Chapter 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1: Scope of this Law
This Law determines the registration of the population and issuance of the national identity card to
Chapter 2. REGISTRATION OF THE POPULATION

Article 2: Citizens Registers
Population registration shall be a continuous process. Thus, without prejudice to other legal provisions, the following registers shall be available:

1° citizens register;
2° foreigners register;
3° register for children with unknown parents;
4° adopter children register.

An Order of the Minister in charge of Local Government shall determine the design of the above mentioned population registers.

Article 3: Registration of the population
Registration of the population shall be done at the Sector headquarters under the responsibility of the Sector Executive Secretary.

The Sector Executive Secretary may determine other locations where population registration may be carried out depending on the Sector geographical structure. An Order of the Minister in charge of Local Government shall determine modalities, time and place of registration. Such an Order shall also determine another person that may assist the Executive Secretary.

Article 4: Registration location
Any person shall be registered only in the location where he or she resides. He or she is required to register himself or to be registered by the person responsible for him or her as stipulated by laws.

Article 5: Registration after being granted Rwandan nationality
A foreigner who has acquired Rwandan nationality shall be registered in the Sector of his or her choice of residence and shall be written-off from the foreigners’ register. If he or she was granted citizenship while still abroad he/she shall be registered in the Sector of his/her choice after his/her arrival to Rwanda. This registration shall be done within a period not exceeding thirty (30) days from the date he/she is granted citizenship or when he/she becomes a Rwandan resident.

Article 6: Change of registration location
Any person who changes from his/her registration Sector to another shall notify the leaders of the former Sector at least seven (7) days before being registered to a new sector. The new registration is
done within a period not exceeding fifteen (15) days.

**Article 7:** Registration of young children in another place
Any person shall be required to register in the Sector’s population register a child he or she moves with to the new residence who has not attained the age of sixteen (16).

**Article 8:** Birth declaration
Any person shall be ordered to register the birth of his or her child within a period not exceeding thirty (30) days from date of birth. Within that period, the child shall be registered on his/her registration card. The information on the child registration card shall be replicated in the Sector population register in which the parents are resident.

The person registering the child shall be ordered to show a birth certificate signed by a medical officer who witnessed the birth of the child. If such a certificate is not available, the informant shows an attestation signed by the Cell Executive Secretary indicating the names of the parents and the child birth date. The Village leader shall countersign the attestation.

Any person is obliged to register in the population register any child under his or her care, if the child is below sixteen (16) years of age and only when it is established that he/she has not been registered elsewhere.

The guardians or persons who adopted the children shall make birth registration of the children under their care within a period not exceeding thirty (30) days from the day they acquired guardianship.

**Article 9:** Death declaration
The death declaration shall be done either by the spouse, children, parents, close relatives or any other person who witnessed his/her death, saw his/her dead body or burial. The death declaration shall be made within a period not exceeding thirty (30) days from the date the deceased passed away.

The person registering the dead shall show an attestation signed by a medical officer who confirmed the death of the person. In the absence of such a document, he/she must show an attestation signed by both the Cell Executive Secretary and the Village leader where the deceased resided or buried.

The registration of a disappeared or deceased person whose corpse not founded, shall be done only when the time determined by the law expired and accompanied by the court’s decision.

Notification of death is done at the Sector to the person in charge of population registration.

**Chapter 3. CONCERNING THE NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD**

**Article 10:** Owner of national identity card
The identity card shall be a personal property. Any person wishing to acquire it shall go in person to the
Sector office in person where he or she is registered, unless otherwise provided by an Order of the Minister in charge of Local Government. Whenever an identity card is lost or damaged to the extent it no longer identifies the owner, it shall be replaced on request by the owner in a period not exceeding sixty (60) days.

An Order of the Minister in charge of Local Government shall determine the model and the amount to be paid by each citizen as participation fees for acquisition of national identity card.

**Article 11: Possession and carrying the national identity card by Rwandan citizen**

Possession of and carrying the national identity card is obligatory to every Rwandan aged sixteen (16) and above. Every Rwandan aged sixteen years (16) shall be issued with national identity card within a period not exceeding six (6) months following the day her or she attained that age.

**Chapter 4. PENALTIES**

**Article 12: Penalties relating to registration of the population and issuance of the national identity card**

Any person who contravenes the provisions of this law especially as regards to his or her responsibilities stipulated in articles 4 to 11 shall be liable to punishment of a prison sentence ranging from one (1) day to seven (7) days and a fine ranging from five thousand (5.000 Rwf) to fifty thousand (Rwf 50.000) Rwandan francs or one of these punishments.

Shall be liable to a punishment provided for in paragraph one of this article, any person proven to have given false information during registration in the population register.

**Article 13: Penalties relating to the use of the national identity card**

Shall be liable to a prison sentence ranging from one (1) month to three (3) months and a fine ranging from twenty thousand (Rwf 20.000) to two hundred thousand (Rwf 200.000) Rwanda Francs or one of these punishments, any person who shall:
1. give his/her identity card to another person who subsequently uses it to deceive the authority;
2. falsify the identity card;
3. issue an identity card to a person who is not legally entitled to it.
4. receive the identity card knowing that he/she is not eligible for it.

**Chapter 5. FINAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 14: Repealing of inconsistent provisions**

Decree-Law n° 01/81 of 16/01/1981 confirmed by Law n° 01/82 of 26/01/1982 governing the registration of the population, national identity card, domicile and residence as amended and complemented to date and all legal provisions contrary to this law are hereby abrogated.
Article 15: Commencement
This law shall come into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Rwanda.

Kigali, on 04/6/2008