

PRESS STATEMENT ON THE STATUS OF THE MASS ENROLMENT AND RENEWAL EXERCISE

15TH OCTOBER 2024



1 STATUS UPDATE OF MASS ENROLMENT EXERCISE

The Registration of Persons Act 2015 established the National Identification and Registration Authority as a central registration body for the registration of all persons in Uganda; with the responsibility of establishing the National Identification Register of all persons. The Act harmonized and consolidated the law on registration of persons.

In August 2022, Cabinet approved the Mass Enrolment and Renewal Exercise with a Budget of UGX. 666.85 billion shillings. The exercise will enroll at least 17.2 million Ugandans and renew 15.8 million cards which expire 2024 – 2025 beginning August 2024. The breakdown of the budget was as follows;

Item	Amount (UGX. billions)
System including software, hardware, operating systems and all supporting technologies	293
Blank Cards	183
Administration, fuel, transport, allowances for 13,000 registration assistants.	290.95
TOTAL	666.85

1.1 RENEWAL OF EXPIRED CARDS

Beginning 24th August 2024 to 30th January 2025 up to 3.4 million are set to expire. On 12th August 2024, the Minister of Internal Affairs issued a statutory instrument number 67 – The Registration of Persons (Amendment Regulations 2024) extending the validity of National ID cards by one year from the date of expiry.

By virtue of this instrument, an expired identity card shall retain validity for an additional one year and may be used for purposes under Section 65 and 66 of the Registration of Persons Act e.g Government Services and Financial Transactions.

1.2 TIMELINE OF KEY ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES

Dates	Key Activities
February 2021	NIRA Board of Directors approved the Mass Enrolment and Renewal Concept Paper.
December 2021	Ministry of Internal Affairs submitted Mass Enrolment and Renewal Concept paper to Cabinet Secretariat for Cabinet review.
August 2022	In August 2022, Cabinet approved the Mass Enrolment and Renewal Exercise with a Budget of UGX. 666.85 billion shillings.
December 2023	Parliament appropriated UGX. 300 billion shillings for the Mass Enrolment and Renewal Exercise
Jan – June 2024	The procurement process for the new National Security Information System was carried out
Feb – Jun 2024	In February 2024, NIRA commenced the recruitment process of approximately 13,787 temporary staff who will support the execution of the Mass Enrolment and Renewal exercise country wide up to parish level. Approximately 156,000 persons applied in 135 districts and 11 cities for 22 job roles. 152,807 were subjected to an entry level competency test, 84,903 proceeded for oral interviews and 13,787 were recruited.
July 8th 2024	The contract for the delivery of the new NSIS between NIRA and the Technology Partner Tahaluf was signed.
July 17th 2024	The first project kick off meeting took place.
August 12 2024	The Instrument extending the life of expired cards by one year was gazetted.
12th – 22nd August 2024	Gathering requirements sessions for the first system phase rollout which includes New Registration, Renewal, Get 1 st ID for children turning 16 years, Change of Particulars and Replacement of Lost IDs
23rd August 2024	The Business Requirement Document for the first five modules was signed off.
19th August to 7th October 2024	95% of Data Center Equipment was purchased and delivered to Uganda

Dates	Key Activities
8th October 2024	NIRA Technical team reviewed the system development progress for pre-registration and registration client modules in relation to new registration functionality.
14th October to 15th December 2024	First phase of Data Migration. After go-live the second phase will kick in.
20th October to 15th November 2024	Installation and Configuration of the New NIRA Data Center hardware at the co-location site that meets Tier II Data Center minimum Certification will begin.
25th November 2024	Upgrade of 2 Card Printing and Personalization equipment to daily production of up to 46,000 cards for each machine.
24th November 2024	Arrival by air of 3000 kits in Uganda which represents 53.1% of the total 5665 kits is expected. These weigh 105 tons and will be transported in 500 pallets; The individual weight of each kit is 28 kg with the following dimensions 77cm*59cm*38cm
25th November 2024	Training of NIRA team on new card printing equipment.
28th November 2024	Installation and configuration of the following key components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) PKI and Hardware Security Modules b) Automated Biometric Identification System.
5th to 15th December 2024	Distribution of first batch of 3000 kits to 135 districts and 11 cities. Training of Registration Assistants will commence with distribution.
17th December 2024	Arrival by air of 1668 kits in Uganda which represents 29.5% of the total 5665 kits, bringing the total in country to 4668 which is 82.6%. The batch of 1668 weighs 58.38 tons and will be transported in 278 pallets, Go-Live of the following modules. This signifies a major milestone where enrolment will begin on new system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) New Registrations b) Renewal c) Get First ID for children attaining age of 16 years who already have a NIN d) Replacement of Lost ID e) Change of Particulars

Dates	Key Activities
26th December to 5th January 2025	Distribution of second batch of machines.
12th January 2025	Arrival by air of 997 kits in Uganda which is the last batch of kits, bringing the total in country to 5665 which is 100%. The batch of 997 weighs 34.895 tons and will be transported in 167 pallets.
19th January to 29th January	Distribution of last batch of kits.
20th January 2025	Delivery, installation and configuration of 2 additional card printing with a daily production capacity of up to 80,500 cards for each machine.

