦5,000
Express Processing Fees	
▸ 1 week	₦90,000
▸ 3 days	₦95,000
▸ Same day	₦110,000

Costs may vary depending on your location and the urgency of your request.

Common Misconceptions About Changing Passport Data

- It's Only for Name Changes:** While name changes are common, you can also update other data, such as your date of birth or gender.
- The Process Takes Too Long:** With express service options, you can complete the process in as little as one day.
- It's Only for Major Changes:** Even minor errors, such as a single letter mistake, can be corrected.

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4. **No Need to Update Passport After Marriage:** Changing your name on your passport after marriage is essential for consistency across official documents.
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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. How long does it take to change data on a Nigerian passport?

The processing time varies:

- Standard service: 1-4 weeks.
- Express service: Same day to 1 week.

2. Can I change my passport details online?

While the initial application and payment can be done online, you must visit the NIS office for biometrics and document submission.

3. What happens if my passport application is denied?

If your application is denied, the NIS will provide reasons. You may need to correct the issues and reapply.

4. Is there a penalty for errors in my application?

Errors may delay your application, but there is no specific penalty. Ensure you provide accurate information to avoid setbacks.

5. Do I need a new passport after changing my name?

Yes, your updated information will be reflected on a newly issued passport.

6. Can I travel while my passport is being updated?

No, you cannot travel with an invalid or outdated passport. Wait until the process is completed.

Conclusion

Updating your data on a Nigerian international passport requires careful attention to detail, proper documentation, and adherence to the procedures outlined by the Nigerian Immigration Service.

By following the steps in this guide and ensuring you meet all requirements, you can complete the process efficiently.

With this information, you are better equipped to make necessary updates, avoid delays, and maintain accurate personal data across all your official documents.

If you have further questions, consult the NIS or seek professional advice to ensure a smooth experience.

Category

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