

NIRA

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*YOUR NATIONAL ID – YOUR KEY TO
BETTER SERVICES!*

FOREWORD FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NIRA

It is with great honor that I welcome you to this edition of the NIRA Monthly e-Magazine, under the theme: **“Your National ID—Your Key to Better Services!”**.

Over the past few years, the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) has taken bold and historic steps to strengthen Somalia’s National Identification System and ensure that every citizen and resident has access to secure, reliable, and modern identification.

We have developed 13 laws and official regulations, activated 54 registration centers across the country—from the capital to all Federal Member States—and extended services to 30 Somali embassies abroad, so that our diaspora communities are not left behind.

More than 550 professional staff have been trained, and modern systems such as Hubiye (e-KYC), e-Aqoonsi, and the Certificate Delivery System (CDS) have been rolled out to improve service delivery. As a result, hundreds of thousands of citizens have been registered, and over 220,000 ID cards have been issued.

We have also invested in vital infrastructure, including state-of-the-art printing machines and modern registration equipment, which has allowed us to meet the growing demand for IDs. Most importantly, NIRA has successfully linked the National ID with critical government and private sector services such as passports, driver’s licenses, domestic travel, banking, education, and more.

These milestones are a testament to NIRA’s unwavering commitment to delivering efficient, transparent, and modern identification services. Our mission is clear: to make the National ID the key that unlocks access to essential services, empowering citizens, strengthening institutions, and advancing Somalia’s journey toward digital transformation and national development.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Federal Government of Somalia for its continued leadership and vision in championing the National ID initiative. We also thank the World Bank Group and other partners for their invaluable support, which has been instrumental in providing technical guidance, capacity building, and financial resources to scale up the National Identification System across the country.

As we continue this journey together, I invite you to explore the pages of this magazine to see how far we have come—and the bright future ahead.

Abdiwali Ali Abdulle (Timacadde)
Director General, NIRA

DRIVING ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES THROUGH THE NATIONAL ID



GETTING YOUR UNIQUE NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

MAKES it easier to access services like education, healthcare, financial services, passports, and many more. Don't forget to register!



The Office of the Prime Minister of the Federal Government of Somalia, H.E. Hamza Abdi Barre has issued a new directive requiring all governmental and private institutions to integrate the National Identification System into the provision of essential services. Following the directive, the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) has established key partnerships and rolled out measures that will soon ensure every Somali citizen and resident can access essential services more easily, efficiently, and securely by a National Identity card. This initiative represents a major milestone towards advancing civil identification in Somalia.

The new National identification framework is poised to significantly streamline access to essential services including banking, business registration, and access to education, healthcare and social protection, among other important services.

ENHANCED ACCESS TO BANKING SERVICES

In a press release on July 29, 2025, the Central Bank of Somalia (CBS), together with Somali Bankers Association, announced that all individuals seeking to open or renew bank accounts must present a valid National ID card. This new requirement will strengthen the transparency of the financial system.

An official from the Central Bank of Somalia said, ***“These measures represent a critical step toward strengthening financial integrity, preventing identity fraud, and ensuring broader access to secure and reliable banking services.”*** Ultimately, the new development is expected to enhance transparency and integrity within the country’s banking and financial systems.

The revolutionary electronic Know Your Customer (e-KYC) system will also streamline the process of opening bank accounts, including enrollment in mobile banking services by enabling customers to verify their identity digitally, without need for any physical paperwork. Moreover, the e-KYC platform will promote cross-sector collaboration, ensure smoother and more efficient operations and delivering greater convenience for individuals and businesses at a national-level.



NIRA'S SYSTEM TO IMPROVE BUSINESS REGISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

On the other hand, the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Federal Government of Somalia has announced that all public services should be tied to the National ID card issued by the National Registration and Identification Authority (NIRA).

In a press release early this month, Ministry officials praised the integration of the National ID with e-KYC system, terming it a welcome and timely move that will enhance efficiency in business management, and contribute to the overall growth of the national economy.

Furthermore, officials collectively urged the use of the National ID for all business-related procedures, including opening businesses, registering company or trademarks, and renewal of new businesses, pointing out that the new development will significantly transform business operations in the whole of Somalia.

“All shareholders of companies, individuals seeking to register a business or trademark, individuals wishing to amend business laws, and those applying for business licenses must first obtain the National ID Card from NIRA.” A statement from the Ministry of Trade and Industry read.

ENHANCED TRANSPORT SECTOR FOR SOMALIA

Meanwhile, a new directive issued after a joint meeting between Minister of Internal Security, Hon. Abdullahi Sheikh Ismail “Fartaag”, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Ali Omar Balcad, Director General of Immigration and Citizenship Agency, Hon. Mustafe Sheikh Ali Dhuxulow, and NIRA Director General, Mr. Abdiwali Ali Abdulle (Timacadde), will require all individuals traveling within Somalia by January 2026 to carry a National Identity Card issued by the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) for personal identification.

