

**ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL  
IDENTIFICATION AUTHORITY (NIA), PROF KENNETH AGYMANG  
ATTAFUAH AT A PRESS BRIEFING HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2020 AT THE  
NIA HEADOFFICE, ACCRA**

**Management Staff of NIA and Identity Management Systems**

**Representatives of Media Houses Present**

**Distinguished ladies and gentlemen:**

**Good Morning**

On behalf of the Minister responsible for the National Identification Authority (NIA), Hon. Dr. Anthony Akoto Osei, the Chairman of the NIA Governing Board, Mr. Abel Edusei, and entire membership of the Governing Board, I welcome you warmly to this morning's media briefing.

We have called this Briefing Session to update you on the ongoing Ghana Card Issuance Exercise and the impending nationwide mop-up registration exercise. The Briefing Session would also provide the opportunity to respond to some of the issues that have emerged regarding the activities of the NIA.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The last time we met the media in this conference room was on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020 to announce the commencement of the nationwide Mass registration Exercise. The exercise started on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019 with Greater Accra being the first region. Since then the NIA has conducted the mass registration exercise in all the 16 regions of the country except in the Eastern region where the exercise was truncated on the

21<sup>st</sup> March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time the exercise was truncated, the NIA had registered a total of 11,063,259 eligible Ghanaians. To date, NIA has printed 11,034,174 cards and issued 9,050,346 cards to qualified Ghanaians.

#### Card Issuance Exercise

The current Card Issuance blitz, which started on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 5635 registration centres across the country, is continuing till tomorrow, Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020, and may be extended as necessary to ensure that all Ghanaians whose cards are printed are able to receive them. Out of a total 3,934,073 cards that were planned to be issued, NIA has issued 1,950,245 cards to Ghanaians since the start of the exercise. We entreat all Ghanaians who are yet to collect their cards to endeavor to do so at the centres where they registered.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As I have pointed out earlier, the truncation of the registration in the Eastern region requires that we go back to complete what we started. The exercise in the Eastern region will therefore take place from Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020 to Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020. The registration centres will be open from 7:00am to 5:00 pm each day (excluding Public Holidays).

Registration centers will be set up in the following areas:

1.	SUHUM MUNICIPALITY	2.	SUHUM KRABOA COALTAR, AYENSUANO
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3.	LOWER WEST AKIM, ASAMANKESE	4.	UPPER WEST AKIM (ADEISO)
5.	NSAWAM, ADOAGYIRI	6.	LOWER MANYA KROBO
7.	YILO KROBO, SOMANYA	8.	AKUAPEM NORTH, OKERE
9.	AKUAPEM SOUTH, ABURI AKUAPEM	10.	AKUAPEM NORTH, AKROPONG AKUAPEM
11.	UPPER MANYA KROBO, ASSESEWA	12.	ASUOGYAMNG, ATIMPOKU
13.	ABUAKWA NORTH, KUKURANTUMI	14.	NEW JUABEN SOUTH
15.	NEW JUABEN NORTH	16.	FANTEAKWA NORTH, BEGORO
17.	FANTEAKWA SOUTH, OSINO	18.	AKWATIA, DENKYEMBUO
19.	ABUAKWA SOUTH, KIBI	20.	AKIM SWEDRU, BIRIM SOUTH
21.	NEW BIRIM, BIRIM NORTH	22.	AKIM ODA, BIRIM CENTRAL
23.	ACHIASE, BIRIM SOUTH	24.	OFOASO AYIREBI
25.	ASENE MANSO AKROSO	26.	KADE, KWAEBIBIREM
27.	KWAHU SOUTH	28.	ATIWA WEST
29.	ATIWA EAST	30.	AFRAM PLAINS SOUTH
31.	KWAHU WEST	32.	AFRAM PLAINS NORTH

33.	KWAHU EAST		

This registration is open to only Ghanaians aged 15 years and above and resident in the aforementioned Districts. The registration is **FREE OF CHARGE!**

All you need to do is turn up at ANY of the registration centers with your:

- **Genuine Birth Certificate or**
- **Valid Ghana Passport or**
- **Valid Certificate of acquired citizenship**

And your **Ghana Post Digital Address Code (Residential, Not Office)** without which you will not be allowed to register.

