FOLLOW UP OF A.G'S ADVICE
14th March, 2018

The Chief Administrative officer
Masindi District

Dear Sir/Madam,

PUBLIC DIALOGUE WITH MARAGORI COMMUNITY AS AN ETHNIC MINORITY GROUP

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) was established by Act of Parliament 2007, in pursuit of Article 32(3) and other relevant provisions as per the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. The EOC was purposed to effect the State’s Constitutional mandate to eliminate discrimination and inequalities against any individual or group of persons, and take Affirmative Action in favour of groups marginalised on basis of sex, colour, race, ethnic origin, tribe, birth, creed or religion, health status and social or economic standing, political opinion or disability or any other reason created by history or custom, for the purpose of reasserting imbalances which exist against them.

As spelt out in Section 14 of the Equal Opportunities Commission Act, 2007, one of the functions of the Commission is to monitor, evaluate and ensure that policies, laws, plans, programs, activities, practices, traditions, cultures, usages and customs of all Government entities, civil society and the private sector are compliant with equal opportunities and affirmative action.

In order to execute the above, the Commission, among other activities, interacts with marginalized groups to raise awareness, deliberate on issues of equal opportunity and affirmative action; and register complaints on issues of marginalization and discrimination in nature, which consequently manifest as exclusion of marginalized communities from participation and benefit from the development plans and programs.

It’s therefore upon this background that I write to inform you of a planned public dialogue with the Maragori community in Masindi, scheduled to take place on Tuesday 20th March, 2018 at PCU Kabarwana Hall, beginning 9:00am. We anticipate to meet and interact with not more than 150 people, comprised as follows: 80 representatives from the Maragori community; 10 representatives of
local government; 10 representatives of the youth; 10 representatives of persons with disabilities; 10 representatives of older persons; 10 representatives from the women's movement; and 20 others from faith-based institutions, civil society and the private sector.

We request for support from your office in working together with the Maragoli chairperson to mobilize the target groups to attend, as enlisted above. Anticipating your cooperation in this endeavor, of redressing imbalances and promoting Equal Opportunities for all.

Yours sincerely,

Mujuni Mpitsi, S.C. Lawrence
SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION

CC: The Resident District Commissioner, Masindi District
The LCV Chairperson, Masindi District
The District Community Development Officer, Masindi District
Chairperson, Maragori Community In Masindi
### EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION
### COMPLAINT(S) REGISTRATION FORM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF COMPLAINANT</th>
<th>Kاغونزا Christopher &amp; 6 others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DATE OF BIRTH</td>
<td>20th June 1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENDER</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATUS (Tick where appropriate)</td>
<td>(a) PERSON WITH A DISABILITY (PWD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) YOUTH</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(c) OLDER PERSON</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(d) CHILD</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>(e) ETHNIC MINORITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(f) Others (Specify)............adult ....</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELIGION</td>
<td>Christian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VILLAGE/L.C 1</td>
<td>Kitwanga lc 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARISH</td>
<td>Ward c Town council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUB-COUNTY</td>
<td>Kigumba town council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNTY</td>
<td>Kibanda south</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISTRICT</td>
<td>Kiryadongo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSTAL ADDRESS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TELEPHONE CONTACT</td>
<td>0782895718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMAIL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEXT OF KIN &amp; ADDRESS</td>
<td>Secretary Mr. Ndooli 0782470574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOW DID YOU GET TO KNOW ABOUT THE COMMISSION</td>
<td>Minority rights group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The maragoli community in the kryandongo district registered for the national identity cards under (NIRA) just like other tribes living in the same area, the other tribes chope, baruli, bagishu, banyoro all got yet the maragoli community are denied the access to get their national identity cards. We first complaint to Attorney General through letter, then he responded through a letter saying that we should get our national identification cards which up to now have never been given to us, in the same we proceeded to the office of the minister of internal affairs who gave instructions to the executive director NIRA to give us the national identity cards which to date the entity has never given us the national identity cards, on several occasions we wrote letter to the office of the executive director of NIRA to date she has never responded to the letters given to her office in respect to our national identity cards. Now we have confirmed that the identification cards have been released to the DITO kiryadongo but he has refused to issue them to the owners who are of the maragoli community saying that he is waiting for instructions from NIRA head officer to permit him to give out the said identification cards. Yet if some people go with money the DITO gives out the identification cards of the said people with money. When we approached the office of the RDC he openly said that he will never issue the national identification cards to the maragoli people in kiryadongo, now the local council elections are
coming up and we risk losing out in the election of our leaders in our area yet this is our fundamental rights to have the national identification cards which is being abused by the said officers like the DITO, RDC, DISO among others, now we feel we are discriminated on the issues of national identification cards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RIGHT(S) VIOLATED</th>
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<tr>
<th>PERSON/ENTITY/ORGANISATION BEING COMPLAINED AGAINST AND ITS FULL ADDRESS, EMAIL AND TELEPHONE CONTACTS.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. NIRA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Ngompek linos (RDC) kiryadongo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Hassan (DITO) kiryadongo</td>
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</tbody>
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<th>DATE WHEN BREACH OCCURRED</th>
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<tr>
<th>IS THE COMPLAINT/MATTER PENDING BEFORE ANY COURT OR TRIBUNAL. GIVE DETAILS</th>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>HAVE YOU EXHAUSTED INTERNAL/DOMESTIC REMEDIES? GIVE DETAILS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes we tried the office of the Attorney general, Minister of internal Affairs</td>
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</table>