2 KEY INTERVENTIONS TO MITIGATE DELAYS IN START OF MASS ENROLMENT

2.1 ELECTORAL COMMISSION ROAD MAP FOR 2026

NIRA embarked on a 53-day exercise that commenced on 27th September 2024 and will end on 23rd November 2024. This was in order to fulfill the Electoral Commission Road map requirements to submit the list of eligible voters from the National Identification Register by 30th November 2024.

The goal of the exercise is to ensure that all eligible voters, which includes persons 17 years and above, are registered and issued with National ID's before 30th November 2024. This exercise does NOT exclude Ugandan citizens below the age of 17 from registering but simply places an emphasis or focus on eligible voters. Therefore all Ugandans are welcome to register.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs is carrying out the exercise in conjunction with Electoral Commission, Ministry for Presidency (through RDC's and RCC's), Ministry of Education (through Schools), DISO's/GISO's, Ministry of Local Government and the entire local leadership structure including the LC 1 Chairpersons and all other stakeholders.

To facilitate the participation of eligible citizens, NIRA is conducting this registration exercise through mobile outreaches at Sub County headquarters and in the respective parishes, schools, places of worship and other public places.

NIRA District teams will publish and share schedules with the district and sub county leadership and mobile registration teams. Together with district teams the information will be disseminated to the public through the radios, the office of the RDC/RCC's and other local leaders to enable the communities know when the NIRA Teams will be in their area weekly, bi-weekly and monthly intervals.

During this exercise, all applicants are urged to observe the following:

1. The exercise is conducted every day within this period, including weekends, starting at 8:00 am and ending at 5:00 pm.
2. The registration exercise is free of charge for new registrations but persons seeking change of particulars and other services that attract fees will pay the prescribed fees.
3. This Mobile Registration Exercise is being carried out from schools, places of worship, Sports grounds and other public places in the entire country.
4. The NIRA District teams will share schedules for the mobile registration teams, with the public through the Radios, RDC's/RCC's, and the local leadership to enable communities know locations in time.
5. All Ugandan citizens who have never registered for National Identity Cards should appear for registration.
 - a. Applicants of 18 years and above (adult), will be required to present an introduction letter signed by the LC 1 Chairperson, and stamped by the Internal Security Officers; the introduction letter must indicate the applicant's name, date of birth, tribe, clan, and nationality; the letter should further indicate parents' names, tribes, clans, nationality, and living status (alive or deceased or unknown)
 - b. Applicants who are below the age of 18 years will be required to present a photocopy of at least one of the parent's National ID Card or a copy of the National ID Card of a blood relative, where both parents are deceased.
 - Parents and guardians are advised to provide details that will facilitate the registration of persons below 18 years. This includes date of birth, place of origin, and village of residence, among others.
6. Furthermore, during this countrywide outreach exercise, all citizens who were registered from their schools and communities, while still below the age of 16 years, and have since attained the age of 16 years, and above, will be able to present their National Identification Number (NIN), or Application ID or the copy of their registration

form, or their names and date of birth, for data update to facilitate the processing of their National ID Cards. No other requirement is needed.

7. All Ugandan citizens who registered with NIRA but have never received their National ID Cards are urged to use this exercise to check the status of their applications at the NIRA Registration centres.

We appeal to all applicants, guardians, and duty bearers to ensure the accuracy of data provided and avoid falsification of information as this is an offence and the person liable can be punished by imprisonment.

For more information about the mobile outreach exercise, please visit the NIRA website: <https://www.nira.go.ug> or the nearest NIRA offices or your LC 1 Chairperson. You can also contact NIRA using the toll free number: 0800 211700.

2.2 CHALLENGES

1. The exercise coincides with the end of the academic year where school administrations and students are saddled by promotional exams. This has complicated the process of registering students who form the bulk of persons to be registered.

There are 27,4 million registered persons in the National Identification Register. The persons in age bracket 0-17 years are 6.3million representing approximately 22.1% of persons registered. The National Population stands at 45.9 million and the same age bracket accounts 59.7% of Uganda's population.

2. Every region of the country is experiencing heavy rainfall. This has negatively impacted the exercise as follows;
 - a. Movement of kits and other registration resources within the districts is being impeded.
 - b. Congregation of persons for registration and enrolment has been affected.
 - c. Most districts are experiencing intermittent power and in some case after a heavy downpour prolonged hours of power outage.
 - d. Internet connectivity is affected by power intermittency and outages and in some areas
3. Because of the delays in receiving the new equipment, the old equipment is being used during the intervention. Therefore, clients continue to experience slow service delivery and delays.

3 WAY FORWARD

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and NIRA will continue to strive to deliver the defined goals of the Mass Enrolment and Renewal Exercise to enroll 17.2 million unregistered Ugandans; and renew the National Identity Cards of 15.8 million Ugandans within the 2024/25 financial year. We call upon all Ugandans to take this opportunity to register and be identified as a citizen of our beautiful country Uganda: The Pearl of Africa.

R. Kisembo

Rosemary Kisembo

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
THE NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY**