



NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION AUTHORITY (NIA)

PRESS BRIEFING BY NIA ON THE NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM PROJECT

Date: 30th June 2021

Venue: Conference Hall of the Ministry of Information

The Minister of Information, Honourable Kojo Opong Nkrumah, Deputy Minister of Information, Honourable Fati Abubakari, the Director-General of SSNIT, Dr. John Ofori-Tenkorang, Departmental Heads of NIA and SSNIT present, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press, I welcome you all to this Press Briefing.

This briefing session provides us the opportunity to share with you some of the significant milestones that we have crossed since 2017. Before that, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press, kindly permit me to highlight the key objectives of the National Identification System (NIS) Project. These are, among other things, to:

1. Fulfil NIA's statutory mandate of developing a national biometric identity repository of Ghanaians at home and abroad and foreign nationals legally and permanently resident in Ghana;
2. Register all Ghanaians from birth to infinity unto an electronic National Identity Register (NIR);
3. Issue identity cards to all Ghanaians in and outside Ghana;
4. Provide biometric verification services to all User Agencies such as the Banks, Mobile Network Operators, Social Security and National Insurance Trust (SSNIT), National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA), Ghana

Revenue Authority (GRA), Passport Office, Births and Deaths Registry, Driver and Vehicle Licencing Authority (DVLA) to name a few;

5. Harmonize and integrate existing identification registers of other government agencies and eliminate duplication of efforts and waste of national resources;
6. Upgrade the NIS to become the foremost source of identification system in Ghana;
7. Ensure that Ghana's ID system meets international standards of biometric identification;
8. Provide the information and communication technology infrastructure, data capture systems, card issuance systems and data exchange Web Services to:
 - a) Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration (MOFARI) to be used for the provision of an efficient system for issuing passports;
 - b) Licensed telecommunications service providers to be used for the registration and re-registration of SIMS;
 - c) Licensed banks and other financial institutions to be used for all customer due diligence and other identity verifications required for banking and other financial transactions;
 - d) DVLA to be used for the identity verifications required for issuance of driver and vehicle licenses; and
 - e) Any other institution that may require the Web Services for any purpose; and
9. Enable NIA generate revenue to fund its operations and projects

The 1st Phase of the revamped NIS Project Roll-Out started on 15th September 2017, when the NIA conducted a liveness test of the National Identity Card ("Ghana Card") issuance process and the registration and instant issuance of the

first Ghana Card to His Excellency the President, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo.

The 2nd Phase of the Roll-Out of the NIS Project, which entailed registration of, and card issuance to Ghanaians, commenced on Monday, 4th June 2018. It is worth noting that the Mass Registration Exercise started on 29th April 2019 with Greater Accra being the first region. The NIA has successfully conducted the Mass Registration Exercise in all sixteen regions of Ghana. Following the successful conduct of mass registration, NIA has also successfully established permanent offices in all its 275 operational Districts, and 17 operational Regions across the country.

The following constitute the key milestones that have been achieved so far:

1. As of 28th June 2021, the following registration statistics were recorded:
 - *Ghanaians registered: 15,581,283*
 - *Cards printed: 15,562,413*
 - *Cards issued: 13,946,371*

NIA successfully transferred NIA's technical back-end system from the premises of its private partner under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Project Agreement for the National Identification System – Identity Management Systems II Limited (IMS II) – to a secure data facility of the Bank of Ghana;

2. Conducted the Factory Acceptance Test (FAT) and Site Acceptance Test (SAT) of NIA's back-end system;
3. Conducted the Operational Acceptance Test (OAT) of the back-end system which is the last stage in the process of handing over the technical system;

4. Upgraded NIA's Data Centre from a Tier Two (2) to an ultra-modern Tier Three (3) integrated Data Centre to ensure the effective implementation of the NIS;
5. Transferred the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) component of the NIS to the National Information Technology Agency (NITA) in line with the statutory mandate of NITA;
6. Held sensitization meetings with major stakeholders and key influencers in Ghana in order to broaden the scale of public appreciation of the NIS Project;
7. Negotiated and subsequently executed the NIS Project Agreement on 16th April 2018 with Identity Management Systems II Limited (IMS II), a subsidiary of the Margins Group of Companies, for the implementation of the National Identification System (NIS) Project for the issuance of national identity cards to Ghanaians at home and abroad under a Public Private Partnership (PPP) Agreement;
8. Negotiated the successful release of the artwork for the Ghana Card from Safran Morpho of France, the original copyright holders, to NIA on behalf of Ghana;
9. Negotiated an agreement with ECOWAS to ensure that the Ghana Card complies with the standards and requirements for the ECOWAS ID Card at no extra cost to Ghana, and subsequently integrated the Ghana Card and the ECOWAS Card into one card, thereby saving Ghana millions of Cedis. The adoption of the ECOWAS ID card is pursuant to an ECOWAS protocol executed by Ghana in December 2012 which required all ECOWAS Member States to issue ECOWAS ID card to its citizens;

10. Signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA) and NIA's "User Agencies" including BoG, SSNIT, NHIA, GRA, etc. on data exchange protocols which would result in these agencies no longer producing sector-specific ID cards and saving Ghana hundreds of millions of Cedis over the 15-year life cycle of the NIS Project with IMS II;
11. Facilitated the passage and subsequent grant of Presidential Assent to the *National Identity Register (Amendment) Act, 2017 (Act 950)* to, inter alia, reduce the age of registration from age six to registration from birth, and to restrict the types of identity documents that can be used to establish eligibility for registration for the Ghana Card;
12. Facilitated the passage of the *National Identity Register (Amendment) Regulations, 2018 (L.I.2356)* revising the NIA Registration Form to conform to the requirements of *Act 950*;
13. Recruited and trained for deployment in the Mass Registration Exercise over 70,000 temporary or contract staff variously classed as Registration Supervisors, Registration Officers, Registration Assistants, Field Technicians, Mobile Registration Workstation Operators, and Card Verification Officers;
14. Secured the cooperation of the Judicial Service of Ghana to recruit and train 2,286 qualified Ghanaians as Commissioners for Oaths to ensure that Ghanaians who lack the eligibility documents (Birth Certificates, valid passports or Certificates of Acquired Citizenship) can be vouched for in accordance with the law to register for the Ghana Card;

15. Commenced the Mass Registration Exercise subsequent to the attainment of the requisite Conditions Precedent by NIA and IMS II in the Greater Accra Region on 29th April 2019;
16. Establishment of a Situation Room akin to a Virtual War Room to ensure around-the-clock constant monitoring of field operations and to provide speedy responses to technical challenges that arise in the field during mass registration;
17. Commenced Institutional and Household registration activities in the Greater Accra Region. So far, a total of 39 companies and 18 households in the Greater Accra Region have been registered at their facilities and convenience. This exercise is ongoing and will be extended to all regions across the country following the establishment of permanent Regional and District offices.
18. NIA has successfully integrated with the Ghana Revenue Authority. Beginning 1st April 2021, the Personal Identification Number (PIN) of every Ghana Card holder in Ghana automatically replaces the Tax Identification Number (TIN). This has increased the number of Ghanaians with the TIN from under 400, 000 to more than 15,000,000;
19. The NIA has also successfully co-located with GRA at 34 GRA offices across the country, where persons doing business with the GRA but without TIN can register for the Ghana Card at the offices of the GRA. Ghanaians aged 15 years and above who have not yet registered for the Ghana Card can also

be registered at no fee at the GRA offices where NIA registration centres are located.

20. On Monday, 28th June 2021, SSNIT announced the successful integration of the personal identity records of its subscribers with their Ghana Card records on the National Identification database. This integration ensures that SSNIT gradually phases out the ID cards it issues to its members, but shall now have all members seek social security and pension services using their Ghana Card.

21. NIA and IMS II have successfully piloted the electronic verification platform with Cal Bank PLC. Cal Bank has rolled out the electronic verification service across all its branches nationwide. There is a transitional period from June to December 2021, within which all banks and telecommunication service providers would be onboarded.

Ladies and Gentlemen having established Regional and District offices across the country, from August this year onwards, NIA is now in a position to render the following services to all Ghanaians irrespective of where they live:

1. Continuous registration of Ghanaians aged 15 years and above;
2. Replacement of cards to individuals whose cards are lost, stolen, defaced or damaged;
3. Update of individual personal records in the NIR;
4. Registration of Ghanaians under 15 years old and below (a date soon to be announced);
5. Registration of staff of institutions and households at a fee;

6. Registration of Ghanaians in the diaspora (a date soon to be announced); and
7. Verification services to public and private sector institutions seeking to verify records of clients before services are rendered them.

STATUS OF INTEGRATION WITH OTHER STATE INSTITUTIONS

NHIA

Integration Status

- On Monday, 9th November 2020, the short code *929# was launched to help NHIS card holders link their cards with the Ghana Card;
- Bulk Data on Applicants who provided their NHIS details have been transferred to NHIA;
- Executed an MoU with NHIA for data harmonization and integration purposes; and
- Continuous data transfer and mapping is ongoing between NIA and NHIA.

