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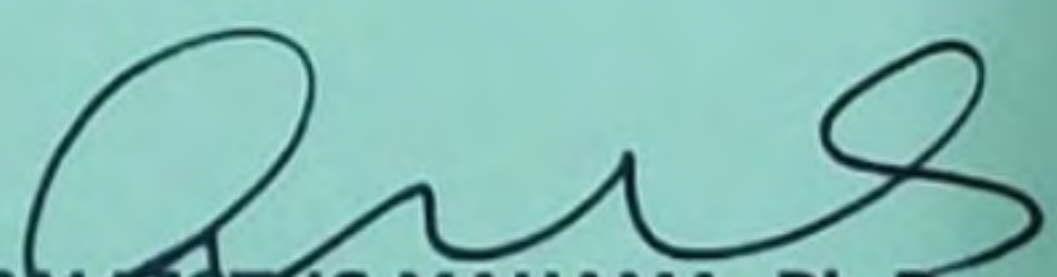
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24th October, 2025

**MORATORIUM ON PROCUREMENT AND USE OF INDEPENDENT BIOMETRIC
AUTOMATED FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEMS (AFIS)
BY MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES**

In line with the Government's commitment to ensuring efficient resource utilization, data security, and standardization of biometric identification systems, this directive establishes a moratorium on the procurement and use of independent biometric Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (AFIS) by all Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) and Metropolitan, Municipal, or District Assembly (MMDA).

2. This moratorium is issued pursuant to:
 - a. The National Identification Authority Act, 2006 (Act 707), the National Identity Register Act, 2008 (Act 750) as amended and the National Identity Register Regulations, 2012 (L.I.2111) granting the National Identification Authority (NIA) the exclusive mandate over registration and issuance of national identity cards commonly known as Ghana Cards to Ghanaian citizens living in Ghana and abroad as legally-resident foreign nationals;
 - b. The Moratorium issued by the Office of the President on 18th June, 2014 on the subject "Moratorium on acquisition of Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) by Ministries, Departments and Agencies; and
 - c. The Data Protection Act, 2012 (Act 843) ensuring the integrity and security of biometric data of data subjects.
3. This moratorium applies to all MDAs at the national and subnational levels, including state corporations and regulatory agencies.
4. The Government has established a robust biometric AFIS under the National Identification System of the NIA to among other things:
 - a. Verify the identities of persons who transact business that require them to be identified using the Ghana Card pursuant to L.I.2111.
 - b. Eliminate duplication of systems across government entities.
 - c. Enhance interoperability and data security.
 - d. Reduce costs associated with maintaining multiple biometric databases.
 - e. Strengthen national identification and verification mechanisms.

5. Effective immediately, all MDAs are prohibited from:
- Procuring, developing, or deploying independent biometric AFIS.
 - Operating parallel biometric databases to the NIA.
 - Verifying the identities of persons they transact business with using ocular inspection of the Ghana Card without any biometric verification and authentication.
 - Entering into new contracts for the procurement of biometric systems without express authorization.
6. Any MDA or MMDA requiring a specialized biometric system due to its unique operational needs must submit a justification to the Office of the President and obtain written approval from the Presidency.
7. Any non-compliant procurement shall be deemed illegal and a blatant disregard of this directive.
8. MDAs currently operating independent biometric AFIS must take steps to integrate with the National Identification System of the NIA no later than six (6) months from the date of this directive.
9. The NIA shall provide the necessary technical support to MDAs to facilitate data harmonisation and integration into the National Identity Register and the Identity Verification System Platform of the NIA. The Minister for the Interior shall oversee the implementation of this moratorium and take necessary enforcement actions where required.
10. This directive takes effect immediately and shall remain in force until further notice.



CALLISTUS MAHAMA, Ph.D.
SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT

✓ TO ALL MINISTERS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES
CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF METROPOLITAN, MUNICIPAL
AND DISTRICT ASSEMBLIES

Cc: The Vice President
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The Chief of Staff
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