



## NOTICE TO BANKS, NON-BANK FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND MOBILE MONEY OPERATORS

### MANDATORY USE OF NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (NIN) FOR ACCOUNT OPENING AND PAYMENTS VIA THE NATIONAL SWITCH

On 7 December 2022, the Bank issued a formal communication to all **banks and non-bank financial institutions** informing them that the use of the NIN, issued by the **National Civil Registration Authority (NCRA)**, is mandatory for all financial transactions, in line with efforts to strengthen the Know Your Customer (KYC) process and enhance financial integrity.

Since then, we have issued **several correspondences** and **held technical engagements** with the NCRA and financial institutions to support the implementation of an **electronic Know Your Customer (eKYC)** framework. These efforts aim to ensure a secure, standardized, and interoperable identification system across the financial sector.

The Bank of Sierra Leone hereby informs all **Banks, Non-Bank Financial Institutions, and Mobile Money Operators** that the use of the **National Identification Number (NIN)** is **mandatory** for the following:

**Opening of New Accounts:** All new individual customer accounts must be opened using a valid **NIN** issued by the **National Civil Registration Authority (NCRA)** and for businesses your **Tax Identification Number (TIN)** issued by the **National Revenue Authority (NRA)** effective immediately.





**Updating Existing Accounts:** All existing customers are required to update their account records with their NIN on or before **31 December 2025**.

**Access to the National Switch:** Existing customers who wish to access or utilize the **National Switch** for payments must ensure their NIN is linked to their bank account by **31 August 2025**.

Institutions are hereby directed to take all necessary steps to comply with this directive and to inform their customers accordingly. This measure is aimed at enhancing **customer identification, financial sector integrity, combating fraud, interoperability** and supporting the development of a **robust digital financial ecosystem**.

For further clarification, please contact the Banking Supervision Department at the Bank of Sierra Leone.

**Issued by:**

**Bank of Sierra Leone**

**Date: 15 July 2025**