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1 November 2010

NGA103633.E

Nigeria: Whether the Nigerian High Commission in Ottawa verifies identity documents against a database or contacts the issuing authority when issuing an emergency certificate for identification; information on how affidavits are verified for authenticity
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

In a 28 October 2010 telephone interview with the Research Directorate, an official with the Nigeria High Commission provided the following information.

When issuing an emergency Certificate for Identification, Nigeria High Commission in Ottawa does not verify identity documents against a database or by contacting the issuing authority.

Affidavits attest to the place in Nigeria where an individual was born. The affidavit, usually obtained by a family member in Nigeria, is signed or stamped by a local office of the National Population Commission of Nigeria. The Official stated that in order to be considered valid by the Nigeria High Commission, the affidavit must have originated in Nigeria. He noted that the texture of paper of documents from Nigeria is different from documents originating in Canada. No further verification is undertaken by the Nigeria High Commission in Ottawa.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

Reference

Nigeria. 28 October 2010. Nigeria High Commission, Ottawa. Telephone interview with an official.

Additional Sources Consulted

Internet sites, including: The federal Government of Nigeria, the National Population Commission of Nigeria, the Nigerian Consulate in New York, the Nigerian Embassy in Washington, DC.

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