

TCRA's Biometric SIM Registration — Tanzania Reused NIDA's National ID for 37 Million Lines, Without a Privacy Law to Match

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Tanzania

Quality score: 40/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Since 2018 Tanzania's TCRA has required SIM cards to be biometrically checked against the NIDA national ID database instead of resubmitted paperwork. By March 2020 it had registered 37.3 million lines this way — but analysts found no privacy law and no evidence it cut fraud.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	1/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	0/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability beyond pilot	3/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	0/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-10

[Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority \(TCRA\), with the National Identification Authority \(NIDA\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-10

[TCRA SIM registration figures \(Citizenship Rights in Africa, Apr 2020\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-10

[ISS Africa — More questions than answers: Tanzania's mandatory SIM card registration](#) — accessed 2026-09-10

[TCRA — official SIM card registration guidelines \(PDF\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-10

Cite this — Evidoria. *TCRA's Biometric SIM Registration — Tanzania Reused NIDA's National ID for 37 Million Lines, Without a Privacy Law to Match*. Persistent ID: 9ae81006-1597-4752-a2b8-e504ad68609f.