

General Line 0417346100
Minister 0417346101
Minister of State 0417346102
Email: info@mia.go.ug
For any correspondence on this
subject please refer to ADM 53/69/01



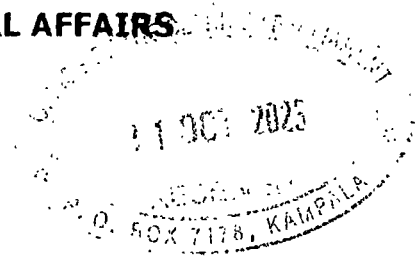
MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
JINJA ROAD.
PLOT 65-67 OLD PORTBELL RD
P. O. BOX 7191 KAMPALA – UGANDA.

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

19th July 2023

Rt Hon Speaker
Honourable members



STATUS OF CHANGE OF PASSPORTS AND INTRODUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL EAST AFRICAN PASSPORTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 During the 17th Ordinary Summit of the East African Community Heads of State held in March 2016, Their Excellences launched the new EAC e-Passport and directed that commencement of the issuance of the New International EAC e-Passport should take effect by 1st January 2017 and thereafter implement a phase out program for the then current East African and National Machine Readable Passports.
- 1.2 Government introduced and launched the International East African e-Passport to replace and eventually phase out the East Africa and National Machine-readable Passports on 7th December 2018.
- 1.3 Colleagues, this Paper is to update you on the progress the Ministry of Internal Affairs has made in the implementation of the e-Passport Project, with our partners Uganda

VISION: A peaceful, Safe & Stable Uganda
MISSION: Ensure & Maintain Internal Security, Peace & Stability

Security Printing Company (USPC) Ltd, a company where Government of Uganda holds 51% majority shareholding.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 In January 2012, the Immigration experts of the EAC Partner States came up with technical specifications and Passport designs after taking into account the standard requirements recommended by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). The designs were considered by the Council and in the 15th Ordinary Summit of EAC Heads of State held on 30th November 2013 in Kampala, Uganda, considered, adopted and directed that a new generation of East African e-Passports be launched by November 2015.

2.2 Colleagues, key among the specified standard requirements of the e-Passport as agreed to by the Partner States is the requirement for a Polycarbonate bio-data page. All implementing partner states introduced fully compliant passports save for the Republic of Uganda that introduced its e-Passport with a paper based bio data page, now in use and facilitating travel.

2.3 You will recall that the Ministry of Internal Affairs in November 2018 informed Parliament about the introduction of the East African e-Passport for Uganda. The country's objective to revive and revamp UPPC through a Joint Venture Agreement with the Consortium of Veridos and Giesecke & Devrient GmbH represented by Veridos GmbH led to the birth of the USPC Ltd, whose obligations with the Ministry of Internal Affairs- (Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control) included the provision

VISION: A peaceful, Safe & Stable Uganda
MISSION: Ensure & Maintain Internal Security, Peace & Stability

of a Turn-key solution for e-Passport Project with the following deliverables:

- i. an e-Passport System/Infrastructure;
- ii. supply of blank e-Passport booklets;
- iii. a fully furnished Personalization Centre, to be constructed at the Ministry of Internal Affairs Headquarters; and
- iv. A fit for purpose rehabilitation and equipping of three (3) Regional Centres (Mbarara, Mbale and Gulu) and Seven (7) Missions abroad (Washington, London, Pretoria, Beijing, Copenhagen, Abu Dhabi and Ottawa).

2.4 Colleagues, the JVA and DCIC supply contract for the e-Passport System with USPC Ltd anticipated that the first batch of 600,000 (six hundred thousand) blank paper based bio data page passports would be initially imported by USPC and after two (2) years, the polycarbonate e-Passports would be printed at the Security Printing Factory in Entebbe.

2.5 However, the two years elapsed in 2020. The Government of Uganda has been under pressure from the EAC Secretariat over the quality and failure of our paper biodata page e-Passport to meet the agreed and recommended passport standard requirements.

2.6 Colleagues, the Ministry of Internal Affairs through a multi-sectoral led committee led by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister,

VISION: A peaceful, Safe & Stable Uganda
MISSION: Ensure & Maintain Internal Security, Peace & Stability

a decision was taken to import the Polycarbonate passports as opposed to the initial plan of manufacturing them in Entebbe given that the Security Printing Factory is not yet in place.

