

# INTERNATIONAL IDENTITY DAY

## QUESTION

### What is International Identity Day?

#### Response

The International Identity Day Campaign is the ongoing Call for government authorities in all countries around the world to officially recognize 16 September as Identity Day.

The Registration of Person Act 2015 created the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) as an autonomous statutory body which among others is mandated to register, assign and issue National Identification Numbers (NINs) to all persons, children inclusive, in Uganda. NIRA is therefore at the forefront of facilitating and enabling identity for all in Uganda.

### What is Legal Identity?

#### Response

As guided by the United Nations, Legal identity is defined as the basic characteristics of an individual's identity, e.g. name, sex, place and date of birth conferred through registration by an authorized civil registration authority following the occurrence of birth.

In the context of Uganda, a person's legal identity is their National Identification Number (NIN) issued upon registration of a birth or upon registration for a National Identification Card.

### Why Identity Day

#### Response

The Call for identity to have a day of observance was initiated by ID4Africa at the 4th Annual Meeting of the ID4Africa Movement on 24 April 2018, in Abuja, Nigeria. The Call was enthusiastically received by the global identity and development community, who saw in this initiative a rallying cry to keep in mind the importance of SDG 16.9 and to keep countries focused on its achievement.

Having proof of one's identity is a fundamental right, and a practical necessity for the human experience, especially in the context of digital transformation of society. Very few social constructs play as foundational a role in our lives as personal identity, yet the world does not commemorate it. Through a commemorative day we hope to promote a responsible narrative about the most important human asset - our identity.

### Why 16th September?

#### Response

The choice of the date 16 September (16.9) is highly symbolic. It is in commemoration of the UN Sustainable Development Goal 16.9 which

calls for the provision of legal identity for all by 2030, including birth registration.

### What are the fundamentals in Identity?

#### Response

Identity Day is a moment for us to pause and reflect on three (3) fundamentals in identity:

#### INCLUSION

ID Day sensitizes us to the plight of those who lack proof of identity (estimated at 1 billion with about half in Africa) and reaffirms our commitment to achieving total inclusion, so that no one is left behind.

NIRA continues to execute its mandate of registering and assigning NIN's to all persons. Specifically, NIRA with the support of development partners like UNICEF, WORLD BANK, JLOS, DAI – ESP, WFP carries out targeted mobile registration services to special categories of people that is

1. Children in Childcare homes
2. Elderly people and persons with disabilities
3. Hard to reach areas
4. Refugee hosting communities
5. Teenage mothers
6. Project Affected Persons

#### PROTECTION

ID Day is a reminder, for those who have proof of identity, to verify that their identity is secured against theft and their privacy is protected. It reaffirms that protecting our most valuable asset is an ongoing concern.

NIRA complies with the requirements of Data protection and privacy as provided for in the Data Protection and Privacy Act, 2019 and regulations there under. The Personal Data Protection Office of Uganda has certified the same.

The core values of NIRA are Integrity, Accountability, Accuracy and Data Security.

#### EMPOWERMENT

ID Day is also an opportunity for those who have proof of identity, to check if they are reaping the highest returns on their identity by asking how well their identity can empower them and simplify their daily lives. It is the ideal occasion to call on service providers to adopt identity-enabled service delivery.

For a person to access a wide range of services, they are required to present their National Identification Number (NIN) Such services include:

1. Passports
2. Bank Account Opening
3. Driving Licence

4. Pension and Social Security Transactions
5. Employment and salaries
6. Voting

### What are the Future Plans?

1. In a bid to improve its processes and address the current technological challenges, NIRA is in the process of acquiring a new National Security Information system (The ID system)
2. NIRA plans to hold a mass enrolment exercise to register 17.2 million Ugandans who have never been registered and therefore lack legal identity. These include children, elderly persons, widows, persons with disabilities, orphans, persons in hard-to-reach areas. By doing this, Uganda would have met the UN Sustainable Development Goal 16:9 which calls for the provision of legal identity for all, by 2030, including birth registration.
3. In a bid to take services closer to the people, after the mass enrolment exercise, NIRA is planning to strengthen the Birth Registration function by establishing Registration points as close to the occurrence of the Birth, that is, at a health facility or community, so that a child is registered and issued a NIN, at least within the first year of Birth.

[www.nira.go.ug](http://www.nira.go.ug)



**Don't Skip Me...  
I deserve an identity**



**Identity deserves a day**

Join the campaign: [www.id-day.org](http://www.id-day.org)

A message from ID4Africa