If you do not have any of these **Mandatory Documents**, a relative issued with a Ghana Card can vouch for you under oath, or two (2) members of the community who have been issued with a Ghana Card and fall in the category listed below can also vouch for you under oath:

- A practicing or retired professional teacher (including Principals, Headmasters and Head teachers)
- A Gazetted Chief
- A serving or retired Magistrate or Judge
- A licensed Professional, including a Medical Doctor, a Nurse, a Lawyer, an Accountant, an Engineer and an Architect
- A serving or retired Civil Servant
- A serving or retired Public Servant

- A serving or retired Clergyman
- An Imam
- A serving or retired Catechist
- A serving or retired member of the Security Services, including the Ghana Police Service, the Ghana Armed Forces, the Ghana Prisons Service, the Ghana Immigration Service, the Ghana National Fire Service, the Bureau of National Investigations, Customs, Excise and Preventive Service of the Ghana Revenue Authority and National Security
- A current or past Member of Parliament
- A current or past Assemblyman
- A current or past Member of a Unit Committee

You are also required to present to the registration official state identity documents or ID cards in your possession, such as Drivers licence, Voter ID card, National Health Insurance card, SSNIT Biometric card, Passport and Tax Identification Number (TIN).

These documents are **NOT** the mandatory documents which establish eligibility to register for the Ghana Card. However, to ensure effective data harmonization and integration with other state institutions, the NIA will scan and keep electronic copies of these documents and return them to you.

It is important to note that presenting false documents and information for registration is an offense punishable by law. Falsely vouching for someone who is not a Ghanaian or a person you do not know, is also an offense punishable by law.

The same processes and requirements will apply during the mop-up exercise. The

following schedule has been drawn for the nationwide mop-up exercise:

	<b>REGIONS</b>	<b>START</b>	<b>END</b>
1.	Upper East	18/06/2020	3/07/2020
2.	Upper West	18/06/2020	3/07/2020
3.	Northern	10/07/2020	24/07/2020
4.	North East	10/07/2020	24/07/2020
5.	Savannah	10/07/2020	24/07/2020
6.	Central	4/07/2020	23/07/2020
7.	Western	4/07/2020	23/07/2020
8.	Western North	4/07/2020	23/07/2020
9.	Volta	30/07/2020	9/08/2020
10.	Oti	30/07/2020	9/08/2020
11.	Ashanti	30/07/2020	13/08/2020
12.	Greater Accra	16/08/2020	29/08/2020
13.	Bono	20/08/2020	4/09/2020
14.	Bono East	20/08/2020	4/09/2020
15.	Ahafo	20/08/2020	4/09/2020

It must be stated that the following health and safety protocols will be observed at all NIA registration centres:

1. Applicants must wear a nose mask before entering the Card Collection Centre.
2. Your temperature will be checked before you enter the registration centre.
3. Applicants will be required to wash their hands under running water or use hand sanitizer before joining the queue.

4. Applicants will be spaced out in accordance with social distancing protocols
5. All registration officials will be in PPE/Safety gear
6. Scanners will be wiped before capturing finger prints
7. Applicants must sanitize their hands before leaving the card collection centres.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Contrary to popular misconception, the NIS goes beyond just the issuance of identity cards; it includes citizenship recognition and/or determination, data integration, harmonization of identification systems, as well as data storage and exchange systems for all Ghanaians living in Ghana or and abroad, from cradle to grave and foreigners legally resident in Ghana.

There are up to 14 applets on the Ghana Card, one of which is a Common Payment Application (CPA). There are three (3) International ID profiles that allow citizens to verify identities internationally and to access digital platforms to undertake electronic transactions. The technical system is world class and is at par with the best practices in the world. It is projected that the effective management of the NIS Project will foster harmonisation and integration of all data silos in the public space and thereby transform Ghana into a “Smart Country”. The Verification Platforms for the use of the Ghana Card are under construction.

Distinguished ladies and Gentlemen

The National Identity Register Regulations (L.I. 2111) passed in 2012, makes the Ghana Card the ONLY identity card to be required and produced in transactions where identity must be established or proved. By law, there are 17 mandatory uses of the Ghana Card, and failure to produce the card will result in the denial of a service, facility, right or opportunity to which a person may otherwise be entitled.

For the record, the mandatory uses of the Ghana Card as contained in the said Legislative Instrument include application for and issuance of a passport; application for and issuance of a driver's licence; opening individual or personal bank accounts; transfer and registration of land by an individual; transactions pertaining to individuals in respect of pensions; transactions specified under the National Health Insurance Scheme; purchase of a SIM card; transactions relating to pensions, transactions relating to insurance policies, transactions that have social security implications, registration as a voter; acquisition of a SIM card; payment of taxes; consumer credit transactions; and applications for public or government services, facilities, approvals, permissions or benefits. The inclusive development needs of the nation demand that all Ghanaians be enabled to register for and be issued with the Ghana Card.