- 2.7 It is in view of these considerations that have led us to upgrade to the new EAC Passport from a paper based bio data page to a polycarbonate bio data page.

3.0 UPGRADING OF THE PAPER BASED BIO-DATA PAGE e-PASSPORT TO POLYCARBONATE BIO-DATA PAGE e-PASSPORT.

- 3.1 On the 30th of March 2023, the Ministry started the issuance of polycarbonate passports to holders of ordinary passports to date a total of 104,000 polycarbonate passports have been issued out.
- 3.2 Colleagues, the Diplomatic and Service passports will be upgraded using the same infrastructure after the current stocks have been exhausted.
- 3.3 **ICAO Notice;** It is a requirement that whenever a country makes a material change to its travel document, all ICAO Member states are required to inform all participating countries of such change to avoid inconveniences to its people and for overall safety of the travelling population. This was done.
- 3.4 The Ministry of Internal Affairs has ensured a seamless transition from paper-based e-passports to polycarbonate e-passports to prevent inconvenience to the passport holders. The two passports are used alongside each other

VISION: A peaceful, Safe & Stable Uganda

MISSION Ensure & Maintain Internal Security Peace & Stability

until the paper-based passports have been phased out by either expiry date or leaflets are full to warrant a renewal by the holder. There is no requirement to replace the paper based bio data page passports with the polycarbonate ones.

- 3.5 The cost of the passport remains Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Shillings (Shs.250, 000/=) the same as the paper based e-Passport that is being upgraded.

4.0 ADVANTAGES OF THE POLYCARBONATE E-PASSPORT



(See Images of the Polycarbonate features)

5.0 STATUS UPDATE OF THE E-PASSPORT PROJECT

- 6.1 Colleagues, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has so far achieved the following in implementing the e-Passport Project as part of the Joint Venture Agreement.

VISION: A peaceful, Safe & Stable Uganda
MISSION: Ensure & Maintain Internal Security, Peace & Stability

6.2 Status update Matrix

No	Deliverable	Description	Impact	Status
1.	e-Passport System and Related Infrastructure			
	a) Online application	Applicants fill and submit applications online, make payments and book appointments	Digitized filing system has led to efficient service delivery with turnaround time of 3 days.	Done
	b) Biometric enrolment of face image and finger prints	All applicants in the country must appear for interview and biometric capture.	Reduced incidences of non-nationals accessing Uganda passport.	Done
	c) Integration with NIRA, URA and no need for LC endorsements.	Real time remittance of accruing NTR to URA and same particulars with NIRA in passport database	Integrated Government and improved NTR Collections from passports which more than doubled from 53.3bn to shs. 118.7bn (122.7% increase)	Done

VISION: A peaceful, Safe & Stable Uganda

MISSION: Ensure & Maintain Internal Security, Peace & Stability

d) e-Passports issued	Passport delivery has been seen increased pressure due to labor externalisation and the need to replace the old passports	Ordinary: 1,045,201 Diplomatic: 2,438 Service: 1,680	Supply continuous up to 15 years.
e) AFIS (Automatic Fingerprint Identification System)	A biometric storage database for the storage of the fingerprints captured during enrolment	Improved passport database and passport integrity	Done
f) Disaster Recovery System	Part of the business continuity plan in case of any catastrophic events		Not done

2. Blank passports so far supplied by USPC Ltd

USPC Ltd contracted to supply passports	Ordinary: 1,077,200 Dip: 15,000 Service: 20,000	Done
---	---	------

VISION: A peaceful, Safe & Stable Uganda

MISSION: Ensure & Maintain Internal Security, Peace & Stability

Conventional
Travel
Documents(for
recognised
refugees):
30,000

3. **Personalization center**

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|----------|
| a) Interim personalization center | An interim centre was to be constructed to ensure seamless continuity of service delivery. | Fully equipped and functional with automated service delivery queuing system, furniture and A.C. | Done |
| b) Storied DCIC Personalization center | A three (3) storeyed personalisation building is to be constructed at the Ministry Headquarters | To ease office space accommodation and improve service delivery | Not done |

