



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR & COORDINATION OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

PRESS STATEMENT

Update on Progress of Implementation of Huduma Namba

Over the years, Kenya's population databases have been existing in paper-based records and silos, a challenge that has had detrimental impacts on service delivery and left the citizens' personal information vulnerable to the emerging security threats. The country's identity systems have been infiltrated and abused by criminals, some posing as Kenyans or using Kenyan documents to commit crime, fraud, and massive forgery.

It is against this backdrop that the government conceptualized the National Integrated Identity Management System (NIIMS), a modern integrated database that would capture the biometric data and other information of all Kenyans and foreign nationals living in the country. This is in line with the global best practices in the context of identity management and the pursuit of Target 9 of SDG 16.

NIIMS, which will be the first of its kind in our history, will be the authentic "single source of truth" on a person's identity and guide national planning processes, facilitate access to government services, and address such crimes as impersonation, identity theft, fraud, and duplication in registration.

Following the mass registration exercise for Huduma Namba that was concluded on May 25, 2019, and June 20, 2019, in the country and the diaspora respectively, the government is well on course to operationalize the centralized biometric identity system.

The process was slowed down by the case filed at the High Court ruling through the **consolidated Petitions No. 56, 58 and 59 of 2019**. In its ruling, the court directed that the government rolls out the system on condition that an "appropriate and comprehensive regulatory framework on the implementation of NIIMS that is compliant with the applicable constitutional requirements" is first enacted.

So far, great strides have been made concurrently with the review and reinforcement of the legal and regulatory framework for the implementation process, and the government hereby informs Kenyans as follows:

1. The database logistics and the software for NIIMS are 100 percent Kenyan government-funded, designed, and developed, and solely managed by Kenyans. No single component of the implementation process is handled by foreigners.
2. Over 90 percent of the datasets collected from the 37 million Kenyans during the mass registration exercise have been cleaned up and matched, with mass production of Huduma Cards set to begin by the end of this year.

3. Owing to the **sensitivity** and **criticality** of the data, the government made an executive decision to task the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government with the printing and issuance of Huduma Cards.
4. A state-of-the-art data centre has been created and a well-planned redundancy design and mission-critical applications contrived to ensure zero downtime and secure the data centre environment even in worst case scenarios.
5. Further, the Ministries of Interior & Coordination of National Government and Information, Communication and Technology have drafted **The Data Protection (Civil Registration) Regulations, 2020** and **The Registration of Persons (National Integrated Identity Management System) Regulations, 2020** as directed by the Court. After comprehensive public participation, a pre-publication scrutiny of the two statutory instruments has been held with the Parliamentary Committee on Delegated Legislation preparatory to their enactment into laws.
6. The Cabinet, chaired H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta, is regularly apprised of all the matters concerning NIIMS by the Cabinet Secretaries Technical Committee for the implementation of this system.

The government urges Kenyans to be wary of misinformation, disinformation, and conspiracy theories propagated about Huduma Namba. For reliable and accurate information, the Government Spokesperson's office is always open to any member of the public. Alternatively, seek answers via official social media channels – @SpokespersonGoK (Twitter) and @SpokesPersonKenya (Facebook).

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