FOREIGNERS HIRE PARENTS TO GET NATIONAL IDS, LC AND

Forgery, bribery hit ID project

A national ID is a basic human right. That is until you go out to queue for it at the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) points. Everyone dreads the prospect of losing a national ID because the process of getting a replacement is daunting or is it? A team of Vision Group journalists went undercover and expose shocking details of parents for hire, bribery and mismanagement of the ID project perpetrated by NIRA, LC officials and brokers

Residents in rural areas are subjected to paying money for the application forms which are known to be free

Five years since she registered for her national identity card (ID), Susan Mubiru has lost hope of getting one and frustration is written all over her face.

Mubiru was among the first people to register for an ID when the exercise first rolled out in 2014. However, for some strange reason, she has been tossed around since.

Ageing and frustrated, Mubiru, in her early 60s, says she registered at the Kampala Capital City Authority central division offices that previously hosted the NIRA central offices.

"Out of frustration, I decided to abandon the whole process and when I embarked on it again, the officers fed me the same rehearsed stories. They keep telling me to check on them after every after two weeks," she says.

Mubiru has since moved to NIRA central offices along Lumumba Avenue in Nakasero, Kampala. However, she has been told to apply afresh. Desperate and desolate, she has given up on owning one.

Mubiru is not alone. Hers is a drop in a sea of complaints about systematic corruption in the ID registration. Mubiru's case illustrates the frustration of citizens queuing up at the registration centres and shows how getting a national ID has become a struggle.

First rolled out in 2014, the National ID registration exercise is meant to capture details of Ugandan nationals. These include one's picture, thumbprint and bio-data such as name, date of birth, birth place, details of parents and clan.

However, our investigations reveal that the process has become a gateway for fraudsters to make money from unsuspecting and desperate Ugandans.

The scale of corruption is high, especially outside Kampala and is done through collusion with LC and NIRA officials.

Our investigation has also revealed disturbing details of an underground web of corruption, where foreigners acquire national IDs through hiring of fake parents to meet the registration criteria, putting the security of the country at risk.

PAYING OF BRIBES

Paying bribes to the registration officials seems to be the only way to quicken the process. If you are poor, you have to wait in the queue for months. Ugandans who have lost their IDs or whose names were captured wrongly are the most susceptible to demands for bribes.

John Malinga (not real name) was caught up in a similar situation when he lost his national ID after thugs snatched his wallet.

In attempt to get a replacement, he paid sh50,000 at the bank, as is required by NIRA.

However, when he went to the NIRA office in Naguru, one of the officers referred him to another colleague who said he could only help him if he paid a bribe of sh60,000.

"I had hoped that the sh60,000 would enable him get my NIN (National Identification Number) because I urgently needed it, but I was shocked that after picking the money, he did not help me," Malinga recalls.

He adds: "So when I asked him to refund the money, he said he had already spent it."

After counting his losses in Naguru, Malinga then moved to the Kololo head office expecting better service. He was stopped in his tracks when the officer he met asked for sh70,000, saying that would help him "move things faster". He eventually succeeded at getting his NIN after making the payment.

While replacing a national ID costs sh50,000, some citizens have had to pay more to some greedy officers.

Edith Nakigozi, a resident of Entebbe municipality, also said she paid sh20,000 to a NIRA officer who she identified as Kato, who promised to work on her documents which she needed urgently.

"When I approached Kato, he tossed me around and later confessed that the sh20,000 was to help me jump the long queue on that day," she said. Kato also reportedly told Nakigozi that if she needed an ID urgently, she had to pay him sh1m or else stop calling.

When she went to the sub-county (Gombolola) internal security officer (GISO), Saka Mukibi, at Katabi, he reportedly asked for sh5,000 to sign her documents.

Today, a person's biometrics are required for the national ID registration and banking services, among others.

Over the past five years, several people have complained about the process of getting a national ID. This growing frustration is succinctly captured by rants on social media.

It cost *Sunday Vision* a few thousands of shillings to acquire forged letters from the security and LC officials to facilitate the process as advised by a Rwandan who we tracked down having easily got a national ID after paying a small bribe.

"Nange chairman yanfunira taata wange ne mwasuula nusu kakaaga (sh6,000) kuhanga yanyamba nsyo bambi. Naye togamba chairman nti ofi mupya. Ye yemyimi aja kukusaliravo ennyaka go'omuze wano," Annet Nalugo, a Rwandan national who has since acquired a national ID, says. Loosely translated as, "The chairman also got for me a 'father' and I paid him (chairman) sh6,000 because he had helped me. But do not tell him that you are new in this village. It will be upon him to decide how many years you have spent here."

Nalugo explains that she had to change her Kinyarwanda name to a more acceptable name from Buganda to ease the process.

On March 8, 2014, during the International Women's Day celebrations, when President Yoweri Museveni briefed the country about the ID project, he attempted to show the relevance of a national ID to ordinary citizens. He said it would finally give the country a reliable and easily traceable identity card that is also difficult to forge.

However, when our team visited various sub-counties in both rural and urban settings, we discovered that it does not take much to be cleared for a national ID. Sources say many foreigners could have easily been added to the national ID register, provided they parted with some money.

The magnitude of the matter was, however, witnessed in rural areas with NIRA officials paying little or no attention at all to personal details, hence causing many irregularities.

Although registration has been ongoing at various district headquarters, NIRA in January this year, moved to sub-counties to bring services closer to the people. The exercise is expected to end on May 10.

However, during our investigation in Entebbe municipality, we witnessed the Police arrest a NIRA official (Moses Amanyire), who was allegedly registering Rwandans and Congolese for a fee of sh50,000 each.

OUR UNDERCOVER

Sunday Vision randomly picked on a NIRA centre where we went undercover to find out first-hand what it would take to get an ID without any background documents. Our destination — Kikonge village in Namungo sub-county, Mityana district

DAY ONE

Kikonge is approximately 18km to Mityana town.

We first sought shelter under a nearby tree to plot our next move. This involved changing clothes to disguise our look and easily blend in with the residents.

Thereafter, we hired a bodaboda cyclist who took us to our destination. A chit-chat with him is telling.

"Most of the clients I have transported to the NIRA offices have totally given up on picking their IDs. Yet, foreigners who settled here have managed to get Ugandan IDs faster because they have money," the bodaboda rider, who preferred to remain anonymous, reveals.

He, however, quickly adds that he was only two computers were provided to capture data of the citizens in both Entebbe A and B, which was unrealistic.

"At every stage, the persons responsible (DISO, LC officials) ask for money to sign the recommendation documents of citizens. We are surely fed up," Ssali said.

A leader's confession

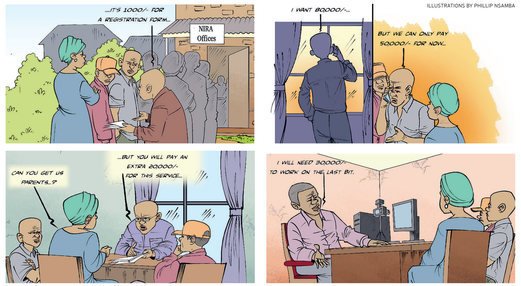
Magwa Ssali, one of the local leaders in Entebbe municipality, admitted that there were indeed irregularities in the national ID registration exercise. He added that whereas NIRA meant to begin this year's exercise on January 14, they instead began a month later, which did not give the residents enough time to take part in the process.

He said only two computers were provided to capture data of the citizens in both Entebbe A and B, which was unrealistic.

"At every stage, the persons responsible (DISO, LC officials) ask for money to sign the recommendation documents of citizens. We are surely fed up," Ssali said.

NIRA OFFICIALS ASK APPLICANTS TO PAY FOR DOCUMENTS

ILLUSTRATIONS BY PHILLIP NSAMBA



NIRA speak out

NIRA's spokesperson Gilbert Kadilo maintained that the authority did not attach any charges on persons seeking to acquire IDs for the first time. He, however, confirmed that one has to pay sh50,000 for replacement or errors.

"People should be keen enough to read what is on their IDs well and not to accept to take them with any error because it shall cost you," he said.

Kadilo warned citizens against making payments to individual officers, saying all transactions are carried out in the bank.

"We do not allow any staff to pick money from citizens."

even after paying a bribe, some of the officials instead become hostile.

At the venue, we find about 30 applicants. Some are inside the office, while others are standing outside.

The NIRA office in Namungo is hosted at the sub-county headquarters. But one would easily mistake it for a village retail shop. One of us immediately joins the queue. We are told that before making any consultations, we have to pay sh1,000 to acquire the registration form.

HOW FOREIGNERS GET IDs

Nearby, some women could be heard speaking both Luganda and Kinyarwanda. So, pretending to be ignorant about the whole registration process, we chipped in on their conversation.

Our team learnt that this particular area hosts a number of Rwandans and Congolese, who have since settled there and become part of the community. So, when we tell one, Annet Nalugo, that we do not have any of our parents' documents, she advises that we look for people who can potentially act as our parents.

Nalugo unwittingly opens up. She intimates that whereas her mother is alive in Rwanda, she had to declare her dead and buried in Kasangula village in Mityana for the sake of acquiring a national ID and settling there.

A forged letter of death verification that our team obtained indicates that Nalugo's mother 'died' in 2005.

A quick look through her documents, particularly the letter for citizenship verification signed by the Kasangula LC1 chairperson, Emmanuel Kalyango, reveals that Nalugo is a daughter of Emmanuel Byekwaso of the Ne clan and Alivera Nyinamatabalo of the Ngo clan, purportedly belonging to the indigenous community of the Baganda.

NEXT MOVE

We were plotting our next move, when a smartly dressed youthful man who introduced himself as Abitex, asked whether we needed any help. He is one of the two NIRA officers who work in Namungo. So, we immediately confess that we did not have any documents, but needed IDs urgently. He instantly shared his telephone contact, assuring us that he would sort out everything.

He said we would have to pay him heavily, seeing as we did not have a single document.

"You need a copy of your parents' national IDs, LC1 letter and a letter from the district internal security officer (DISO). All these require a lot of money, but we shall discuss this later," he said, adding that we should contact him before the end of the day so that he can reveal his grand plan.

When he asked where we lived, we told him we were residents of Kampala, but had relatives who live in Kikonge.

After an hour, we called him and revealed that the officer (Inno) could only help us at a fee of sh100,000. At this point, we discover that the two women act as brokers and liaise with the officers for various deals.