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<tr>
<th>HAVE YOU SOUGHT ANY LEGAL REPRESENTATION/DO YOU HAVE A LAWYER?</th>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REMEDIES SOUGHT/WHAT DO YOU WANT EOC TO DO FOR YOU</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Get our national identification cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF DOCUMENTS ATTACHED/LIST OF ALL DOCUMENTS IN YOUR POSESSION RELEVANT TO THIS COMPLAINT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSSIBLE WITNESSES (Please list any persons whom we may contact for additional information to support or clarify your complaint).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIVE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU DEEM RELEVANT TO THIS COMPLAINT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIGNATURE &amp; DATE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Please attach a copy of your identity card and 2 passport photographs

COMPLAINT RECEIVED BY:

NAME: TC

DATE: 16th /October /2017

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

REFERENCE NUMBER: .................................................................

ACTION TAKEN:

........................................................................................................
........................................................................................................
........................................................................................................
........................................................................................................
........................................................................................................
........................................................................................................
THE CHAIRPERSON
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION
P.O BOX
KAMPALA
UGANDA

Dear Sir

PETITION OF MARAGOLI COMMUNITY ON CONDITION OF STATELESSNESS

The Maragoli Community is currently facing serious problem in accessing government services taking children to school, hospital service, wealth creation programme, government scholarship programme, registration of phones, bank service to mention but few, making us stateless as a result of failure to access their national Identity Cards as they were with held by the RDC’s Office Kiryandongo.

We have made deliberately efforts to make the government aware of our history in Uganda and existence but up to date no results seen as yet.

Among the major steps taken include the following:-

- Invitation to appear before the legal and parliamentary affairs committee for a hearing which was successfully done on the 21st. May.2015.
- On realizing that constitution amendments were pushed to 10th parliament, we petitioned the attorney general through the speaker of parliament, ministry of internal affairs, ministry of gender and social development for the legal interpretation of our status in Uganda and the future of this community.
- The interpretation was given on the 9th.feb.2016 and copied to the speaker, ministry of internal affairs, ministry of gender and social development, executive director NIRA, DITO Kiryandongo.
• We have made several attempts to get the National identity cards in writing twice without any written feedback or advice in writing.
• We wrote back to attorney general complaining that the advice given was not honoured by the NIRA and we were starving and reinforcement letters and directives given to NIRA but in vain.
• We had discussions with NIRA, RDC, DISO, LCV, in RDC's office and max Hotel kigumba in which away forward was given but to our disappointment not even an ID has been released as per 1st July 2017 and respectively.
• Sir, is this not segregation, discrimination by NIRA and RDC's office Kiryandongo based on tribe? We keep on wondering as a community what is illegal in the steps we have taken and which government is giving us the ID's and which one NIRA and RDC Kiryandongo is working for to overturn AG's advice.
• We have to note that this Excellency the president has given some direction in regards to advise of AG's advice no.1.
• Kindly intervene and come to our rescue and stop the miseries that we are undergoing. This will go ahead to enable us live like other human beings as it was not our choice to be born Maragoli but found ourselves here and Maragolis.

Thank you.