3. **Regional Enrolment centres and Missions Abroad**

- | | | | |
|------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| a) Regions | Fully furnished and equipped enrolment centres | 1. Mbale
2. Mbarara
3. Gulu
4. Arua
5. Jinja | Done

Not done |
|------------|--|--|--------------------------|

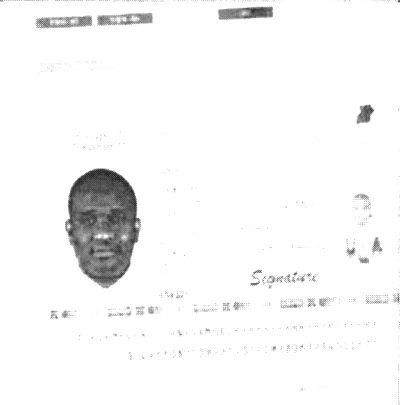
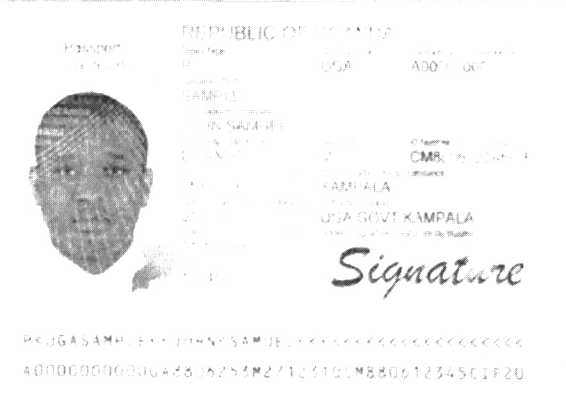
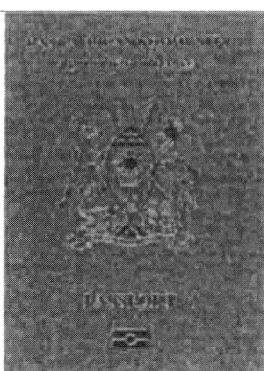
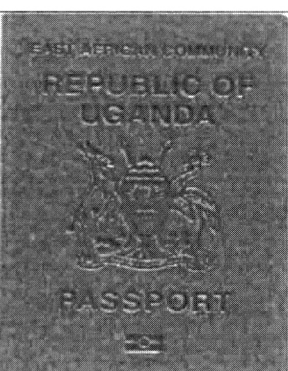
VISION: A peaceful, Safe & Stable Uganda

MISSION Ensure & Maintain Internal Security Peace & Stability

	b) Missions Abroad	Fully furnished and equipped enrolment centres	1. Washington D.C 2. London 3. Pretoria 4. Copenhagen 5. Ottawa 6. Abu Dhabi 7. Beijing	Done
--	--------------------	--	---	------

Images of polycarbonate and paper based passports

Comparison between old passport (Paper-based passports) and new passport (Polycarbonate passports)

S n.	Feature	Polycarbonate passports	Paper based passports
1.	Bio data page		
2.	Cover		

135

VISION: A peaceful, Safe & Stable Uganda
MISSION: Ensure & Maintain Internal Security, Peace & Stability

Font size in the cover reduces with the phrase "Republic of Uganda"

- Gold foil embossing; gold foil heat embossed as specified in accordance with ICAO recommendations.
- ICAO chip symbol
- Embedded chip and antenna
- Antenna
- UV index

3. Security features

- Laser Tactile feature
- MCD
- Holothread
- Magic ID
- MLI
- Transparent Window
- OVI
- Optically variable ink feature
- Microline showing "Republic of Uganda"
- Offset microtext positive showing map of Republic of Uganda
- The coat of the arms of the Republic of Uganda
- Rainbow printing under UV light
- Kinetic rotation effect
- Optically variable ink feature
- Expansion effect of the outline
- Kinetic effect on line structure "UGA"
- Achromatic contrast switch

I beg to submit Rt. Hon. Speaker and Honorable members.


Kahinda Otafiire
MAJ GEN (RTD)
MINISTER

VISION: A peaceful, Safe & Stable Uganda
MISSION: Ensure & Maintain Internal Security, Peace & Stability