When we tried to negotiate, Irene immediately declined, saying some citizens have had to part with sh500,000 which she surrenders to Brain, alias Inno.

Pretending not to have money, we then give her a down payment of sh20,000 and promise to pay the balance of sh80,000 via mobile money. She then writes down Brian's telephone number on a piece of paper and says it is registered under his partner's name (Caroline Nankambwe).

A few minutes after the transaction, the number was switched off. The bribe, according to Irene's quotation, was to cater for procuring other documents including a recommendation letter showing proof of citizenship.

In the city suburbs, the LCs dish out recommendation letters to whosoever desires after paying some money. For example, when we visited Naguru Go-Down 1 village, all it took was to give ourselves random names and the area LC 1 chairperson did not bother doing any due diligence. He gave us the recommendation letters in just minutes.

Situation in Kampala

It all seems 'perfect' when you walk through the gates of the NIRA head office in Kololo and the central division office on Lumumba Avenue in Nakasero.

However, there are unsettling details too. There is a steady stream of desperate people to these offices as early as 5:30am. Arriving early, however, is not a guarantee that you will leave with your ID or get any form of assistance. The waiting sheds cannot accommodate the big number of applicants. Unable to stand any longer, tired applicants sit on the grass or verandahs.

Meanwhile, answering nature's call at these NIRA centres is a luxury. The places of convenience at the Kampala central office are paid for between sh300 and sh500. The nearby canteen also charges exorbitantly for refreshments.

At the Kampala Central NIRA office, we particularly followed two youthful women talking with one of the officers who we learnt was called Brian but was referred to as Inno by the women.

"Inno has said he will signal to us to go to him. There are many people at the door, so he cannot come out now," one of the women, (Irene), whispered to her friend.

We approached them for a chat. They revealed that the officer (Inno) could only help us at a fee of sh100,000. At this point, we discover that the two women act as brokers and liaise with the officers for various deals.

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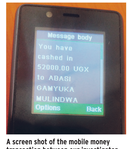
Abitex, the NIRA officer whom our team met in Mityana district



A screen shot of the mobile money transaction between our investigator and the number Abitex gave

You have sent UGX 80,000 to CARO-LINE NANKAMBWE on 0708382773. Fee UGX 1,500. Balance UGX 16,501. Trans ID 26250989296. Tax UGX 0

A screen shot of the mobile money transaction between our investigator and the number Brian shared with his broker Irene at NIRA, Lumumba Avenue

it was then that he said he wanted sh80,000 to process one national ID, but we told him we could not raise that much.

"*Oyimiridde oyo!*" Abitex asked?

This a local jargon used by street-smart people who are wired to do business.

We, however, negotiated to sh50,000 which he suggested to be sent via his mobile money number. Verification with the telecom company shows that the number he gave us was registered in the name, Abasi Gamyuka Mulindwa.

It was after making payments that Abitex told us to return the next day with two passport size photos that would be attached to the LC1's and DISO's letters.

DAY TWO

We returned to Abitex the following day, although using a different approach. We first opted to send an emissary, a bodaboda cyclist to deliver the two copies of passport size photos that he requested for.

The images, however, were of a different colleague who had not interfaced with him before. But he (Abitex) did not figure this out, perhaps, because the money we sent earlier was burning holes in his pockets.

Later, another colleague appeared in person and Abitex still did not realise that the person he was attending to was different.

Our colleague also later learnt that people in the area commonly referred to him as Abbey. Our reporter approached him with a smile. He was not suspicious at all that we were different.

COACHING ON WHAT TO SAY

He later offered to coach this undercover reporter on what to say and the place we should say we hail from, before referring us to his colleague (Issa) who captured the data into the NIRA system.

Abbey also provided us with a copy of a national ID bearing the names of the parents he had hired for us. He said Sarah Ndibantya from the Mpindi clan and John Kibirige (deceased) from the Ngeye clan were the people our colleague was to fill in as 'our parents'. At his behest, we had to pay an extra sh20,000 for the coaching service and finding us 'parents'.

He then provided the necessary documents we required, including LC1 letter, letter for citizenship verification, which is usually recommended by the DISO, although his colleague (Issa), another NIRA official, acted on behalf of the DISO and filled in the DISO form.

Whereas this undercover journalist had mentioned that they come from Kikonge, Abitex gave us a recommendation letter that was signed by the Kisaana LC1 B chairperson, Abasai Kasswa.

Thereafter, a one Issa, whose second name we learnt is Muguzura, called our colleague and said Abbey had already briefed him about our predicament.

He, however, said he needed more sh30,000 to work on the remaining bit which included entering data into the system and taking our pictures. After paying him the cash he took our journalist's fingerprints and photos.

Issa then gave this journalist, the NIN. "Keep checking for the national ID," he said.

This undercover journalist, however, already possesses a national ID. By press time, Abitex was still calling us demanding his balance; his phone ringing off the hook.

Continued on page 6

HOW SUGAR BILL BECAME BITTER

When the Government introduced the Sugar Bill, it was meant to regulate the sugar industry. But what is bitter in the Sugar Bill that has sparked controversy, HENRY SEKANJAKO, MARY KARUGABA and WILFRED SANYA write

The Sugar Bill was tabled in Parliament after laws such as the Sugar (Control) Act of 1948 became ineffective. The Bill sought to regulate the sugar industry to ensure that there is healthy competition.

In November last year, it was passed by Parliament but President Yoweri Museveni refused to assent to it. On March 1, 2019, the President returned the Bill to Parliament to provide for zoning, among others.

Under clause 22 of the Bill, the Government had proposed that no sugar mill is established in a 25km radius of the other and that outgrowers in that area would only supply sugarcane to it. This clause was deleted from the Bill by MPs.

MUSEVENI'S REASONS

Museveni said because of the absence of zoning, small scale millers had encroached on the zones of their larger counterparts.

He also queried licensing of sugar mills, industry agreements, provisions on regulation, smuggling and money laundering in the sugar industry.

He said the absence of zoning had seen Kakira Sugar Works' production drop from 180,000 tonnes in 2014 to 125,000 tonnes in 2017.

However, before the House could amend the Bill, Museveni convened the National Resistance Movement parliamentary caucus meeting on Tuesday, where it was decided that the Bill and shelved for a month as more consultations are made.

"Let's postpone the Bill and have more engagements with the stakeholders. There is no way we can fail to discuss with them. Let us be leaders not opportunists who exploit people's ignorance," he said.

"The sugar issue can be planned in a good way. I am about to start upcountry tours where I will meet these outgrowers," Museveni said.

BUSOGA LEADERS

On Monday, leaders from Busoga kingdom led by the Katukiro, Dr Joseph Muvawala, petitioned Parliament's Speaker Rebecca Kadaga, asking MPs not to hurriedly pass the Bill with the clause providing for zoning. The leaders said zoning would create monopoly and lead to low prices for sugarcane.

"We feel that if this provision is not removed, the Bill will negatively impact on the people of Busoga, whose lifeline is sugarcane," Muvawala said.

Busoga sub-region hosts the highest number of sugar factories in the country. The factories are Kakira Sugar Works, Mayuge Sugar, Kaliro Sugar and Kamuli Sugar.

BATTLE FOR ZONING

The kingdom says the 25km radius zoning proposal contradicts the Government's liberalisation policy.

"As we speak today, one of the main milers in Busoga has a subsisting licence granted well beyond the 25km radius into several other neighbouring areas such as Kayunga, Buikwe and Mayuge and this cannot be rectified by zoning."

Observers say the Government has introduced the law because of many sugar factories that are being established in the country. Such factories include Amuru Sugar Works Limited, Atiak Sugar, Bugiri Sugar Company, Hoima Sugar Limited, Mukwano Sugar and Busia Sugar.

DROP IN PRODUCTION

Madhvani Group, which owns Kakira Sugar, the biggest sugar producer in the country, said without zoning, the sugar industry would collapse.

K.P. Eswar, the Madhvani Group director of corporate affairs, said the absence of zoning had made many factories compete for the limited number of outgrowers. Eswar said the location of many sugar industries in one area had resulted in lack of enough cane for sugar production.

"We are not asking for this law for the benefit of Lugazi, Mayuge or Kakira. It is for the benefit of Uganda," Eswar said.

He wondered why all new small scale sugar factories were in Busoga.

Eswar denied allegations that large scale producers are fronting the law to push out small scale producers.

"Zoning is only for regulation of the sugar industry in Uganda and not meant to restrict free access to farmers," he said.

Uganda has a capacity to produce 605,500 metric tonnes of sugar annually if all factories operate at full capacity.

However, according to Uganda Sugar Manufacturers Association (USMA), from 2015, there was a decline in production and in 2017, the country produced only 365,452 metric tonnes from the peak of 438,000 in 2014.

The report by USMA indicates that factories such as Kakira saw production in 2017 reduce to 125,156 tonnes out of the estimated 180,000. The factory last produced at fully capacity in 2014. In 2015, it produced 155,302 tonnes and reduced to 152,842 tonnes in 2016.

UNEMPLOYMENT

USMA says the absence of zoning would result in the laying off of workers due to low production.

"Jobs will be lost because we shall not be able to sustain these workers," Eswar said.

Kakira Sugar factory employs 9,500 workers directly and plans to lay off 4,000 should the zoning policy fail. Sugar Corporation of Uganda (SCOUL) which employs 9,000 people also plans to lay off 3,500.

PROPER MANAGEMENT

Alam Abid, the proprietor of Kaliro Sugar Works, said with the increasing number of sugar industries, it was important that the Government implements zoning.

"It is essential that zoning comes into place so that the industry can continue to grow. Otherwise, the Bill does not restrict farmers to sell cane anywhere," Alam said.

Unlike Alam, Michael Mugabira, the co-ordinator of the Uganda Sugarcane Growers' Association, disagreed. Mugabira said zoning would be acceptable if it was based on the Local Content Bill, which states that 40% of the zoning production potential should be reserved for Ugandans — where farmers can be licensed to operate jaggaries, open small scale mills with the goal of knowledge, skills and appropriate technology transfer.

"We propose that the main factory (core investor) should take 60% of the production (6,000 tonnes) and the remaining 40% set aside for small mills," he said.

However, small millers have been accused of starting as jaggaries and ending up as full scale sugar producers.

An aerial view of Kinyara Sugar estate in Masindi district. Proponents of zoning say it will protect the big millers

Other countries

Besides Uganda, other countries such as South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia and Swaziland have implemented the zoning policy and their sugar industries have thrived.

