

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY TO CONGRATULATE THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA UPON AQUIRING 3RD GENERATION NATIONAL IDENTITY CARDS AND ENCOURAGE PARTNER STATES WHICH ARE STILL IN THE PROCESS TO FINALISE ON TIME

By Hon. Susan Nakawuki and adopted by the Assembly on Thursday 27th August, 2015

WHEREAS Article 49(d) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community vests into the Assembly the authority to discuss all matters pertaining to the Community and make recommendations to the Council of Ministers as it may deem necessary for the implementation of the Treaty;

WHEREAS Article 8 of the Protocol on the Establishment of the East African Common Market requires Partner States to establish a common standard system of issuing national identification documents to their nationals which shall be the basis for identifying the citizens of the Partner States within the Community;

WHEREAS all EAC Partner States have embarked on the process of issuing 3rd Generation ID's including the Republic of Kenya which pioneered national ID systems and is now embarking on the upgrade from 2nd Generation to 3rd Generation ID's;

APPRECIATING that national identification documents particularly national IDs are very important, in realizing the free movement of persons within the Community as envisioned

under Article 7 of the Protocol on the Establishment of the East African Community Common Market;

FURTHER APPRECIATING that in compliance with Article 8 of the Common Market Protocol, the Republic of Uganda, like other EAC Partner States, has come a long way in the process of issuing national identification documents to its nationals;

AWARE that the National IDs Will:

- a) facilitate the delivery of national development based on reliable and verifiable data, enable governments plan properly and provide easy access to good social facilities and services like the health systems and school capitation grants based on variable identities and data at the local level, facilitate more transparent and trustworthy business transactions, help keep crime low in the Community with quick and reliable identification of criminals and terrorists thus improving on our security;
- b) facilitate regional travel and integration based on verifiable and reliable data; and
- c) support regional integration and conform to international obligations.

FURTHER AWARE that National Identity Cards help associate a lot of information with a particular person. For example, an ID might carry information such as health risks that the individual holds, this card can be scanned and searched on a national database when the individual has a medical emergency and suddenly has to go to a hospital. If the patient is difficult to identify, such as when the patient is badly hurt or unconscious, the only way that the patient can probably be identified is through the card;

NOTING that some EAC Partner States are yet to meet the requirement of Article 8 of the Protocol on the Establishment of the East African Community Common Market to issue national identification documents to their nationals.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS ASSEMBLY THAT:

 We jointly congratulate the Republic of Uganda on complying with Article 8 of the Protocol on the Establishment of the East African Community Common Market by issuing national identity cards to its nationals.

 We congratulate the Republic of Rwanda which had machine readable IDs way before the Common Market Protocol.

We commend the United Republic of Tanzania for commencing the actual exercise of issuing machine readable IDs.

4. We jointly encourage the Partner States that are yet to comply with the requirement of Article 8 of the Protocol on the Establishment of the East African Community Common Market by issuing national identity cards to its nationals and to do so in order to facilitate the cardinal pillars of the Protocol and satisfy the spirit of Article 76 and 104 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community.

The Council urges Partner States to take necessary measures to establish data protection policies and strategies in line with individual rights and such data should only be released on consent.

We urge Council to ensure that the IDs are used in all EAC Partner States for travel but not piloted in a few countries.

CERTIFIED BY:

DATE:____

ALEX OBATRE FOR: CLERK