Officials decried that for years, Somalia's transport sector has faced significant challenges due to weak enforcement of laws and standards, leading to widespread insecurity and confusion. This lack of regulation made it nearly impossible to track individuals travelling inside the country, as well as monitoring the movement of goods.

Officials lamented that the regulatory gap had severely undermined successive government's capacity to collect revenue, hindering both business growth and broader national economic development. However, moving forward, to curb this menace, the Department of Transport Services will soon require all road transport operators in the sector to register and attain transport permits using the national ID.

Separately, officials from the Department of Transport Services pointed out that as part of the National Reform Plan 2025, the Ministry has issued an official communique mandating that all citizens and residents of Somalia to use the National ID issued by NIRA for the registration of public transport company shareholders. This directive also requires that all previous registrations be updated promptly to reflect the new requirement.

Similarly, technical colleges offering driving courses, as well as new drivers enrolling in such programs will be required to present the National ID to facilitate the application process for both interim and permanent driver's licenses. In addition, individuals and companies involved in the buying and selling of vehicles will be required to use their National ID when transferring ownership of vehicles.

BOOSTING THE SOMALI PASSPORT'S GLOBAL CREDIBILITY

Beginning September 1, 2025, all applicants for Somali passports will be required to present a National ID. This historic step, jointly spearheaded by NIRA and ICA, ensures that the Somali passport is directly tied to the National Identification System.

Officials emphasized that the reform is designed to boost the credibility, recognition, and integrity of the Somali passport globally. By adopting international best practices, Somalia is positioning itself for stronger cooperation with foreign governments, airlines, and global institutions



Director General of NIRA, Abdiweli Ali (Timacade)



Features of the National Identification Number

Your ID Card: Has a unique number with the following features:

Unique Identifier: Every citizen has a personal number that is private and not shared with anyone else.

Traceability: Your number makes it easy to identify you with an 11-digit code that remains with you for life.

Instant Verification: The number allows service providers to quickly and reliably verify a person's identity.



ID TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Elsewhere in Mogadishu, another directive issued by Minister of Education, Hon. Farah Sheikh Abdulkadir, following a consultative meeting with Minister of Interior, Hon. Ali Yusuf Ali (Ali Xoosh), NIRA Director General Abdiwali Ali Abdulle (Timacade), Galmudug State Minister of Education, and Director Generals from Benadir Regional Administration, South West State, and Hirshabelle, requiring all education services in Somalia to be integrated with the National ID system.

From now onwards, all parents and guardians will be required to enroll students through an education system linked to NIRA's National ID system. Similarly, all university students will be required to possess a valid National ID to access higher education services. An official speaking during the event stated that ***"This initiative, supported by NIRA will ensure all Somali students regardless of their background access basic level education. The initiative will also ensure learners with special needs equally participate in education."***

NIRA–ICA Launch Training for Embassy Attachés

The National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA), in partnership with the Immigration and Citizenship Authority (ICA), has launched a six-day training program in Mogadishu for attachés from 30 Somali embassies. The training focuses on strengthening diaspora registration and linking the Somali National Identification System (SNID) with the passport.

NIRA Director General Abdiwali Ali Abdulle (Timacadde) noted that with more than 50 centers already established across Somalia, preparing embassy attachés is the next step in serving citizens abroad. ICA Director General Mustaf Sheikh Ali Dhuhulow emphasized that from September 1, passports will be linked to the National ID, and by January 2026, internal travel within Somalia will also require it.

The initiative, supported by the World Bank’s SCALED-UP Project, marks a milestone in improving service delivery, enhancing passport credibility, and expanding identification systems for Somalis worldwide.

NIRA Director General Inspects Registration of New MPs in Las’anod

The Director General of the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA), Mr. Abdiwali Ali Abdulle (Timacadde), conducted a working visit to NIRA’s branch office in Las’anod, North-East State of Somalia, where the registration of newly elected Members of Parliament is progressing smoothly.

During the visit, the Director General closely observed the registration process and commended staff for their professionalism in facilitating services for the MPs.

This inspection forms part of NIRA’s ongoing efforts to ensure that all Somali citizens have equal access to the National Identity Card, which is central to accessing essential services across the country.

NIRA Leadership Participates in DanQaran Government Accountability and Performance Review Week

The leadership of the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) participated in the DanQaran Government’s Week of Accountability and Performance Review, a forum assessing the achievements of various Ministries and federal institutions in Somalia.

The meeting, chaired by the Prime Minister of Somalia, H.E. Hamza Abdi Barre, provided an in-depth discussion on the progress made in delivering public services to Somali citizens.

The Prime Minister specifically praised NIRA for its accomplishments, highlighting the authority’s success in implementing the National ID system and accelerating the registration of Somali citizens.

H.E. Hamza Abdi Barre emphasized that the National ID is a cornerstone for many government services and underlined the critical importance of linking the National ID to the broad range of services offered to the Somali population.



**NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION & REGISTRATION
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