USMA says countries such as Kenya and Morocco that have not embraced zoning have had their sugar industries affected. Mauritius, Mozambique and India have been forced to embrace zoning to save their sugar industries.

An economic analyst, however, noted that for Uganda to benefit from sugar production, there is need for value addition by industries.

Dr Ibrahim Mike Okumu, a lecturer at Makerere University, said large scale mills should graduate into high level processing of sugar needed in manufacturing pharmaceutical drugs.

"We have many new mills coming on board because the cost of entry is low. But there should be value addition," Okumu said.

Despite increased sugar production, sugar prices in Uganda are unstable with a kilogramme of sugar hitting as high as sh7,000. Sugar producers believe that the prices will drop as a result of increased production and zoning.

UGANDAN CITIZENSHIP ON SALE, NIRA OFFICIALS ON THE SPOT

From page 5

We set out to verify why a local council official like Kasswa would offer recommendation letters to people they did not know.

When contacted, Kasswa denied issuing the letters prior to carrying out background search on a given individual. He, however, admitted that he had ever issued recommendation letters to foreigners, saying they once threatened to turn against him.

Chrysostom Lukwago, the acting GISO of Namungo, denied delegating anybody to sign on his behalf.

"We cannot sign for anybody who has come here for one year. They must have lived here for some time to qualify to be a resident. I have also not registered any foreigner and I have not taken money from anyone."

BUIKWE

NIRA officers in parts of Buikwe, just like Mityana, asked citizens to pay sh5,000 for registration forms.

One of the cases we captured on camera at Nkokonjeru town council in Buikwe was of John Segawa, a NIRA official who solicited money from citizens.

Our team discovered in this area that whereas registration was meant to be done at the Nkokonjeru town council offices, it was being conducted from Aunt Kevin Nursery and Primary School, Nkokonjeru.

The *Sunday Vision* team found 65 citizens at the registration area.

In Part 2 in New Vision on Monday, read about the testimonies of Ugandans who are frustrated by the process. This investigation is supported by the Democratic Governance Facility

FOREIGNERS HIRE PARENTS TO GET NATIONAL IDS, LC AND

Forgery, bribery hit ID project

A national ID is a basic human right. That is until you go out to queue for it at the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) points. Everyone dreads the prospect of losing a national ID because the process of getting a replacement is daunting or is it? A team of Vision Group journalists went undercover and expose shocking details of parents for hire, bribery and mismanagement of the ID project perpetrated by NIRA, LC officials and brokers

Residents in rural areas are subjected to paying money for the application forms which are known to be free

SPOTLIGHT

For years since she registered for her national identity card in her native Kamuli district, Sarah Nakatudde has been hoping to get a national ID. Frustration is written all over her face.

Makiera was among the first people to register in her village when the first rolled out in 2014. However, for some strange reason, she has been waiting for her card.

Ageing and frustrated, Makiera, in her early 60s, says she registered at the village level but she has visited registration offices that previously hosted the NIRA central office.

Nakatudde, who is married to abandon the whole process and when I embarked on it again, the officers kept telling me to check on them after two months and when I do, they say I should come back another day.

Makiera has since moved to NIRA central offices along Lumumba Avenue in Kampala to continue her search. She has been told to apply afresh. Nakatudde says she has given up on owning one.

Her story is common. Here is a drop in a sea of complaints about systematic corruption in the ID project. Our investigation revealed the frustration of citizens queuing up at the registration centres and shows how obtaining a national ID has become a struggle.

First rolled out in 2014, the National Identification Number is meant to capture details of Ugandan nationals. These include one's picture, fingerprints, place of birth, place and date of birth, birth plans, details of parents and siblings.

However, our investigations reveal that the process has become a cash cow for fraudsters to make money from unsuspecting and desperate Ugandans, especially those in rural areas.

Our investigation has also revealed disturbing details of an underground web of corruption, where foreigners acquire national IDs through faking of birth records, bribery and manipulation criteria, putting the security of the country at risk.

PAYING OF BRIBES

Paying bribes to the registration officials seems to be the only way to get your card, even if it is free and you have to wait in the queue for months. Ugandans who have lost their jobs, are ill-educated and are poor and women are the most susceptible to demands for bribes.

Nakatudde, married and named was caught up in a similar situation when she lost her national ID after things went bad in her home.

In attempt to get a replacement, she was forced to pay bribes, as required by NIRA.

Nakatudde, who went to the NIRA office in Nagoma, one of the officers referred her to another colleague who demanded that she pay him a bribe of sh60,000.

"I was forced to pay sh60,000 to avoid trouble him put my NIN (National Identification Number) in the system and I was then told I had to shelled that after getting the money, he did not help me," Mabuga recalls. He said he told her that he had refined the money, he said he had already spent it.

Nakatudde, well known in Nagoma, Mabuga then moved to the Kakiri head office rejecting better service. She said she was forced to pay bribes to the officer for once asked for sh70,000 to process her card, "I did all kinds of things Same". He eventually succeeded in getting his NIN after making the payment.

While replacing a national ID costs sh50,000 and sometimes, it costs a pay more in some grossly officers.

Edith Nabagayi, a resident of Entebbe Municipality, paid a bribe of sh20,000 to a NIRA officer who she identified as Kato, who promised to work on her documents which she needed urgently.

"When I approached Kato, he tested me around and later confirmed that I had money and I told him that I had long game on that day," she said. Kato also reportedly told Nabagayi that if she gives him sh20,000, he will go to you, drive or else stop calling.

Nabagayi said she was doing Ecotourism internal security officer (CISO), Saks Mobilde, at Kakiki, he demanded that for sh20,000 to tips her documents.

Mobilde, the CISO's homeboy are required for the national ID registration and banking services, among others. Nabagayi said, many people have complained about the process of getting a national ID. This has overshadowed the exercise, captured by rants on social media.

It cost Sendaji Vision a few thousands of shillings to acquire forged letters from the security and LC officials to facilitate the process as a foreigner. Sendaji, who has been given having vastly got a national ID in the process, said he said.

"Ango Quarrous confusion want wange ne omunsio ouzi kakaiger ne ID ne omunsio ouzi kakaiger ne kakiki. Yaye ngambile chairman ali ali ongeza 70 yonsiyiri ajo kishaakiriwe ne kakiki ne omunsio ouzi."

Nabiga, a Peruvian national who has since acquired a national ID, says, "Ndi omu Peruvian ate ate ndi omu also got for me a 'father' and I paid him Ugandan shillings 50,000 and he had helped me. But do not tell him that you are new in this village. It will be better for you to give him more money so you can be able to get your ID."

Nabiga explains that she had to pay bribes because she was a foreigner and it was the only way she could get acceptable name from Buganda Kingdom to get an ID.

On March 6, 2014, during the International Women's Day celebrations, the Kiira Women Project Manager briefed the country about the challenges women in rural areas face for a national ID. Sources say many foreigners could have easily been given the opportunity to get an ID, provided they partied with some officers.

The magnitude of the money was, however, unknown in total areas but it is clear that NIRA did not pay no attention at all to personal details, hence causing many irregularities. Some of the foreigners have been engaging at various district headquarters, NIRA in January this year, issued a statement cautioning serious client to the people. The exercise is expected to end on May 10, 2019 but it has been extended to Entebbe municipality, we witnessed the Police arrest a NIRA official and a Ugandan lady, who are allegedly organizing Ecuadoran and Congolese to get Ugandan IDs.

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DAY ONE

Kibonge is approximately 10km to Nagoma.

We first sought shelter under a nearby tree to plot our next move. This was a reconnaissance mission to scope out look and easily blend in with the residents.

We noticed we hired a boda boda cyclist who took us to our destination. We paid him sh2,000 for the ride.

"Mind of the clients I have brought you here," the boda boda rider would, given up on picking fees. Eh, Yeh, foreigners who settled here are very difficult to deal with. I don't know whether we should pay kale. He is one of the two NIRA officers who I know in this village. I am very confident that we did not have any

A leader's confession

Prapan Sunk, one of the local masters in Entebbe municipality, admitted that he was involved in the process of the national ID registration exercise. He added that whenever NIRA meant to carry out the exercise in Entebbe and its, They noticed began a month date, which did not give the residents enough time to take part in the process.

He said only two computers were provided to capture data of the citizens and that made it a serb, which was unrealistic.

"At every stage, the persons responsible for the exercise asked for money to sign the recommendation documents of citizens. We are surely fed up," Sunk said.

NIRA OFFICIALS ASK APPLICANTS TO PAY FOR DOCUMENTS

CLICK FOR MORE PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

NIRA speak out

NIRA's spokesperson Gilbert Kadilo Bwowe said the agency does not attach any charges as persons seeking to acquire IDs for the first time. He, however, admitted that it costs sh50,000 for replacement or errors.

"People should be keen enough to know that it costs sh50,000 for one to accept to take them with any error because it shall cost you," he said.

Bwowe said the agency does not pay payments to individual officers, saying all transactions are carried out in the bank. He said the agency will pick money from citizens.

"We have a system where we pick the two copies of passport size photos that is requested for.

The images, however, were of a very poor quality and we have interfaced with him before. But by Ubimax) did not figure this out, and they ended up giving us some earlier ones burning holes in his pocket," Bwowe said.

Later, another colleague appeared in the same room and said he was not the first person he was attending to was different.

The colleague also later learnt that people in the area commonly referred to him as Abbey. Our reporter introduced herself as Nakatudde and was not suspicious at all that we were different.

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He later offered to coach the reporter on what to say to an officer and the plans we should say so, Nakatudde was instructed by her colleague Doral who captured the date of birth as 1960.

Abbey also provided us with a copy of a national ID bearing the names of Sarah Nakiyiza, Sarah Nakatudde and Sarah Nakiwaya from the Doral clan and Idris Kibenge (deceased) from the Ngeye clan. Nakatudde and her colleagues was to fill in as 'our parents' in his school, we had to pay an extra sh20,000 for the coaching service and finding us 'parents'.

Nakatudde had the necessary documents we required, including LC1 letter, for citizenship verifications. The letter was issued by the LC1 chairperson Doral Idris Kibenge, another NIRA official, acted on behalf of the LC3 chairperson, Ssemakula Kizito.

