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DECISION No. 2007-14/PR OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2007 STATING SPECIAL PROVISIONS IN MATTERS OF FIELD HEARINGS<sup>1</sup>

The President of the Republic

In view of the Constitution, specifically Article 48;

In view of Decision No. 2006-13/PR of October 5, 2006;

In view of Law No. 61-155 of May 18, 1961 stating the judicial system modified by Laws Nos. 64-227 of June 14, 1964 and 78-663 of August 3, 1978;

In view of Law No. 64-374 of October 7, 1964, regarding civil status as amended by Laws No. 83-799 of August 2, 1983 and No. 99-691 of December 14, 1999;

In view of Law No. 78-662 of August 4, 1978 stating the status of the magistrature, modified by Laws No. 94-437 of August 16, 1994 and No. 94-498 of September 6, 1994;

In view of the political Agreement of:

Ouagadougou; In view of the opinions of the President of the National Assembly and of the President of the Constitutional Council;

In view of the speech to the nation by the President of the Republic on April 26, 2005;

Decides:

Article 1: Field hearings in order to identify persons shall begin throughout the country on September 25, 2007. To hold the said hearings, the procedures stipulated by Articles 33 of the Law stating judicial system and 9 of Law No. 78-662 of August 4, 1978 stating the status of the magistrature, modified by Laws No. 94-437 of August 16, 1994 and No. 94-498 of September 6, 1994.

Article 2: The dates and number of field hearing, within the province of each jurisdiction, are determined by decree of the president of the jurisdiction following the opinion of the Department of the Public Prosecutor.

Article 3: At these field hearings, the existing courts as well as the newly created ones rule exclusively on requests for supplementary judgments of birth certificates of persons of at least thirteen (13) years of age who were born on national territory, regardless of their nationality.

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<sup>1</sup> *Itinerant courts where judges hear petitions for identification documents from people lacking birth certificates.*

Article 4: The field hearings provided for in this decision shall take place pursuant to procedure annexed hereto.

Article 5: The supplementary judgment issued at a field hearing is immediately provisionally enforceable in the minutes before recording. It shall replace a birth certificate.

Article 6: The field hearing procedures are at no charge.

Article 7: This decision, which becomes null and void at the end of the period stipulated for these field hearings, shall be published according to the emergency procedures in the Official Gazette and implemented as a law of the State.

Issued in Abidjan

September 21, 2007

**Laurent GBAGBO**