Every Ghanaian, aged between zero and infinity, is to be registered and issued with the Ghana Card. Ghanaians living in Ghana will receive the card at no cost to the individual, while Ghanaians living outside the country will pay a fee for the card. The card is valid for 10 years, after which every citizen will be required to renew it at a fee. Replacement of the card upon loss or destruction at any time will also attract a fee.

Two types of cards will be issued: Ghanaian children under 15 years will receive a two-dimensional (2D) bar code card, while Ghanaians 15 years and above will receive smart, dual-interface chip-embedded cards that can be used in both contact and contactless transactions. The smart card meets the standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and has certification from the International Organization for Standardization. The Ghana Card is fully- compliant with the ECOWAS biometric ID card specifications. It also has tactile properties that allow the blind to identify the card.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This mop-up registration process is for *only* Ghanaians. Any foreigner who attempts to register for the Ghana Card violates the laws of Ghana and will, upon arrest, be dealt with in accordance with law. A separate arrangement exists for eligible foreigners to register under the Foreigners Identity Management System (FIMS) Project and to be issued with the Non-Citizen Identity Card. Foreigners who have lived in Ghana for a cumulative period of 90 days or more are required to register for the card which comes at a fee of \$120 for fresh applications and \$60 for renewals.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

### **Double Registration**

Since the commencement of the mass registration exercise, 32,756 cases of double registration have been recorded. This is a situation where an applicant attempts to register twice at a particular registration centre or at a different registration centre. When this happens, the applicant's card will not print because the system holds on to it for reasons of suspected fraud. Having said that, all applicants whose cards are not yet ready should not attempt to register again during the mop-up exercise otherwise the system will consider it as a fraud (Double Registration).

### **Challenge Cases**

Permit me, at this point, to remind all Ghanaians about our individual and collective bounden duty to vigorously police the boundaries of Ghanaian citizenship. It is the minimum we can and should do to make our nation great and strong. Under the law,

Ghanaians are mandated to challenge, in good faith, the eligibility claim of any person they believe is not eligible to be registered and issued with the Ghana Card. *This Challenge* process is open to every Ghanaian. NIA has so far recorded **350** challenge cases nationwide.

In addition to these challenge cases, NIA has withheld the Ghana Cards of some applicants because the Personal Identification Numbers indicate that they had previously been registered in the National Identity Register as foreigners and have now attempted to register for the Ghana Card as Ghanaians without showing evidence of acquiring Ghanaian citizenship. Persons in this category will be required to provide evidence to establish that they have subsequently acquired Ghanaian citizenship.

#### **The “Vouching For” Process**

There is no limit to the number of persons one can vouch for however vouching must be done honestly and with integrity. The Personal Identification Number of the person vouching is tied to that of the person who has been vouched for. Both parties will be prosecuted if it is discovered that the vouching was done fraudulently.

Please be advised that nobody should take up the responsibility of vouching as a contract for fee payment. You are to vouch for persons you know to be Ghanaians and are eligible to register. Vouching falsely is criminal and there are consequences.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

**MULTIPLE GHANA CARDS AT CARD DISTRIBUTION CENTRES**

During the current Ghana Card distribution exercise it was observed that some applicants had two or three cards printed with the same personal details or with different card or PIN's. We can explain why this occurred.

1. It must be stated that each Ghana Card has a Personal ID Number and a Document Number.
2. The Personal ID Number is designed to be unique to an individual whereas the Document Number is unique to each card. Each citizen's Ghana Card has a valid period of ten years. This means that during a person's lifetime they may have more than one card. Each card should bear the same Personal ID Number but have a different Document Number.
3. Before a Ghana Card is produced as the result of a registration, there are a complex set of processes that need to be completed. During the printing process, encrypted data is also written to the embedded chip.
4. After the card is printed there are two verification steps that should be completed to ensure the card is suitable for use.
  - The first is a manual inspection of the card that ensures that the printed details are legible and that the card is laminated properly. This step happens as soon as the card is printed, if there are errors the card will be reprinted.
  - The second is a biometric verification of the person against the details stored in the chip. This process can happen when the person collects the card or when it is first used during a verification event.
5. The system allows only ONE card to be active against a set of biometrics (face, fingers and iris) at a time. Details of all verifications are stored in the central system.

