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Evidence of Identity and Citizenship: Papua New Guinea's Experiences & Challenges

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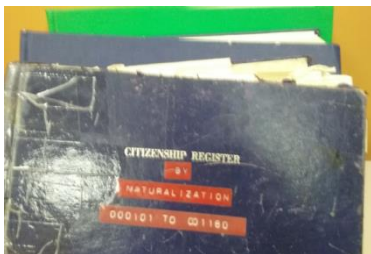
ICAO TRIP IRAN SEMINAR – Kish Island



Evidence of Identity and Citizenship

Experiences and Challenges of a Small Nation

Manual records of Citizenship data



Birth Certificate



Manually issued Certificate of Identity





Identity Management

With increasing Identity fraud, including citizenship, Papua New Guinea is no exception.

We will never completely eliminate identity fraud, but that there is room to make life very much more difficult for the fraudster – and the opportunist. Tightening up the processes used for the issue of documents commonly used as evidence of identity – passport – can make identity fraud and citizenship, very much harder for the perpetrator.



Experiences and Challenges

❖ **Travel Document Issuing Authority**

The realities of Identity Management, in our fast moving world, including the expectations of the public as travel document customers, challenges us, the travel document issuing authority, to anticipate change and to be responsive and adaptive, and at the same time, trying to establish genuine citizenship status.

❖ **Annex 9**

Papua New Guinea, like any other nation, faces these practical challenges, whilst complying to maintaining the best practices in implementing Annex 9 Standards and MRTD Specifications.

❖ **Processes**

Passport Office does its best in using a more thorough and manual checking of identity, including citizenship, at point of lodgement of an application for a passport to identify possible and desirable frauds.



Experiences

❖ Civil Registries

- Depending most cases on Ministries with no responsibility on MRTD issuance or control
- Absence of Birth registration at Live Birth
- Still issuing weak security Birth Certificates
- Nil collaboration agreements with Public Health Authorities for birth/death registration at hospitals and maternity units
- No interoperability with other agencies



Experiences cont....

❖ PNG Passports Issuing Office including Citizenship

- Ancient organisation, with well-established procedures, according to national laws
- Manual registration processes for Citizenship
- Archives based on certificates
- No live capture of biometrics
- Applications still require manual data insertion
- No interoperability with other agencies and Border Management system within the Organisation



Challenges

- Secured feeder/supporting documents
- Pressures to improve efficient border inspections and control
- Border security risks, terrorism and trans-border crimes (drugs, human trafficking, illegal immigration)
- Systematic weakness remain in the National Civil Registry. For example death records are unable to match to corresponding birth records. This is because death and birth event can occur across civil registration jurisdictions as not all deaths are recorded and matching of birth and death records is not always straight forward.
- Typically, accessing information from one government agency to another is quite difficult. Thus lengthy requests and processes are involved.
- Individual Risks - Identity Theft and Fraud
- Demand for reliable identification for illegal activities and cross-border movements

Challenges cont....

❖ International Borders/boundaries

- Trans-border border activities
- Identity difficulty when communities with same ethnicity share common international borders





Way Forward

- Recently established Integrated Government Information System
- The National Identity Office
- Improvement on the current travel document issuing systems
- Improvement on the current travel documents and introduction of e-Passports, e-Traditional Border Crosser cards
- Participation as a member of ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD)
- Key factors that need to be taken note of:
 - Having a harmonised approach
 - Interoperability with other Agencies
 - With common international standards
 - Digital identity
 - Keeping simplicity in process



PNG's Next Step – Focusing On:

- Issuance of secure machine readable travel documents (MRTDs) and electronic MRTDs (eMRTDs), according to ICAO Standards and Specifications;
- Identify any current or potential weaknesses in the administrative and operational capacity of Birth Certificates as these aspects relate to passport issuance;
- Addressing vulnerabilities in travel document issuance process within the Passport Office;
- Enhancing the technical knowledge and security awareness of immigration and passport staff in order to empower them to perform their daily duties in an informed and professional manner;
- Strengthen cross-border activities with the introduction and issuance of MRZ Traditional Border Crosser Cards;
- Determine future steps that will increase inter-agency cooperation in information sharing;
- Determine increase in partnering with International Organisations like IOM, INTERPOL, Customs in information sharing.



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Looking Ahead

Papua New Guinea looks ahead to taking part in these capacity-building events which provides an excellent opportunity to share lessons learned, challenges met and solutions found in implementing MRTD and border control projects.

This knowledge cannot be found in books, policy written, or magazines, however, learning from each other, in an open and critical manner, is the major strength of MRTD regional events and with which remains a key component to the success of our joint global efforts.

In saying so, aspirations are important, but full implementation is essential. In stressing implementation, we cannot overlook the practical need for capacity building and technical assistance for small Nations in need.



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THANK YOU





Iran ICAO TRIP Seminar (9 to 11 May 2016)

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