Nakatudde said the LC1 chairperson had mentioned that they come from Nagoma and had given us recommendation letter that was signed by the Kasanda LC3 ill chairperson, Ssemakula Kizito.

Thereafter, a new line, whose second name we learnt is Mugoiza, called our colleague and he was informed we had brought him about our predicament.

He, however, said he needed more money to pay the officer who was tasked with entering data into the system and taking our pictures. Nakatudde said she had to pay the journalist's fingerprints and photos. She then gave this journalist, Sh 20,000 for the services he rendered.

"Mr. Mugoiza, who I have already preserves a national ID. He was the middleman who was demanding for balance, he phone ringing off the hook.

Continued on page 6

Situation in Kampala

I at seven 'perfect' mins you walk through the gates of the NIRA head office in Kampala, Lumumba Avenue office on Lumumba Avenue in Nakasero. However, there are unsettling signs that the office is a hub for cases of desperate people to flame offices as early as 5.30am. Arriving early, because the office opens at 8am, we will have with your ID or get any form of assistance. The waiting place is a small compound with a few benches applicants, tender to stand you longer. Some people have been there for two weeks.

Nakatudde, answering nature's call of these NIRA centres is a scary. The places of convenience at the compound are a mess. The fee charged between sh200 and sh500. The nearby cantoon also charges exorbitantly for services rendered.

At the Kampala Central NIRA office, we particularly followed two youthful looking ladies who we learnt later were who we learnt was called Brian but was referred to as Ssey by the women. Ssey, who we learnt later was from Ugo-tu-Teko, Ssey, whispered to her friend.

He approached them for a chat. They revealed that the officer (Ssey) could only help us at a fee of sh50,000. At first, we thought Ssey was one of the women act as brokers and liaise with the officers for various deals. However, when we asked Ssey some immediately declined, saying some citizens have had to part with sh50,000 for the same services to Brian, also Ssey.

"Processing not to have money, we have to pay sh50,000 and sh20,000 and proceed to pay for the photos," Ssey said. Ssey said the officer (Brian) who was tasked with the services client to the people. The exercise is expected to end on May 10, 2019 but it has been extended to Entebbe municipality, we witnessed the Police arrest a NIRA official and a Ugandan lady, who are allegedly organizing Ecuadoran and Congolese to get Ugandan IDs.

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Mobiles, the NIRA officer whom our team met in Nagoma district

A screen shot of the mobile money transaction between our investigator and the number Adrian gave

You have sent UGX 50,000 to CARO LINE SUCKSUCKSUCK on +256704217171 Fee UGX 1,500. Balance UGX 16,501 Trans ID 26229849294. Tax UGX 0

A screen shot of the mobile money transaction between our investigator and the number Brian shared with his broker Irene at NIRA, Lumumba Avenue

It was Ssey that he said he wanted to meet our investigator and he said he wanted to see the photos we had taken.

"Ssey said he will signal to us it is go to him. There are many people at the office and we cannot talk to him in front of the women, Irene, whispered to her friend.

He approached them for a chat. They revealed that the officer (Ssey) could only help us at a fee of sh50,000. At first, we thought Ssey was one of the women act as brokers and liaise with the officers for various deals.

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Continued on page 6

HOW SUGAR BILL BECAME BITTER

When the Government introduced the Sugar Bill, it was meant to regulate the sugar industry. But what has come of the sugar Bill that has sparked controversy, HENRY SEKAANJAKO, MARY KARUGABA and WILFRED SANYA write

An aerial view of Kinyara Sugar estate in Masindi district. Proponents of cartels say it will protect the big sellers

The Sugar Bill was tabled in Parliament after years such as the Sugar Industry Act, 2001, became ineffective. The proposed law seeks to regulate sugar industry to ensure that there is a stable market.

In November last year, it was passed by Parliament but President Yoweri Museveni refused to assent it. On March 1, 2019, the President returned the Bill to Parliament to remove clauses he termed as anomalies.

Under clause 22 of the Bill, the Government had proposed that cartels be formed to control the 25km radius of the other and that enlargement in that area would only be allowed if the cartel in that area was defined from the Bill by MPs.

MUSEVENI'S REASONS

Museveni said because of the absence of zoning, small scale sugar factories have been forced out of their target constituents, saying that they have to pay for land rates, industry agreements, provisions for electricity and other services, transferring to the sugar industry.

He said the absence of zoning has led to the closure of many factories in the country. The factories are Kakira Sugar Works, Mayuge Sugar, Kalite Sugar and Kamuli Sugar.

BUSOGA LEADERS

On Monday, leaders from Busoga kingdom led by the Kamuloni, Henry Wanyoto, accompanied by Parliament's Speaker Rebecca Kadaga, asking MPs not to hastically pass the Sugar Bill saying it is preventing for zoning. The leaders said zoning would create monopoly in the sugar industry, Wanyoto said.

"We feel that if this provision is not removed, the Bill will engender monopoly of all factories operate at full capacity.

However, according to Uganda Sugar Manufacturers Association (USMA), despite the 2017 decline in production and in 2017, the country produced only 365,452 tonnes against the peak of 420,000 in 2014.

The report by USMA indicates that despite the decline in sugar production in 2017 reduce to 123,156 tonnes out of the estimated 380,000 tonnes, the factories had the capacity in 2014. In 2015, it produced 420,000 tonnes and reduced to 152,442 tonnes in 2016.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Museveni said the cartel of zoning would result in the laying off of workers due to low production.

"Zoning is a monopoly. Cartels can be able to sustain those workers," Museveni said.

Kinyara Sugar factory employs 9,500 workers directly and plans to employ 10,000 workers. Similarly, Sugar Corporation of Uganda (SCOUL) in Amuru district, 5,000 people also plans to lay off 5,000.

PROPER MANAGEMENT

Amos Omo, the proprietor of Kalite Sugar Works, said with proper management of the sugar industries, it was important that the Government implements zoning.

Omo said the Government's aim plans so that the industry can continue to grow. Otherwise, the Bill will be a mere piece of paper, he said anywhere. Main sugar

Dr Ibanda Mugoya, Mugoya's son, the co-ordinator of the Uganda Sugarcane Farmers Association, disagreed. Mugoya said zoning would be acceptable if it was based on the sugar industry. He said it is more than 40% of the zoning, reserved for Ugandans — where farmers can be harnessed to operate sugar factories, which would gain the goal of knowledge, skills and appropriate technology transfer.

"The proposal that the main factory in the sugar industry should be the production 40,000 tonnes/ and the remaining 40% set aside for small-scale," he said.

However, small millers have been complaining of the proposed law ending up as full scale sugar producers.

Other countries

Besides Uganda, other countries such as South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia and Swaziland have implemented the zoning policy and their sugar industries have thrived.

Countries such as Kenya, Tanzania and Morocco that have not embraced zoning have had their sugar industries affected, with some of the factories being forced out of business or coming to save their sugar industries.

Although the sugar industry has had fair Uganda to benefit from sugar production, there is need for value addition to industries.

Dr Ibanda Mugoya Obuma, a lecturer at Makerere University, said large scale mills should graduate into high level processing of sugar needed in manufacturing pharmaceutical drugs.

"Sugar is a very good product and it is important that the quality is low. But there should be value addition," Obuma said. Despite increased sugar production, sugar prices in Uganda are still high and the Government is trying to find ways to ensure that Sugar producers believe that the prices will drop as a result of increased production and zoning.

In a good way, I am about to start opponents years where I will meet these engineers," Museveni said.

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Other radios into several other neighbouring areas such as Karungu Budiwe and Mayuge and this cannot be a monopoly.

Observers say the Government has introduced the law because of the number of sugar factories that established in the country. Such factories include Amuru Sugar Works Limited, Agro Max Sugar Limited Company, Hoima Sugar Limited, Mubende Sugar and Bunu Sugar Factory.

DROP IN PRODUCTION

Madhvani Group, which owns Kakira Sugar Factory, the largest producer in the country, said without zoning, the sugar industry would collapse.

KP Zonal, the Madhvani Group's sugar factory in Masindi district, director of zoning had made many investments in the sugar industry, number of assignments. Zonal said the location of many sugar industries in Uganda, the factory said, is not strength cane for sugar production.

"We are not asking for free lun Kakira. It is for the benefit of Uganda," Zonal said.

Zonal said, unlike all new small scale sugar factories, were in Busoga, Bugiri and Mayuge districts, the small producers are forming the law to push out small scale producers. Zonal said the Government of the sugar industry in Uganda and our mount to restrict free access to sugar cane.

Uganda has a capacity to produce 1,000 tonnes of sugar cane

annually if all factories operate at full capacity.

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The Sunday Vision team toured 03 sugar factories in Masindi district.

In Part 2 in New Vision on Monday, read about the Ugandan citizens who are frustrated by the process. This investigation is supported by the Democratic Governance Facility

UGANDAN CITIZENSHIP ON SALE, NIRA OFFICIALS ON THE SPOT

From page 5

We set out to verify why a local council official like Kamwa would recommend citizenship to people that did not know, denied knowing the person they were missing the letters prior to carrying out the recommendation for a given individual. He, however, admitted that he had ever issued letters to people he did not know saying they were threatened to turn them into refugees.

"Chrysostom Lubwagu the LC3 chairman, Kasanda, ordered delegating anybody to sign on his behalf.

"I cannot sign for anybody who has come here for one year. They must have lived here for some time and I know them. Those who are not registered are foreigner and I don't sign tickets from anyone," he said.

FAKES

NIRA officers in parts of Buikwe, just like Kamwa, issued letters for 40,000 for registration forms.

One of the cases we captured on camera at Nkokonjeero town council in Buikwe district, where a local NIRA official who solicited money from a citizen.

Our team discovered in this area that the process of citizenship seems to be done at the Nkokonjeero town council offices, it was being done at Nkokonjeero Primary Teachers and Primary School, Nkokonjeero.

FOREIGNERS HIRE PARENTS TO GET NATIONAL IDS, LC AND

Forgery, bribery hit ID project

A national ID is a basic human right. That is until you go out to queue for it at the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) points. Everyone dreads the prospect of losing a national ID because the process of getting a replacement is daunting or is it? A team of Vision Group journalists went undercover and expose shocking details of parents for hire, bribery and mismanagement of the ID project perpetrated by NIRA, LC officials and brokers

Residents in rural areas are subjected to paying money for the application forms which are known to be free

Five years since she registered for her national identity card (ID), Susan Mubiru has lost hope of getting one and frustration is written all over her face.

