



NIRA

National Identification and Registration Authority
Uganda- My Country My Identity

PRESS STATEMENT

Our Ref...

KAMPALA, 8th October 2020

ALLEGED INVOLMENT OF NIRA STAFF IN THE MOBILE MONEY FRAUD

Our attention has been drawn to the article in The New Vision of today, Thursday 8th October 2020 under the title "NIRA staff cited in mobile money fraud". This follows recent reports of theft of money from telecom companies' mobile money platforms.

While the matter is still under investigation, we wish to observe that the role of NIRA in the process of SIM Card registration and verification needs to be clarified.

The National Identification and registration Authority (NIRA) is mandated to register persons including citizens and legally resident aliens, assign them unique identification numbers (NINs) and issue them with Identification Cards. The particulars of every individual registered is thus entered into the National Identification Register (NIR). The NIR is established to facilitate various government processes, including tracking of persons against the NIN where such action is required. Access and Use of information in the NIR is provided for under Section 67 of the Registration of Persons Act (ROPA) 2015 and the Registration of Persons (Access and Use of Information) Regulations, Statutory Instrument No. 66 of 2015.

The fact that SIM Cards were registered against individuals NINs is an achievement of the primary objective of identifying who holds which SIM Card. This therefore means that investigators should be able to identify the registered owners of the SIM Cards used in the robberies.

It is a requirement by government, that all applicants for SIM cards are duly registered for national IDs. It is against this that NIRA in compliance with the above mentioned legal provisions, provides for access and use of information in the NIR to the telecom companies through their regulator Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) through the Third Party Interface (TPI) to facilitate verification of applicants particulars against agreed parameters such as the Name, NIN and Biometrics of the applicant. Such requests for verification are either confirmed if a person is registered or denied where the applicant for a SIM Card is NOT registered. This process is automated and does **NOT** involve physical contact with NIRA staff.

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We wish to emphasise against the above therefore, that NIRA's role is to facilitate verification of identities against applicants' details on the Identification Cards and **NOT** to register SIM Cards.

We wish to further reassure the public that the information on persons in the National Identification Register is secure and all appropriate measures have been taken to ensure its security.



Gilbert Kadilo

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