



Immediate Press Release

**Call For 16th September To Serve As National Identity Day;
Access To Physical And Biometric Legal Identity For All**

Freetown, Sierra Leone 16th September 2022

16th September 2022, mark the fourth year of commemorating Legal Identity For All a campaign pioneer by ID4Africa in recognition to the Sustainable Development Goal 16.9 which call for Legal Identity For All by 2030.

In a bid to respond in achieve legal identity for all, Sierra Leone Government developed the Civil Registration Policy that provided the space for the enactment of National Civil Registration Authority Act 2016 (NCRA Act 2016) that mandated the Authority to maintain the national civil registration system for vital statistics at chiefdom, district, regional and national level; and to maintain a register if all citizen and non-citizens resident in Sierra Leone. Section 15(1) (d) and (e).

Network AID acknowledges the tremendous strides of the Government through the Authority to maintain, consolidate the national civil registration system. However, we want to strongly call on the Government through NCRA on the following:

1. **Inclusion:** that every citizen and non-citizens being lack proof of legal identity are registered physically, biometrically, and adoption certificate, birth certificate and biometric national ID issue irrespective of geographical location within and outside Sierra Leone;
2. **Protection:** the identity of all: being physical, digital or biometric are securitize and protected from fraud, data and identity theft;
3. **Recognition:** that 16th September being recognised as national holiday in Sierra Leone as Nigeria and Namibia had done and more are expected too;
4. **Accessibility:** citizens, with special emphasis on illiterate women and girls, persons with disabilities and deprive children and deprive children have access to birth certificate
5. **Enforcement:** that legal identity registration and issuance are enforceable in all clinics and punitive measures taken against defaulting parent or medical staff where the birth is registered;
6. **Sanitize:** that the Civil Register of Vital Statistic are clean, upgrade and updated to avoid missing data, mismatch information
7. **Confirmation:** that periodic chiefdom confirmation being done.

We encourage and call on citizens and non-citizens to register all vital events including birth, death marriage etc as the mantra of NCRA says "CIVIL REGISTRATION IS A RIGHT AND A MUST"

Network AID seeks to enhance the welfare and wellbeing of illiterate women and girls, youth, persons with disabilities and deprive children for a corrupt free, healthy population and environment.

Sign

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