

The Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA), granting the FIA ease of access to data on citizens' national IDs as one of the ways to fighting money laundering and terrorism financing.

Speaking on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at the NIRA Head Office, Ms. Agatha Mutenyo, the Director of Finance and Administration at NIRA said that after several discussions between the two agencies, they have decided to formalize the collaboration to enable each of the institutions execute its mandate.

“The provision for access and use of the information on the register is keeping in line with the intention of government to set up a centralized register of citizens and legally resident aliens that would constitute the primary source of information on a person's identities,” Mutenyo said.

NIRA handed over four electronic card readers to aid the Financial Intelligence Authority with the process of Data Validation and Verification. It is agreed by both parties that real-time verification of national identification data received by FIA using card readers will enable the identification of all persons appearing before them. This is pertinent to the FIA's ability to verify the MLCO's registered and information received in reports that are filed to the Authority.

The Financial Intelligence Authority is the administrator of the Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2013 (AMLA), which is central to Uganda's legislative framework on anti-money laundering and counter the financing of terrorism.

The AMLA established the FIA as the country's national center for gathering and analysing financial data. The FIA is mandated to identify funds generated from criminal acts, to combat money laundering and terrorism financing.

The AMLA imposes certain obligations on financial institutions and other accountable persons, as they are vulnerable to money laundering and terrorism financing and compels them to report to the FIA.

Using the information provided by these sectors, the FIA develops financial intelligence reports and disseminates them to domestic competent authorities such as the Uganda Police Force and the Uganda Revenue Authority, as well as international partners and peers for further investigation and prosecution of ML/TF. This information gathering and report development is therefore largely reliant on the compliance of institutions and the submission of reports from reporting persons/entities.

The event is a culmination of engagements with The National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) to solidify linkages among state agents that will have a profound impact on the country's development by informing planning for service delivery.