Mubiru was among the first people to register for an ID when the exercise first rolled out in 2014. However, for some strange reason, she has been tossed around since.

Ageing and frustrated, Mubiru, in her early 60s, says she registered at the Kampala Capital City Authority central division offices that previously hosted the NIRA central offices.

"Out of frustration, I decided to abandon the whole process and when I embarked on it again, the officers fed me the same rehearsed stories. They keep telling me to check on them after every after two weeks," she says.

Mubiru has since moved to NIRA central offices along Lumumba Avenue in Nakasero, Kampala. However, she has been told to apply afresh. Desperate and desolate, she has given up on owning one.

Mubiru is not alone. Hers is a drop in a sea of complaints about systematic corruption in the ID registration. Mubiru's case illustrates the frustration of citizens queuing up at the registration centres and shows how getting a national ID has become a struggle.

First rolled out in 2014, the National ID registration exercise is meant to capture details of Ugandan nationals. These include one's picture, thumbprint and bio-data such as name, date of birth, birth place, details of parents and clan.

However, our investigations reveal that the process has become a gateway for fraudsters to make money from unsuspecting and desperate Ugandans.

The scale of corruption is high, especially outside Kampala and is done through collusion with LC and NIRA officials.

Our investigation has also revealed disturbing details of an underground web of corruption, where foreigners acquire national IDs through hiring of fake parents to meet the registration criteria, putting the security of the country at risk.

PAYING OF BRIBES

Paying bribes to the registration officials seems to be the only way to quicken the process. If you are poor, you have to wait in the queue for months. Ugandans who have lost their IDs or whose names were captured wrongly are the most susceptible to demands for bribes.

John Malinga (not real name) was caught up in a similar situation when he lost his national ID after thugs snatched his wallet.

In attempt to get a replacement, he paid sh50,000 at the bank, as is required by NIRA.

However, when he went to the NIRA office in Naguru, one of the officers referred him to another colleague who said he could only help him if he paid a bribe of sh60,000.

"I had hoped that the sh60,000 would enable him get my NIN (National Identification Number) because I urgently needed it, but I was shocked that after picking the money, he did not help me," Malinga recalls.

He adds: "So when I asked him to refund the money, he said he had already spent it."

After counting his losses in Naguru, Malinga then moved to the Kololo head office expecting better service. He was stopped in his tracks when the officer he met asked for sh70,000, saying that would help him "move things faster". He eventually succeeded at getting his NIN after making the payment.

While replacing a national ID costs sh50,000, some citizens have had to pay more to some greedy officers.

Edith Nakigozi, a resident of Entebbe municipality, also said she paid sh20,000 to a NIRA officer who she identified as Kato, who promised to work on her documents which she needed urgently.

"When I approached Kato, he tossed me around and later confessed that the sh20,000 was to help me jump the long queue on that day," she said. Kato also reportedly told Nakigozi that if she needed an ID urgently, she had to pay him sh1m or else stop calling.

When she went to the sub-county (Gombolola) internal security officer (GISO), Saka Mukibi, at Katabi, he reportedly asked for sh5,000 to sign her documents.

Today, a person's biometrics are required for the national ID registration and banking services, among others.

Over the past five years, several people have complained about the process of getting a national ID. This growing frustration is succinctly captured by rants on social media.

It cost *Sunday Vision* a few thousands of shillings to acquire forged letters from the security and LC officials to facilitate the process as advised by a Rwandan who we tracked down having easily got a national ID after paying a small bribe.

"Nange chairman yanfunira taata wange ne mwasuula nusu kakaaga (sh6,000) kuhanga yanyamba nsyo bambi. Naye togamba chairman nti ofi mupya. Ye yemyimi aja kukusaliravo ennyaka go'omuze wano," Annet Nalugo, a Rwandan national who has since acquired a national ID, says. Loosely translated as, "The chairman also got for me a 'father' and I paid him (chairman) sh6,000 because he had helped me. But do not tell him that you are new in this village. It will be upon him to decide how many years you have spent here."

Nalugo explains that she had to change her Kinyarwanda name to a more acceptable name from Buganda to ease the process.

On March 8, 2014, during the International Women's Day celebrations, when President Yoweri Museveni briefed the country about the ID project, he attempted to show the relevance of a national ID to ordinary citizens. He said it would finally give the country a reliable and easily traceable identity card that is also difficult to forge.

However, when our team visited various sub-counties in both rural and urban settings, we discovered that it does not take much to be cleared for a national ID. Sources say many foreigners could have easily been added to the national ID register, provided they parted with some money.

The magnitude of the matter was, however, witnessed in rural areas with NIRA officials paying little or no attention at all to personal details, hence causing many irregularities.

Although registration has been ongoing at various district headquarters, NIRA in January this year, moved to sub-counties to bring services closer to the people. The exercise is expected to end on May 10.

However, during our investigation in Entebbe municipality, we witnessed the Police arrest a NIRA official (Moses Amanyire), who was allegedly registering Rwandans and Congolese for a fee of sh50,000 each.

OUR UNDERCOVER

Sunday Vision randomly picked on a NIRA centre where we went undercover to find out first-hand what it would take to get an ID without any background documents. Our destination — Kikonge village in Namungo sub-county, Mityana district

DAY ONE

Kikonge is approximately 18km to Mityana town.

We first sought shelter under a nearby tree to plot our next move. This involved changing clothes to disguise our look and easily blend in with the residents.

Thereafter, we hired a bodaboda cyclist who took us to our destination. A chit-chat with him is telling.

"Most of the clients I have transported to the NIRA offices have totally given up on picking their IDs. Yet, foreigners who settled here have managed to get Ugandan IDs faster because they have money," the bodaboda rider, who preferred to remain anonymous, reveals.

He, however, quickly adds that he was only two computers were provided to capture data of the citizens in both Entebbe A and B, which was unrealistic.

"At every stage, the persons responsible (DISO, LC officials) ask for money to sign the recommendation documents of citizens. We are surely fed up," Ssali said.

A leader's confession

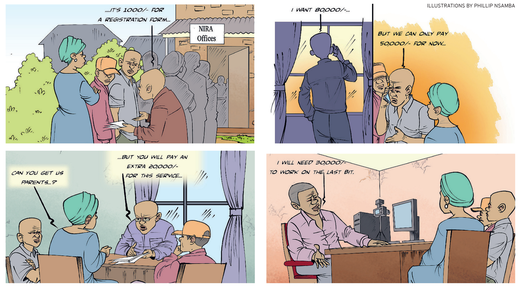
Magwa Ssali, one of the local leaders in Entebbe municipality, admitted that there were indeed irregularities in the national ID registration exercise. He added that whereas NIRA meant to begin this year's exercise on January 14, they instead began a month later, which did not give the residents enough time to take part in the process.

He said only two computers were provided to capture data of the citizens in both Entebbe A and B, which was unrealistic.

"At every stage, the persons responsible (DISO, LC officials) ask for money to sign the recommendation documents of citizens. We are surely fed up," Ssali said.

NIRA OFFICIALS ASK APPLICANTS TO PAY FOR DOCUMENTS

ILLUSTRATIONS BY PHILLIP NSAMBA



NIRA speak out

NIRA's spokesperson Gilbert Kadilo maintained that the authority did not attach any charges on persons seeking to acquire IDs for the first time. He, however, confirmed that one has to pay sh50,000 for replacement or errors.

"People should be keen enough to read what is on their IDs well and not to accept to take them with any error because it shall cost you," he said.

Kadilo warned citizens against making payments to individual officers, saying all transactions are carried out in the bank.

"We do not allow any staff to pick money from citizens."

even after paying a bribe, some of the officials instead become hostile.

At the venue, we find about 30 applicants. Some are inside the office, while others are standing outside.

The NIRA office in Namungo is hosted at the sub-county headquarters. But one would easily mistake it for a village retail shop. One of us immediately joins the queue. We are told that before making any consultations, we have to pay sh1,000 to acquire the registration form.

HOW FOREIGNERS GET IDs

Nearby, some women could be heard speaking both Luganda and Kinyarwanda. So, pretending to be ignorant about the whole registration process, we chipped in on their conversation.

Our team learnt that this particular area hosts a number of Rwandans and Congolese, who have since settled there and become part of the community. So, when we tell one, Annet Nalugo, that we do not have any of our parents' documents, she advises that we look for people who can potentially act as our parents.

Nalugo unwittingly opens up. She intimates that whereas her mother is alive in Rwanda, she had to declare her dead and buried in Kasangula village in Mityana for the sake of acquiring a national ID and settling there.

A forged letter of death verification that our team obtained indicates that Nalugo's mother 'died' in 2005.

A quick look through her documents, particularly the letter for citizenship verification signed by the Kasangula LC1 chairperson, Emmanuel Kalyango, reveals that Nalugo is a daughter of Emmanuel Byekwaso of the Ne clan and Alivera Nyinamatabalo of the Ngo clan, purportedly belonging to the indigenous community of the Baganda.

NEXT MOVE

We were plotting our next move, when a smartly dressed youthful man who introduced himself as Abitex, asked whether we needed any help. He is one of the two NIRA officers who work in Namungo. So, we immediately confess that we did not have any documents, but needed IDs urgently. He instantly shared his telephone contact, assuring us that he would sort out everything.

He said we would have to pay him heavily, seeing as we did not have a single document.

"You need a copy of your parents' national IDs, LC1 letter and a letter from the district internal security officer (DISO). All these require a lot of money, but we shall discuss this later," he said, adding that we should contact him before the end of the day so that he can reveal his grand plan.

When he asked where we lived, we told him we were residents of Kampala, but had relatives who live in Kikonge.

After an hour, we called him and revealed that the officer (Inno) could only help us at a fee of sh100,000. At this point, we discover that the two women act as brokers and liaise with the officers for various deals.

When we tried to negotiate, Irene immediately declined, saying some citizens have had to part with sh500,000 which she surrenders to Brain, alias Inno.

Pretending not to have money, we then give her a down payment of sh20,000 and promise to pay the balance of sh80,000 via mobile money. She then writes down Brian's telephone number on a piece of paper and says it is registered under his partner's name (Caroline Nankambwe).

A few minutes after the transaction, the number was switched off. The bribe, according to Irene's quotation, was to cater for procuring other documents including a recommendation letter showing proof of citizenship.