Yours starving community,

KAGUNZA CHRISTOPHER
CHAIRPERSON

NDOOLI DAVID
SECRETARY
30th July, 2017

Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga
Speaker to Parliament
Parliamentary Building
KAMPALA

RE: THE MARAGOLI COMMUNITY IN UGANDA

I have received your letter of the 31st of May, 2017, about the Maragoli community who migrated to Uganda during the colonial times, just like the Nubians. They are indeed, Ugandans.

There are also the Bahaya of Nyangoma, Rakai. While the majority of the Bahaya stay in Tanzania, a portion of them stay in Uganda.

These are Ugandan citizens. I am aware and by copy of this letter, I am directing the Minister of Constitutional Affairs to include these elements in the proposed Constitutional Amendments.

Yoweri K Museveni
PRESIDENT

Copy to: H.E. the Vice President
Rt. Hon. Prime Minister
Rt. Hon. Secretary General, NRM
Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
Minister of Internal Affairs
MARAGOLI COMMUNITY,  
KIRYANDONGO DISTRICT  
UGANDA  
10/5/2017

H.E THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA,  
PRESIDENT’S OFFICE  
KAMPALA

Mr. President Sir,

MISERY OF THE MARAGOLI COMMUNITY IN KIRYANDONGO.

The Maragoli Community is currently facing serious challenges in accessing government services like taking children to school, getting hospital services, bank services, wealth creation programmes, leasing land, registration of phones to mention but a few, making them stateless.

Your Excellency Sir, a number of deliberate efforts have been undertaken to make the Maragoli Community recognized in Uganda but to date we have not seen results.

Among the major steps undertaken herein attached include:

Petition to the speaker of the 9th Parliament of Uganda for inclusion in the 3rd schedule of the 1995 constitution on 29th July 2014.

Invitation to appear before the legal and parliamentary affairs committee for a hearing on 21st May 2015.

On realizing the constitutional amendments were referred to the current (10th) parliament, we petitioned the Attorney General through the Speaker of Parliament, Minister of gender, Labour and social development and minister of internal affairs for legal interpretation of our status.

The interpretation was given on 9th Feb 2016 as attached and copies given to speaker of parliament, Minister of Internal Affairs, Minister of Gender Labour and Social development, Executive Director NIRA. DITO office Kiryandongo.

We have made several attempts from NIRA to get the National Identity cards as we wait for inclusion in the constitution but in vain.
H.E THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA,
PRESIDENT’S OFFICE
KAMPALA

Mr. President Sir,

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The interpretation was given on 9th Feb 2016 as attached and copies given to speaker of parliament, Minister of Internal Affairs, Minister of Gender Labour and Social development, Executive Director NIRA, DITO office Kiryandongo.

We have made several attempts from NIRA to get the National Identity cards as we wait for inclusion in the constitution but in vain.
Your Excellency Sir, this community has been around and all along participating in various government programmes including all elections.

We therefore humbly request you intervene to enable our National Identity cards be released as we wait for inclusion in the third schedule of the 1995 constitution as one of the indigenous communities in Uganda.

Yours faithful citizens

KAGUNZA CHRISTOPHER
CHAIRMAN
(0782 895718)

C.C. M.P Kibanda south constituency
C.C. MP Kibanda North Constituency
C.C. Women MP Kiryandongo District
C.C. LCV Chairperson Kiryandongo District

NDOOLI DAVID
SECRETARY
(0782 470574)
THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

TELEGRAMS:
TELEPHONE: 4340700/4231188
Fax: 4343088
Website: www.mia.go.ug

In any correspondence on this
subject please quote NO ADM 156/270/01

2nd January 2017

The Executive Director
National Identification and
Registration Authority
KOLOLO-KAMPALA

COMPLAINT ON DELAY TO RELEASE NATIONAL IDENTITY CARDS TO
MARAGOLI COMMUNITY

I am in receipt of a letter (copy attached) from the Hon Attorney General as a follow
up of the advice given by the Solicitor General on the above subject matter.

The Solicitor General had advised that the Maragoli Community in Uganda be issued
with National Identity Cards pending Constitutional Amendment for their inclusion as
one of the Indigenous Communities.

You are therefore instructed to urgently implement the advice of the Solicitor General
to have the Maragoli Community issued with National Identity Cards.

Most Grateful.