Benefits

- Increase the adoption and usage of the National Health Insurance Scheme;
- Help health facilities to seamlessly and accurately record births and deaths;
- Help locate the relatives of patients during emergencies;
- Reduce time spent at health facilities by linking digitized patient records with the Ghana Card.

SSNIT

Integration Status:

- The integration process started on 28th June 2021 and will be completed by the end of this year;
- Individuals can now merge their SSNIT and Ghana Card ID numbers using a USSD code on their phones by dialing *711*9#; and
- Executed an MoU with SSNIT for data harmonization and integration purposes.

Benefits

- Improves the Trust's ease of doing business with its members/clients
- SSNIT will be fully compliant with the National Identity Register Regulations, 2012, L.I.2111 after the integration
- SSNIT will know the exact number of expected contributors in Ghana
- SSNIT can capture persons in the informal economy as contributors

GRA

Integration Status:

- The process started on 1st April 2021 and will end on 31st December 2021;
- NIA registration officials are at 34 GRA offices across the country; registering individuals who do not have a Ghana Card;

- Executed an MoU with GRA for data harmonization and integration purposes; and
- Bulk Data on registered applicants transferred to GRA; and
- Ongoing continuous Data transfer and mapping.

Benefits

- Widen the tax net by including the informal sector;
- Improve domestic revenue collection;
- Prevent tax-related identity theft.

BOG & BANKS

Integration Status:

- Pilot Verification Exercise completed with Cal Bank PLC;
- Cal Bank PLC has rolled out the verification system at all branch offices;
- Other banks such as Ecobank, Access, Fidelity have commenced onboarding processes;
- Executed an MoU with Bank of Ghana for data harmonization and integration with banks and other financial institutions;
- Engagements with the Bank of Ghana and Ghana Association of Bankers ongoing.

Benefits

- Legal Identity and verification of Biographic Information;
- Facial and Fingerprint Biometric Verification for the confirmation of identity;
- Evidence of timestamped verification reports;

- Speeds up performance of banks' Know Your Customer (KYC) compliance requirements;
- Improve Customer Service delivery;
- Mitigate banking fraud.

BIRTH AND DEATH REGISTRY

Integration Status:

- Ongoing onboarding discussions;
- Births and Deaths Registry has embarked on consolidation of their Identity systems, anticipated to be completed by August 2021.

Benefits

- Control Entry (birth) and Exit (death) on the National Identification System (NIS);
- Identification and facilitation of legal entitlements Accurate national mortality statistics;
- Inform planning for future health, education and other social services;
- Maintain a credible and accurate database.

MOFARI

Integration Status:

- Ongoing onboarding discussions with Deputy Comptroller of GIS and his team;
- Project Plan for GIS onboarding developed and shared with MoFARI

The Ghana Card has three secure identity profiles and one of them is an electronic passport (e-passport). This contains a collection of read-only files that include sophisticated cryptographic mechanisms that protect the security of the document and the privacy of the passport holder;

Information that is printed on the bio data page of a paper passport; thresholder's name, date of birth and other biographic information;

Benefits

- Check authenticity of Non-Citizen Ghana Card (NCGC) during permit application;
- Provide access to data sets to GIS for issuance of permit;
- Comparable data for analysis on foreigners who may have NCGC, but not up to date on permit renewals;
- Have information of the companies and their number of expatriate staff;
- Enforcement of compliance with immigration laws will be more efficient with digital address of foreign residents from national database;
- Applet space available on the Ghana Card for the storage of permit information.

TELCOS

Integration Status:

- Technical and Communications plans prepared and presented to NCA;
- Draft MoU for verification services shared with TELCOS;
- Demonstration of USSD short code *404# completed.

Benefits

- Drastically reduces the occurrence of Mobile Money fraud;
- Increases the legitimacy of Mobile Money Digital Banking;
- Ensures **transparency, compliance and security** resulting in increased consumer **TRUST** and patronage.

The NIA is also in consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration and other relevant stakeholders regarding the registration of Ghanaians in the diaspora. Very soon the commencement date for the registration of our compatriots abroad shall be announced.

The NIA continues to appeal to all Ghanaians for their maximum cooperation as we work towards creating the necessary platform to accelerate the digitalization agenda of the Akufo Addo Government, and put Ghana on the path of sustainable economic growth and development.

Thank you very much for the attention.

Signed,
Prof. Kenneth Agyemang Attafuah
Executive Secretary, NIA