

## Few Points on Ethiopian National ID

### Description

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The Ethiopian Digital Identification Proclamation No.1284/2023 done on 18th day of April 2023, governs the national id issuance and regulation. This brief article will cover a few points on the purpose of the Proclamation, eligible parties, what information is collected, unique number and digital identification credential, authentication and relying parties and data protection. Then a brief conclusion shall follow.

### Objective

The objective of the Proclamation can be found both on the Preamble and Article 4 of the Proclamation. The establishment of a reliable Digital Identification system in Ethiopia aims to ensure the Resident's right to be identified, enhances the ability to exercise other rights, improves trust between service providers and residents, and creates a nationwide enabling environment to ensure transparency, accountability and efficiency. The ID helps to plan national development effectively, create economic transformation, ensure good governance, reduce wastage of resources or eliminate redundancy and ensure inclusiveness when policies are designed and development plans are executed.

### Eligible Parties

The eligible parties are all residents. Residents are natural persons living in Ethiopia fulfilling the requirements of residence place ( sojourn ) provided in Article 174 and 175 of the Ethiopian Civil Code or living in Ethiopia by obtaining residence permit from relevant authority. Article 174 of the Civil Code of Ethiopia provides residence of a person as the place where he normally resides. Article 175 states that the mere fact that a person is for a time in a certain place shall not be sufficient to constitute for him a residence in such place. However, a residence is acquired wherever the sojourn is to last or has lasted in fact, **more than three months**. Those residents who are issued a residence permit by Immigration and Citizenship Services ( ICS) are also eligible for the national ID. In addition to the above, **minors** can be registered upon giving the demographic data by a registered parent, caretaker, legal guardian or any legal body who can take responsibility to the minor and such person may take Digital Identification.

### What Information is Collected

Digital Identification consists of demographic and biometric data. The Demographic data shall consist but not limited to full name, nationality, date of birth, gender, domicile address, mother's name, phone number, email address, and postal address. Whereas the biometric data consist of fingerprints, iris and facial photo.

## Unique Number and DIC

The registered resident shall be given a unique number which is a non-repeating number issued to a registrant after successful registration of both biometric and demographic data. Then the Digital Identification Credential (DIC) can be issued for the resident to use. The DIC shall be in the working language of the Federal government or the Regional government and **in English**.

## Authentication and Relying Parties

Digital Identification may be taken as legal and sufficient evidence to prove or authenticate a resident's identity. Any relying party that wants to put Digital Identification as a mandatory requirement to provide service shall get approval from the concerned regulator.

## Personal Data Protection

The regulatory institution shall ensure that the confidentiality of personal data is maintained in the course of collecting, registering, authenticating, storing and processing of the same. The protection of data rests on criminal liability whenever violations are there in transferring data or collecting more data than needed.

## Conclusion

The Ethiopian Digital Identification system aims to easily identify individuals who want to receive services and prevent illegal activities. Hence it is punishable to refuse to receive digital identification as a legal identity. Therefore, Ethiopia is aiming to register all citizens in a robust digital system to assist the country adopt policies that squarely fit to the needs of its citizens.

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