[Signature]
Gen Odongo Jeje
MINISTER FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS

CC: The Attorney General, Ministry of Justice & Constitutional Affairs
CC: The Solicitor General, Ministry of Justice & Constitutional Affairs
CC: The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Internal Affairs
2nd December 2016

The Hon. Minister
Ministry of Internal Affairs
O Box 7191
KAMPALA

COMPLAINT ON DELAY TO RELEASE NATIONAL IDENTITY CARDS

Reference is made to a letter from the Chairperson of the Maragoli Community to the Executive Director, National Identity and Registration Authority dated the 2nd August 2016 on the above captioned matter.

On 9th February 2016, the Solicitor General wrote to the Executive Director, National Identity and Registration Authority on the issue of "LEGAL INTERPRETATION OF THE CITIZEN STATUS OF THE MARAGOLI COMMUNITY IN UGANDA"; and advised that the Maragoli Community can be issued with National Identity Cards as they had already registered pending the Constitutional Amendment for inclusion of the Maragoli as one of the indigenous communities in the Constitution of Uganda.

The Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs is requested to implement the advice given by the Solicitor General on this matter.

[Signature]
William Byaruhanga
ATTORNEY GENERAL
Ministry of Internal Affairs  
Office of the Minister  
P.O.Box 7191 Kampala  
Uganda  

RE: FOLLOW-UP ON THE MARAGOLI CITIZENSHIP STATUS AS ADVISED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

In reference to your letter dated 21st December 2015 No. ADM 154/285/01 to the attorney General, and the response dated 9th February 2016 (attached), the Maragoli Community was advised to: get National Identity Cards as they had already registered, pending the constitutional amendments for inclusion of the Maragoli as one of the indigenous communities. This legal guidance was copied to the speaker of Parliament, minister of gender labor and social development, National identification and registration authority (NIRA) and the District leadership Kiryandongo District.

Despite our correspondence dated 22nd March 2016, we have not had any feedback from National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA).

We request your office to intervene to ask NIRA to release our ID's since we look stateless, no accessing government services like education, medical and other services to mention but a few.

We look forward for your parental consideration.

Thank you

KAGUNZA CHRISTOPHER  
(0782 895718)  
CHAIRMAN

C.C. Hon Speaker of Parliament of Uganda  
C.C. M.P Kibanda South Constituency  
C.C. Women MP Kiryandongo District  
C.C. LCV Chairperson Kiryandongo District

NDOOLI DAVID  
(0782 470574)  
SECRETARY
THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
NATIONAL IDENTITY AND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY  
P.O BOX 7191  
KAMPALA  

THRU: CHAIRPERSON LCV  
KIRYANDONGO DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
P.O BOX 137  
KIGUMBA  

COMPLAINT ON DELAY TO RELEASE OUR NATIONAL IDENTITY CARDS  

Reference is made to the letters of Solicitor General dated 9th Feb 2016 to you, our letter of 24th March 2016 to your office and Solicitor General’s letter to us dated 16th May 2016 part III on the release of our IDs here in attached as annex 1, 2 and 3 which needed action from you and we have not seen any to date which puts us in total confusion.  

The community has continued to face enormous problems in accessing facilities and services like; Bursaries, Leasing land, opening bank accounts, accessing medical services, Loans, and even Civil Servants are likely not to be maintained on payroll to mention but a few. Therefore, National Identity Cards being a pre-requisite in getting the above services.  

Attached are copies of the relevant correspondences received from the beginning of the struggle (See annexes attached).  

We kindly request for your direction on this matter, basing on Solicitor General’s advice.  

Thank you,  
Yours faithfully  

KAGUNZA CHRISTOPHER  
CHAIRPERSON  
0782895718  

NDOOLI DAVID  
SECRETARY  
07821470574
THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NATIONAL
IDENTITY AND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY.
P.O BOX 7191
KAMPALA.

THRU:
RESIDENT DISTRICT COMMISSIONER
KIRYANDONGO DISTRICT
P.O BOX 137, KIGUMBA

THRU:
CHAIRPERSON LCV
KIRYANDONGO DISTRICT
P.O BOX 137, KIGUMBA

THRU:
CHAIRPERSON LCV
KIGUMBA TOWN COUNCIL
P.O BOX 83, KIGUMBA

THRU:
CHAIRPERSON LCV
KIGUMBA SUB-COUNTY
P.O BOX 137, KIGUMBA

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF OUR IDENTITY CARDS AS
ADvised BY SOLICITOR GENERAL.

We write requesting for the above as resolved in the extra ordinary meeting of
19th march 2016 at connect Africa resource center Kigumba as advised by the