In the city suburbs, the LCs dish out recommendation letters to whosoever desires after paying some money. For example, when we visited Naguru Go-Down 1 village, all it took was to give ourselves random names and the area LC 1 chairperson did not bother doing any due diligence. He gave us the recommendation letters in just minutes.

Situation in Kampala

It all seems 'perfect' when you walk through the gates of the NIRA head office in Kololo and the central division office on Lumumba Avenue in Nakasero.

However, there are unsettling details too. There is a steady stream of desperate people to these offices as early as 5:30am. Arriving early, however, is not a guarantee that you will leave with your ID or get any form of assistance. The waiting sheds cannot accommodate the big number of applicants. Unable to stand any longer, tired applicants sit on the grass or verandahs.

Meanwhile, answering nature's call at these NIRA centres is a luxury. The places of convenience at the Kampala central office are paid for between sh300 and sh500. The nearby canteen also charges exorbitantly for refreshments.

At the Kampala Central NIRA office, we particularly followed two youthful women talking with one of the officers who we learnt was called Brian but was referred to as Inno by the women.

"Inno has said he will signal to us to go to him. There are many people at the door, so he cannot come out now," one of the women, (Irene), whispered to her friend.

We approached them for a chat. They revealed that the officer (Inno) could only help us at a fee of sh100,000. At this point, we discover that the two women act as brokers and liaise with the officers for various deals.

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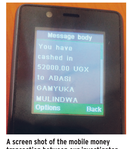
Abitex, the NIRA officer whom our team met in Mityana district



A screen shot of the mobile money transaction between our investigator and the number Abitex gave

You have sent UGX 80,000 to CARO-LINE NANKAMBWE on 0708382773. Fee UGX 1,500. Balance UGX 16,501. Trans ID 26250989296. Tax UGX 0

A screen shot of the mobile money transaction between our investigator and the number Brian shared with his broker Irene at NIRA, Lumumba Avenue

it was then that he said he wanted sh80,000 to process one national ID, but we told him we could not raise that much.

"*Oyimiridde oyo!*" Abitex asked?

This a local jargon used by street-smart people who are wired to do business.

We, however, negotiated to sh50,000 which he suggested to be sent via his mobile money number. Verification with the telecom company shows that the number he gave us was registered in the name, Abasi Gamyuka Mulindwa.

It was after making payments that Abitex told us to return the next day with two passport size photos that would be attached to the LC1's and DISO's letters.

DAY TWO

We returned to Abitex the following day, although using a different approach. We first opted to send an emissary, a bodaboda cyclist to deliver the two copies of passport size photos that he requested for.

The images, however, were of a different colleague who had not interfaced with him before. But he (Abitex) did not figure this out, perhaps, because the money we sent earlier was burning holes in his pockets.

Later, another colleague appeared in person and Abitex still did not realise that the person he was attending to was different.

Our colleague also later learnt that people in the area commonly referred to him as Abbey. Our reporter approached him with a smile. He was not suspicious at all that we were different.

COACHING ON WHAT TO SAY

He later offered to coach this undercover reporter on what to say and the place we should say we hail from, before referring us to his colleague (Issa) who captured the data into the NIRA system.

Abbey also provided us with a copy of a national ID bearing the names of the parents he had hired for us. He said Sarah Ndibantya from the Mpindi clan and John Kibirige (deceased) from the Ngeye clan were the people our colleague was to fill in as 'our parents'. At his behest, we had to pay an extra sh20,000 for the coaching service and finding us 'parents'.

He then provided the necessary documents we required, including LC1 letter, letter for citizenship verification, which is usually recommended by the DISO, although his colleague (Issa), another NIRA official, acted on behalf of the DISO and filled in the DISO form.

Whereas this undercover journalist had mentioned that they come from Kikonge, Abitex gave us a recommendation letter that was signed by the Kisaana LC1 B chairperson, Abasai Kasswa.

Thereafter, a one Issa, whose second name we learnt is Muguzura, called our colleague and said Abbey had already briefed him about our predicament.

He, however, said he needed more sh30,000 to work on the remaining bit which included entering data into the system and taking our pictures. After paying him the cash he took our journalist's fingerprints and photos.

Issa then gave this journalist, the NIN. "Keep checking for the national ID," he said.

This undercover journalist, however, already possesses a national ID. By press time, Abitex was still calling us demanding his balance; his phone ringing off the hook.

Continued on page 6

HOW SUGAR BILL BECAME BITTER

When the Government introduced the Sugar Bill, it was meant to regulate the sugar industry. But what is bitter in the Sugar Bill that has sparked controversy, HENRY SEKANJAKO, MARY KARUGABA and WILFRED SANYA write

The Sugar Bill was tabled in Parliament after laws such as the Sugar (Control) Act of 1948 became ineffective. The Bill sought to regulate the sugar industry to ensure that there is healthy competition.

In November last year, it was passed by Parliament but President Yoweri Museveni refused to assent to it. On March 1, 2019, the President returned the Bill to Parliament to provide for zoning, among others.

Under clause 22 of the Bill, the Government had proposed that no sugar mill is established in a 25km radius of the other and that outgrowers in that area would only supply sugarcane to it. This clause was deleted from the Bill by MPs.

MUSEVENI'S REASONS

Museveni said because of the absence of zoning, small scale millers had encroached on the zones of their larger counterparts.

He also queried licensing of sugar mills, industry agreements, provisions on regulation, smuggling and money laundering in the sugar industry.

He said the absence of zoning had seen Kakira Sugar Works' production drop from 180,000 tonnes in 2014 to 125,000 tonnes in 2017.

However, before the House could amend the Bill, Museveni convened the National Resistance Movement parliamentary caucus meeting on Tuesday, where it was decided that the Bill and shelved for a month as more consultations are made.

"Let's postpone the Bill and have more engagements with the stakeholders. There is no way we can fail to discuss with them. Let us be leaders not opportunists who exploit people's ignorance," he said.

"The sugar issue can be planned in a good way. I am about to start upcountry tours where I will meet these outgrowers," Museveni said.

BUSOGA LEADERS

On Monday, leaders from Busoga kingdom led by the Katukiro, Dr Joseph Muvawala, petitioned Parliament's Speaker Rebecca Kadaga, asking MPs not to hurriedly pass the Bill with the clause providing for zoning. The leaders said zoning would create monopoly and lead to low prices for sugarcane.

"We feel that if this provision is not removed, the Bill will negatively impact on the people of Busoga, whose lifeline is sugarcane," Muvawala said.

Busoga sub-region hosts the highest number of sugar factories in the country. The factories are Kakira Sugar Works, Mayuge Sugar, Kaliro Sugar and Kamuli Sugar.

BATTLE FOR ZONING

The kingdom says the 25km radius zoning proposal contradicts the Government's liberalisation policy.

"As we speak today, one of the main milers in Busoga has a subsisting licence granted well beyond the 25km radius into several other neighbouring areas such as Kayunga, Buikwe and Mayuge and this cannot be rectified by zoning."

Observers say the Government has introduced the law because of many sugar factories that are being established in the country. Such factories include Amuru Sugar Works Limited, Atiak Sugar, Bugiri Sugar Company, Hoima Sugar Limited, Mukwano Sugar and Busia Sugar.

DROP IN PRODUCTION

Madhvani Group, which owns Kakira Sugar, the biggest sugar producer in the country, said without zoning, the sugar industry would collapse.

K.P. Eswar, the Madhvani Group director of corporate affairs, said the absence of zoning had made many factories compete for the limited number of outgrowers. Eswar said the location of many sugar industries in one area had resulted in lack of enough cane for sugar production.

"We are not asking for this law for the benefit of Lugazi, Mayuge or Kakira. It is for the benefit of Uganda," Eswar said.

He wondered why all new small scale sugar factories were in Busoga.

Eswar denied allegations that large scale producers are fronting the law to push out small scale producers.

"Zoning is only for regulation of the sugar industry in Uganda and not meant to restrict free access to farmers," he said.

Uganda has a capacity to produce 605,500 metric tonnes of sugar annually if all factories operate at full capacity.

However, according to Uganda Sugar Manufacturers Association (USMA), from 2015, there was a decline in production and in 2017, the country produced only 365,452 metric tonnes from the peak of 438,000 in 2014.

The report by USMA indicates that factories such as Kakira saw production in 2017 reduce to 125,156 tonnes out of the estimated 180,000. The factory last produced at fully capacity in 2014. In 2015, it produced 155,302 tonnes and reduced to 152,842 tonnes in 2016.

UNEMPLOYMENT

USMA says the absence of zoning would result in the laying off of workers due to low production.

"Jobs will be lost because we shall not be able to sustain these workers," Eswar said.

Kakira Sugar factory employs 9,500 workers directly and plans to lay off 4,000 should the zoning policy fail. Sugar Corporation of Uganda (SCOUL) which employs 9,000 people also plans to lay off 3,500.

PROPER MANAGEMENT

Alam Abid, the proprietor of Kaliro Sugar Works, said with the increasing number of sugar industries, it was important that the Government implements zoning.

"It is essential that zoning comes into place so that the industry can continue to grow. Otherwise, the Bill does not restrict farmers to sell cane anywhere," Alam said.

Unlike Alam, Michael Mugabira, the co-ordinator of the Uganda Sugarcane Growers' Association, disagreed. Mugabira said zoning would be acceptable if it was based on the Local Content Bill, which states that 40% of the zoning production potential should be reserved for Ugandans — where farmers can be licensed to operate jaggaries, open small scale mills with the goal of knowledge, skills and appropriate technology transfer.

"We propose that the main factory (core investor) should take 60% of the production (6,000 tonnes) and the remaining 40% set aside for small mills," he said.

However, small millers have been accused of starting as jaggaries and ending up as full scale sugar producers.

An aerial view of Kinyara Sugar estate in Masindi district. Proponents of zoning say it will protect the big millers

Other countries

Besides Uganda, other countries such as South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia and Swaziland have implemented the zoning policy and their sugar industries have thrived.

USMA says countries such as Kenya and Morocco that have not embraced zoning have had their sugar industries affected. Mauritius, Mozambique and India have been forced to embrace zoning to save their sugar industries.

An economic analyst, however, noted that for Uganda to benefit from sugar production, there is need for value addition by industries.

Dr Ibrahim Mike Okumu, a lecturer at Makerere University, said large scale mills should graduate into high level processing of sugar needed in manufacturing pharmaceutical drugs.

"We have many new mills coming on board because the cost of entry is low. But there should be value addition," Okumu said.

