

Maisha Namba — Kenya's Biometric National ID Clears a 600,000-Card Backlog While Fighting Data-Protection Lawsuits

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Kenya

Quality score: 40/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Kenya's National Registration Bureau printed 1.7 million Maisha Namba ID cards in 2024 and cleared a 600,000-card backlog using biometric enrolment, even as the High Court twice halted rollout over missing data-protection impact assessments.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	1/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	1/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	1/3
Scalability beyond pilot	2/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-08-20

State Department for Immigration and Citizen Services (National Registration Bureau), Kenya — accessed 2026-08-20

Biometric Update: Kenya records major gains in Maisha Namba ID backlog clearance — accessed 2026-08-20

Kenya Law: Judicial Review Application E194 of 2023 (Maisha Namba DPIA ruling) — accessed 2026-08-20

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