



PRESS STATEMENT

25th March 2022

UPDATE ON THE PRODUCTION OF SECURITISED MULTI-PURPOSE IDENTITY

CARDS (NATIONAL & ECOWAS COMPLIANT), IDENTITY VERIFICATION

SYSTEM AND PUBLIC KEY INFRASTRUCTURE IN SIERRA LEONE.

The National Civil Registration Authority (NCRA) wishes to inform the general public that the Government of Sierra Leone through Parliament has ratified a 15-year Agreement between the National Civil Registration Authority (NCRA) and Constrat Systems SL LTD for the production of Securitised and Multi-purpose Identity (ID) Cards (National & ECOWAS Compliant), ID Verification System and Public Key Infrastructure (PKI). The ID Cards will be accessed and utilised by citizens and other Residents in Sierra Leone.

These Chip-based ID Cards will ensure proper identification and authentication using the National Identification Number (NIN) as a unique identifier that will neither be duplicated nor re-used and assigned from birth to death, thereby strengthening accountability and transparency in Public Administration, governance and accountable service delivery, while also serving as a deterrent to any attempt at identity fraud or manipulation.

The Authority is also pleased to announce that the following categories of ID Cards will be produced:



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- National Identity Cards that will be limited to Sierra Leoneans only,
- ECOWAS ID Cards - on demand for use within ECOWAS member States,
- Sierra Leone ECOWAS ID Cards – also on demand for Sierra Leoneans wishing to travel within member States consistent with the ECOWAS Protocol to promote free movement, integration, trade liberalization etc.
- Non-National ID Cards - Mandatory for all foreign residents in Sierra Leone.

These legal Identity documents will be mandatory to access services that include but will not be limited to the following: transactions with financial institutions (Banks, Forex Bureaux, Insurance Companies etc); Vehicle Registration and Licensing; Recruitment into Public and Private Institutions for consistency in personal information and verification; NASSIT enrolment; Land and Property Registration; Enrolment into Educational institutions including Public Exams; SIM Card Registration to account for every communication in order to halt abuse and pranks; Vital Events Registration such as Births, Deaths, Adoptions, Marriages (Civil, Christian, Mohammedan



and Traditional) and Divorces; Immigration Services- Residence and Work Permits and; Business Registration and Incorporation among others.

Moreover, these Securitised Multi-purpose ID Cards will be associated with benefits that will enable citizens and other residents to access services such as healthcare, education, social security, financial transactions and other public services, as well as support tax administration, immigration opportunities, financial inclusion etc. It will also enable citizens and others to exercise their civil right to secure protection against sexual offences on the girl child, child labour, early marriage, teenage pregnancy, Identity manipulation, impersonation etc. by providing proof of identity and other demographic details such as age thus halting dynamism of personal information.

Furthermore, the NCRA is pleased to inform the general public that Identity services will be decentralised where the ID Cards when produced, will be issued in District headquarter towns as well as other communities with high population in order to ease the burden on the movement of the public to acquire ID Cards from Freetown.

Additionally, these Identity services will complement Government's efforts in providing details of perpetrators of crime to the security sector.



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Through the ID Verification System, personal information of people will be authenticated by Institutions authorised to access the ID System at the NCRA to guarantee consistency of personal information and halt dynamism and abuse of such information thus ensuring a reliable track or record of every transaction whether business or communication digitally.

To conclude, the Board, Management and Staff of the NCRA extend thanks and appreciation to His Excellency the President, Brig. (Rtd.) Dr. Julius Maada Bio for providing strong and enduring leadership for the people of Sierra Leone with one key achievement being the opportunity for Sierra Leoneans to access this first-of-its-kind Securitised Multi-purpose Identity Cards which have not been available for a decade and are consistent with ECOWAS and ICAO standards. This move by the New Direction Government has further restored dignity to the Legal Identity eco-system where everyone through this instrument, will be uniquely identified either as a citizen or a foreign resident.

Further appreciation is extended to all stakeholders (individuals and institutions and our Development Partners) for their patience, understanding and unflinching support to the NCRA over the years in



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ensuring that Civil Registration and ID Management become a remarkable success in Sierra Leone.

END!!



Civil Registration is a Right and a Must