



MINISTRY OF INTERIOR & NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

PRESS RELEASE

Government Targets 3-Week Turnaround Time for Processing of ID Card Applications

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The processing of national identity cards for applicants resident in border counties will be reduced to 21 days following a commitment by the government to safeguarding the rights to citizenship and legal identity.

Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki has deplored the protracted delays reported by the residents, and issued a directive to the registration officials and the committees entrusted with vetting ID cards seekers to review and fix up their *modi operandi* as a matter of urgency and necessity.

“We don’t want any more waiting for years. It is unfair that our young people in some parts of this country can wait for identity cards for three years, while in other places they are getting them in two weeks,” the CS noted.

Under the new arrangement, the vetting committee is required to investigate and corroborate an applicant’s claim to Kenyan nationality inside fourteen days from the day of receiving the application.

If the committee’s findings are affirmative, the team will immediately forward its report to the National Bureau Registration (NRB) for processing, which Kindiki directed must be done within a week.

He said: “Within 21 days after the application has been lodged, every citizen of Kenya who is supposed to have an identity card must get it.”

Kindiki who addressed a public baraza in Moyale at the conclusion of his two-days tour of Wajir and Mandera took to task the bureau and asked the officers to escalate to the headquarters any shortfalls in service delivery for immediate redress.

In the past, the vetting committees have also been excoriated, with many residents of Kenya’s Northern frontier and border counties calling into question the fairness and effectiveness of the existing processes.

A spotlight has oftentimes been cast on the vetting exercise which many say is riddled with loopholes, including dereliction of duty and unfairness by the committees, which are chaired by Assistant County Commissioners and comprised of registration officers, an intelligence officers, chiefs, and village elders drawn from various ethnicities.

“The vetting process must not take more than two weeks,” Kindiki said, “And the issuance of an identity card after the recommendation has been done should not take more than seven days.”

The CS also visited the Moyale One Stop Border Post and undertook to facilitate the necessary capacity adjustment measures to reduce the lead times and customs clearance waiting period by 50 percent.

To realize this objective, more officers from the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service, the Port Health Services, and the Kenya Bureau of Standards will be seconded to the facility as Kenya seeks to improve cross-border trade with Ethiopia.