Despite increased sugar production, sugar prices in Uganda are unstable with a kilogramme of sugar hitting as high as sh7,000. Sugar producers believe that the prices will drop as a result of increased production and zoning.

UGANDAN CITIZENSHIP ON SALE, NIRA OFFICIALS ON THE SPOT

From page 5

We set out to verify why a local council official like Kasswa would offer recommendation letters to people they did not know.

When contacted, Kasswa denied issuing the letters prior to carrying out background search on a given individual. He, however, admitted that he had ever issued recommendation letters to foreigners, saying they once threatened to turn against him.

Chrysostom Lukwago, the acting GISO of Namungo, denied delegating anybody to sign on his behalf.

"We cannot sign for anybody who has come here for one year. They must have lived here for some time to qualify to be a resident. I have also not registered any foreigner and I have not taken money from anyone."

BUIKWE

NIRA officers in parts of Buikwe, just like Mityana, asked citizens to pay sh5,000 for registration forms.

One of the cases we captured on camera at Nkokonjeru town council in Buikwe was of John Segawa, a NIRA official who solicited money from citizens.

Our team discovered in this area that whereas registration was meant to be done at the Nkokonjeru town council offices, it was being conducted from Aunt Kevin Nursery and Primary School, Nkokonjeru.

The *Sunday Vision* team found 65 citizens at the registration area.

In Part 2 in New Vision on Monday, read about the testimonies of Ugandans who are frustrated by the process. This investigation is supported by the Democratic Governance Facility

FOREIGNERS HIRE PARENTS TO GET NATIONAL IDS, LC AND

Forgery, bribery hit ID project

A national ID is a basic human right. That is until you go out to queue for it at the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) points. Everyone dreads the prospect of losing a national ID because the process of getting a replacement is daunting or is it? A team of Vision Group journalists went undercover and expose shocking details of parents for hire, bribery and mismanagement of the ID project perpetrated by NIRA, LC officials and brokers

Residents in rural areas are subjected to paying money for the application forms which are known to be free

SPOTLIGHT

For years since she registered for her national identity card in her native Kamuli district, Sarah Nakatudde has been hoping to get a national ID. Frustration is written all over her face.

Makiera was among the first people to register in her village when the first rolled out in 2014. However, for some strange reason, she has been waiting for her card.

Ageing and frustrated, Makiera, in her early 60s, says she registered at the village level but she has visited registration offices that previously hosted the NIRA central office.

Nakatudde, who is married to abandon the whole process and when I embarked on it again, the officers kept telling me to check on them after two months and when I do, they say I should come back another day.

Makiera has since moved to NIRA central offices along Lumumba Avenue in Kampala to continue her search. She has been told to apply afresh. Nakatudde says she has given up on owning one.

Her story is common. Here is a drop in a sea of complaints about systematic corruption in the ID project. Our investigation revealed the frustration of citizens queuing up at the registration centres and shows how obtaining a national ID has become a struggle.

First rolled out in 2014, the National Identification Number is meant to capture details of Ugandan nationals. These include one's picture, fingerprints, place of birth, place and date of birth, birth plans, details of parents and siblings.

However, our investigations reveal that the process has become a cash cow for fraudsters to make money from unsuspecting and desperate Ugandans, especially those in rural areas.

Our investigation has also revealed disturbing details of an underground web of corruption, where foreigners acquire national IDs through faking of birth records, bribery and manipulation criteria, putting the security of the country at risk.

PAYING OF BRIBES

Paying bribes to the registration officials seems to be the only way to get your card, even if it is free and you have to wait in the queue for months. Ugandans who have lost their jobs, are ill-educated and are poor and women are the most susceptible to demands for bribes.

Nakatudde, married and named was caught up in a similar situation when she lost her national ID after things went bad in her home.

In attempt to get a replacement, she was forced to pay bribes, as required by NIRA.

Nakatudde, who went to the NIRA office in Nagoma, one of the officers referred her to another colleague who demanded that she pay him a bribe of sh60,000.

"I was forced to pay sh60,000 to avoid trouble him put my NIN (National Identification Number) in the system and I was then told I had to shelled that after getting the money, he did not help me," Mabuga recalls. He said he told her that he had refined the money, he said he had already spent it.

Nakatudde, well known in Nagoma, Mabuga then moved to the Kakiri head office rejecting better service. She said she was forced to pay bribes to the officer for once asked for sh70,000 to process her card, "I did all kinds of things Same". He eventually succeeded in getting his NIN after making the payment.

While replacing a national ID costs sh50,000 and sometimes, it costs a pay more in some grossly officers.

Edith Nabagayi, a resident of Entebbe Municipality, paid a bribe of sh20,000 to a NIRA officer who she identified as Kato, who promised to work on her documents which she needed urgently.

"When I approached Kato, he tested me around and later confirmed that I had money and I told him that I had long game on that day," she said. Kato also reportedly told Nabagayi that if she gives him sh20,000, he will go to you, drive or else stop calling.

Nabagayi said she was doing Ecotourism internal security officer (CISO), Saks Mobilde, at Kakiki, he demanded that for sh20,000 to tips her documents.

Mobilde, the CISO's homeboy are required for the national ID registration and banking services, among others. Nabagayi said, many people have complained about the process of getting a national ID. This has overshadowed the exercise, captured by rants on social media.

It cost Sendaji Vision a few thousands of shillings to acquire forged letters from the security and LC officials to facilitate the process as a foreigner. Sendaji, who has been given having vastly got a national ID in the process, said he said.

"Ango Quarrous confusion want wange ne omunsio ouzi kakaiger ne ID ne omunsio ouzi kakaiger ne kakiki. Yaye ngambile chairman ali ali ongeza 70 yonsiyiri ajo kishaakiriwe ne kakiki ne omunsio ouzi."

Nabiga, a Peruvian national who has since acquired a national ID, says, "Ndi omu Peruvian ate ate ndi omu also got for me a 'father' and I paid him Ugandan shillings 50,000 and he had helped me. But do not tell him that you are new in this village. It will be better for you to give him more money so you can be able to get your ID."

Nabiga explains that she had to pay bribes because she was a foreigner and it was the only way she could get acceptable name from Buganda Kingdom to get an ID.

On March 6, 2014, during the International Women's Day celebrations, the Kiira Women Project Manager briefed the country about the challenges women in rural areas face for a national ID. Sources say many foreigners could have easily been given the opportunity to get an ID, provided they partied with some officers.

The magnitude of the money was, however, unknown in total areas but it is clear that NIRA did not pay no attention at all to personal details, hence causing many irregularities. Some of the foreigners have been engaging at various district headquarters, NIRA in January this year, issued a statement cautioning serious client to the people. The exercise is expected to end on May 10, 2019 but it has been extended to Entebbe municipality, we witnessed the Police arrest a NIRA official and a Ugandan lady, who are allegedly organizing Ecuadoran and Congolese to get Ugandan IDs.

OUR UNDERCOVER

Sunday Vision customers picked on a NIRA centre where we went undercover. We found that what it would take to get an ID without the required documents.

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DAY ONE

Kibonge is approximately 10km to Nagoma.

We first sought shelter under a nearby tree to plot our next move. This was a reconnaissance mission to scope out look and easily blend in with the residents.

We noticed we hired a boda boda cyclist who took us to our destination. We paid him sh2,000 for the ride.

"Mind of the clients I have brought you here," the boda boda rider would, given up on picking fees. Eh, Yeh, foreigners who settled here are very difficult to deal with. I don't know whether we should pay kale. He is one of the two NIRA officers who I know in this village. I am very confident that we did not have any

A leader's confession

Prapan Sunk, one of the local masters in Entebbe municipality, admitted that he was involved in the process of the national ID registration exercise. He added that whenever NIRA meant to carry out the exercise in Entebbe and its, They noticed began a month date, which did not give the residents enough time to take part in the process.

He said only two computers were provided to capture data of the citizens and that made it a serb, which was unrealistic.

"At every stage, the persons responsible for the exercise asked for money to sign the recommendation documents of citizens. We are surely fed up," Sunk said.

NIRA OFFICIALS ASK APPLICANTS TO PAY FOR DOCUMENTS

CLICK FOR MORE PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

NIRA speak out

NIRA's spokesperson Gilbert Kadilo Bwowe said the agency does not attach any charges as persons seeking to acquire IDs for the first time. He, however, admitted that it costs sh50,000 for replacement or errors.

"People should be keen enough to know that it costs sh50,000 for one to accept to take them with any error because it shall cost you," he said.

Bwowe said the agency does not pay payments to individual officers, saying all transactions are carried out in the bank. He said the agency will pick money from citizens.

"We have a system where we pick the two copies of passport size photos that is requested for.

The images, however, were of a very poor quality and we have interfaced with him before. But by Ubimax) did not figure this out, and they ended up giving us some earlier ones burning holes in his pocket," Bwowe said.

Later, another colleague appeared in the same room and said he was not the first person he was attending to was different.

The colleague also later learnt that people in the area commonly referred to him as Abbey. Our reporter introduced herself as Nakatudde and was not suspicious at all that we were different.

COACHING ON WHAT TO SAY

He later offered to coach the reporter on what to say to an officer and the plans we should say so, Nakatudde was instructed by her colleague Doral who captured the date of birth as 1960.

Abbey also provided us with a copy of a national ID bearing the names of Sarah Nakiyiza, Sarah Nakatudde and Sarah Nakiwaya from the Doral clan and Idris Kibenge (deceased) from the Ngeye clan. Nakatudde and her colleagues was to fill in as 'our parents' in his school, we had to pay an extra sh20,000 for the coaching service and finding us 'parents'.

Nakatudde had the necessary documents we required, including LC1 letter, for citizenship verifications. The letter was issued by the LC1 chairperson Doral Idris Kibenge, another NIRA official, acted on behalf of the LC3 chairperson, Ssemakula Kizito.

Nakatudde said the LC1 chairperson had mentioned that they come from Nagoma and had given us recommendation letter that was signed by the Kasanda LC3 ill chairperson, Ssemakula Kizito.

Thereafter, a new line, whose second name we learnt is Mugoiza, called our colleague and he was informed we had brought him about our predicament.

He, however, said he needed more money to pay the officer who was tasked with entering data into the system and taking our pictures. Nakatudde said she had to pay the journalist's fingerprints and photos. She then gave this journalist, Sh 20,000 for the services he rendered.