6. NIA and its technical partner Identity Management Systems (IMS) are constantly monitoring the registration and card production activities. As a result of the constant monitoring we are aware of the occurrence of two situations relating to multiple card production for a person. -The first is where Ghana Cards are printed for a person with the same Personal Identification Number and different Document Numbers.  
-The second is where multiple cards have been printed for the same person with different Personal Identification Numbers and different Document Numbers.
7. The case where multiple cards have been printed with the same Personal Identification Number and different Document Numbers for a person can result from reprinting a card.
8. There are 525 incidences where multiple cards have been printed for a person with different Personal Identification Numbers. This was caused by a system update which has been resolved.
9. As mentioned earlier, only ONE card can be active against a set of biometrics (face, fingers and iris). The system automatically assigns invalid card details to a watch list.
10. It should be noted that the biometrics on two cards in two different pictures being circulated on social media are the same as the person shown on the front of the card.
11. The affected people are being contacted by the NIA to inform them on what they need to do. Any invalid cards are put on a watch list and cannot be used.

## MANUAL VERIFICATION DURING CARD DISTRIBUTION EXERCISE

The practice of manually verifying applicants during the card issuance process has been criticized by some persons and NIA will want to address the issue as follows:

1. When an applicant gets to the Card Distribution Centre, he or she will have to present his registration slip/form to assist with identification. Even without these documents an applicant will be attended to by the card distribution officer once he or she is certain about the Applicant's identity.
2. A dummy ID card which has the applicant's picture and personal details in the card distribution album is signed or thumb printed as proof of having been issued the Ghana card.
3. There is a QR code on the dummy ID card which has the applicant's Ghana Card Personal Identification Number (PIN) etc in it.
4. At the end of the card distribution exercise, the album's will be returned to the NIA Head Office. Only signed or thumbprint dummy ID cards in the album will have their QR code scanned. The scanning of the QR code will confirm that the card(s) have been issued.
5. The adoption of the use of the card distribution album in the card distribution process was informed by the following considerations:
  - i. To enable speedy distribution of 3.9million cards to applicants.
  - ii. To prevent the situation of having 3.9million applicants across the country going to the registration centres when NIA's mop-up exercise

starts. The manual verification will reduce the risk of applicants undermining the protocols on physical distancing.

6. Moreover, the use of manual verification is not a novel practice. One can use the ocular inspection approach, the match-on-card approach or the one-to-many approach which is online. The National Identity System is designed to use or apply any or all of these methods.

### **Values and Considerations Driving NIA**

NIA appreciates the benefits of Ghana having a credible National Identity System. This sound appreciation of the tremendous benefits of the Ghana Card to citizens and the nation is what drives NIA Management and Staff to execute its mandate with dedication and loyalty to the nation. Voting and elections do not form part of NIA's mandate, and do not drive what NIA does.

The NIA Governing Board, Management and Staff are well aware of the impact their success will make in Ghana's development and wake up every day determined to achieve just that. The following are the values, realities, ethos and considerations that drive and motivate NIA Governing Board Members, Management and Staff in discharge of their duties:

1. Meeting the sustainable development goals of providing legal identity for all Ghanaians and qualified foreigners in Ghana.
2. Contributing to the nation's effort to decrease Cybercrime and Internet fraud. A credible national ID system has great potential of removing anonymity from our country.

3. Supporting the Ghana Immigration Service in Immigration Enforcement activities. Ghana's immigration officials on enforcement duties will be able to easily identify nationals and foreigners.
4. Providing effective and reliable identity verification and data exchange platforms to enhance business transaction in the country. At the Results Fair held at the International Conference Centre early this year, the Banks represented at the open forum expressed keen interest in seeing NIA's verification system come on board for easy verification of the Ghana Card.
5. Facilitating the smooth usage of a credible, robust, dependable and modern smart Ghana Card with tremendous functionalities. The NHIA and SSNIT have decided to stop issuing ID cards to their members and rather piggy-back on the Ghana Card because of the utility, quality and value of the Ghana Card. NIA welcomes any other state institution that would want to use one of the 14 loadable applets on the chip embedded in the Ghana Card.
6. Removing the difficulties encountered by passport applicants. The Ghana Card, which is also an ECOWAS CARD, is a passport for use within the West African sub-region. Thus, 16.7 million Ghanaians will be issued with a passport for free by the end of the mass registration and mop-up exercises. Using the Ghana Card will make on-line applications for paper passports as easier and quicker.
7. Facilitating the generation of credible data for national development planning. We can tell from the data, for instance, which category of professionals we need to train and encourage for national development, and the number of persons who are vulnerable, and in need of special assistance.

I trust that the information provided today brings clarity to the work we have done thus far and also throws light on our roll-out strategy for the Eastern Region as well as the nationwide mop-up registration exercise. I further trust that the information also awakens us to our responsibilities not only to register for the Ghana Card but also to ensure that only Ghanaians participate in this mass registration exercise and get enrolled onto the National Identity Register.

Ladies and Gentlemen, friends from the media, let me thank you most sincerely for your presence and kind attention.

May God bless us all.