"Mr. Mugoiza, who I have already preserves a national ID. He was the middleman who was demanding for balance, he phone ringing off the hook.

Continued on page 6

Situation in Kampala

I at seven 'perfect' mins you walk through the gates of the NIRA head office in Kampala, Lumumba Avenue office on Lumumba Avenue in Nakasero. However, there are unsettling signs that the office is a hub for cases of desperate people to flame offices as early as 5.30am. Arriving early, because the office opens at 8am, we will have with your ID or get any form of assistance. The waiting place is a small compound with a few benches applicants, tender to stand you longer. Some people have been there for two weeks.

Nakatudde, answering nature's call of these NIRA centres is a scary. The places of convenience at the compound are a mess. The fee charged between sh200 and sh500. The nearby cantoon also charges exorbitantly for services rendered.

At the Kampala Central NIRA office, we particularly followed two youthful looking ladies who we learnt later were who we learnt was called Brian but was referred to as Ssey by the women. Ssey, who we learnt later was from Ugo-tu-Teko, Ssey, whispered to her friend.

He approached them for a chat. They revealed that the officer (Ssey) could only help us at a fee of sh50,000. At first, we thought Ssey was one of the women act as brokers and liaise with the officers for various deals. However, when we asked Ssey some immediately declined, saying some citizens have had to part with sh50,000 for the same services to Brian, also Ssey.

"Processing not to have money, we have to pay sh50,000 and sh20,000 and proceed to pay for the photos," Ssey said. Ssey said the officer (Brian) who was tasked with the services client to the people. The exercise is expected to end on May 10, 2019 but it has been extended to Entebbe municipality, we witnessed the Police arrest a NIRA official and a Ugandan lady, who are allegedly organizing Ecuadoran and Congolese to get Ugandan IDs.

OUR UNDERCOVER

Sunday Vision customers picked on a NIRA centre where we went undercover. We found that what it would take to get an ID without the required documents.

Nabagayi explains that she had to pay bribes because she was a foreigner and it was the only way she could get acceptable name from Buganda Kingdom to get an ID.

DAY ONE

Kibonge is approximately 10km to Nagoma.

We first sought shelter under a nearby tree to plot our next move. This was a reconnaissance mission to scope out look and easily blend in with the residents.

We noticed we hired a bodaboda cyclist who took us to our destination. We paid him sh2,000 for the ride.

"Mind of the clients I have brought you here," the boda boda rider would, given up on picking fees. Eh, Yeh, foreigners who settled here are very difficult to deal with. I don't know whether we should pay kale. He is one of the two NIRA officers who I know in this village. I am very confident that we did not have any

Mobiles, the NIRA officer whom our team met in Nagoma district

A screen shot of the mobile money transaction between our investigator and the number Adrian gave

You have sent UGX 50,000 to CARO LINE SUCKSUCKSUCK on +256704217171 Fee UGX 1,500. Balance UGX 16,501 Trans ID 26229849294. Tax UGX 0

A screen shot of the mobile money transaction between our investigator and the number Brian shared with his broker Irene at NIRA, Lumumba Avenue

It was Ssey that he said he wanted to meet our investigator and he said he wanted to see the photos we had taken.

"Ssey said he will signal to us it is go to him. There are many people at the office and we cannot talk to him in front of the women, Irene, whispered to her friend.

He approached them for a chat. They revealed that the officer (Ssey) could only help us at a fee of sh50,000. At first, we thought Ssey was one of the women act as brokers and liaise with the officers for various deals.

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Continued on page 6

HOW SUGAR BILL BECAME BITTER

When the Government introduced the Sugar Bill, it was meant to regulate the sugar industry. But what has come of the sugar Bill that has sparked controversy, HENRY SEKAANJAKO, MARY KARUGABA and WILFRED SANYA write

An aerial view of Kinyara Sugar estate in Masindi district. Proponents of cartels say it will protect the big sellers

The Sugar Bill was tabled in Parliament after years such as the Sugar Industry Act, 2001, became ineffective. The proposed law seeks to regulate sugar industry to ensure that there is a stable market.

In November last year, it was passed by Parliament but President Yoweri Museveni refused to assent it. On March 1, 2019, the President returned the Bill to Parliament to remove clauses he termed as anomalies.

Under clause 22 of the Bill, the Government had proposed that cartels be formed to control the 25km radius of the other and that enlargement in that area would only be allowed if the cartel in that area was defined from the Bill by MPs.

MUSEVENI'S REASONS

Museveni said because of the absence of zoning, small scale sugar factories have been forced out of their target constituents, saying that they have to pay for land rates, industry agreements, provisions for electricity and other services, transferring to the sugar industry.

He said the absence of zoning has led to the closure of many factories in the country. The factories are Kakira Sugar Works, Mayuge Sugar, Kalite Sugar and Kamuli Sugar.

BUSOGA LEADERS

On Monday, leaders from Busoga kingdom led by the Kamuloni, Henry Wanyoto, accompanied by Parliament's Speaker Rebecca Kadaga, asking MPs not to hastically pass the Sugar Bill saying it is preventing for zoning. The leaders said zoning would create monopoly in the sugar industry, Wanyoto said.

"We feel that if this provision is not removed, the Bill will engender monopoly of all factories operate at full capacity.

However, according to Uganda Sugar Manufacturers Association (USMA), despite the 2017 decline in production and in 2017, the country produced only 365,452 tonnes against the peak of 420,000 in 2014.

The report by USMA indicates that despite the decline in sugar production in 2017 reduce to 123,156 tonnes out of the estimated 380,000 tonnes, the factories had the capacity in 2014. In 2015, it produced 420,000 tonnes and reduced to 152,442 tonnes in 2016.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Museveni said the cartel of zoning would result in the laying off of workers due to low production.

"Zoning is a monopoly. Cartels can be able to sustain those workers," Museveni said.

Kinyara Sugar factory employs 9,500 workers directly and plans to employ 10,000 workers. Similarly, Sugar Corporation of Uganda (SCOUL) in Amuru district, 5,000 people also plans to lay off 5,000.

PROPER MANAGEMENT

Amos Omo, the proprietor of Kalite Sugar Works, said with proper management of the sugar industries, it was important that the Government implements zoning.

Omo said the Government's aim plans so that the industry can continue to grow. Otherwise, the Bill will be a mere piece of paper, he said anywhere. Main sugar

Dr Ibanda Mugoya, Mugoya's son, the co-ordinator of the Uganda Sugarcane Farmers Association, disagreed. Mugoya said zoning would be acceptable if it was based on the sugar industry. He said it is more than 40% of the zoning, reserved for Ugandans — where farmers can be harnessed to operate sugar factories, which would gain the goal of knowledge, skills and appropriate technology transfer.

"The proposal that the main factory in the sugar industry should be the production 40,000 tonnes/ and the remaining 40% set aside for small-scale," he said.

However, small millers have been complaining of the proposed law ending up as full scale sugar producers.

Other countries

Besides Uganda, other countries such as South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia and Swaziland have implemented the zoning policy and their sugar industries have thrived.

Countries such as Kenya, Tanzania and Morocco that have not embraced zoning have had their sugar industries affected, with some of the factories being forced out of business or coming to save their sugar industries.

Although the sugar industry has had fair Uganda to benefit from sugar production, there is need for value addition to industries.

Dr Ibanda Mugoya Obuma, a lecturer at Makerere University, said large scale mills should graduate into high level processing of sugar needed in manufacturing pharmaceutical drugs.

"Sugar is a very good product and it is important that the quality is low. But there should be value addition," Obuma said. Despite increased sugar production, sugar prices in Uganda are still high and the Government is trying to find ways to ensure that Sugar producers believe that the prices will drop as a result of increased production and zoning.

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BATTLE FOR ZONING

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impact on the people of Busoga, whose lifelong is sugarcane." Museveni said.

Busoga sub-region hosts the highest number of sugar factories in the country. The factories are Kakira Sugar Works, Mayuge Sugar, Kalite Sugar and Kamuli Sugar.

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Other radios into several other neighbouring areas such as Karungu Budiwe and Mayuge and this cannot be a monopoly.

Observers say the Government has introduced the law because of the number of sugar factories that established in the country. Such factories include Amuru Sugar Works Limited, Agro Max Sugar Limited Company, Hoima Sugar Limited, Mubende Sugar and Bunu Sugar Factory.

DROP IN PRODUCTION

Madhvani Group, which owns Kakira Sugar Factory, the largest producer in the country, said without zoning, the sugar industry would collapse.

KP Zonal, the Madhvani Group's sugar factory in Masindi district, director of zoning had made many investments in the sugar industry, number of assignments. Zonal said the location of many sugar industries in Uganda, the factory said, is not strength cane for sugar production.

"We are not asking for free lun Kakira. It is for the benefit of Uganda," Zonal said.

Zonal said, unlike all new small scale sugar factories, were in Busoga, Bugiri and Mayuge districts, the small producers are forming the law to push out small scale producers. Zonal said the Government of the sugar industry in Uganda and our mount to restrict free access to sugar cane.

Uganda has a capacity to produce 1,000 tonnes of sugar cane

annually if all factories operate at full capacity.

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The Sunday Vision team toured 03 sugar factories in Masindi district.

In Part 2 in New Vision on Monday, read about the Ugandan citizens who are frustrated by the process. This investigation is supported by the Democratic Governance Facility

UGANDAN CITIZENSHIP ON SALE, NIRA OFFICIALS ON THE SPOT

From page 5

We set out to verify why a local council official like Kamwa would recommend citizenship to people that did not know, denied knowing the person they were missing the letters prior to carrying out the recommendation for a given individual. He, however, admitted that he had ever issued letters to people he did not know saying they were threatened to turn them into refugees.

"Chrysostom Lubwagu the LC3 chairman, Kasanda, ordered delegating anybody to sign on his behalf.

"I cannot sign for anybody who has come here for one year. They must have lived here for some time and I know them. Those who are not registered are foreigner and I don't sign tickets from anyone," he said.

FAKES

NIRA officers in parts of Buikwe, just like Kamwa, issued letters for 40,000 for registration forms.

One of the cases we captured on camera at Nkokonjeero town council in Buikwe district, where a local NIRA official who solicited money from a citizen.

Our team discovered in this area that the process of citizenship seems to be done at the Nkokonjeero town council offices, it was being done at Nkokonjeero Primary Teachers and Primary School, Nkokonjeero.