IDENTIFICATION MANAGEMENT IN JAMAICA: Challenges, Solutions and Lessons Learnt

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Jamaica

* Population 2.7 mil
* Total area 4,418 sq miles
* Average annual births – 42,000
* Average annual deaths – 16,000
* Average annual marriages – 26,000
* A tourist destination – 1.95 mil (2011)
Mandate

The RGD’s mandate under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act and the three (3) Marriage Acts includes:

✓ The registration of vital events such as Births, Deaths and Marriages occurring in Jamaica and Jamaican waters.

✓ The safekeeping of public records including those for Births, Deaths, Marriages and Adoptions, Wills, Bills of Sale, Deeds, Conveyances as well as the Non-Vital Records under the Record Office Act.
* A birth certificate is the most common form of breeder document that allows persons to obtain other documents.
Certificate Fraud

Fraudulent certificates are often used as “breeder documents” to obtain genuine documents needed to create new identities.
Analysis of Certificates Confiscated by the RGD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Confiscated Certificates</th>
<th>Court Cases</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>180</td>
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<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
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METHODS FOR CREATING A NEW IDENTITY

* Tampered with or Fraudulently constructed birth certificate
* Late registration of non-existent/newly named birth
* Late Entry of Name
* Assuming a father’s particulars differing from the last name that was previously being used (DNA testing not mandatory)
* Deed poll (e.g. case of bigamy)
* Assuming the identity of a deceased
* Certificates are easy to obtain (anyone can apply for copies of vital records without identification).
* Fraudulent certificates (black and white version and computer generated) presented to RGD daily—often by unsuspecting individuals.
* The Agency is not in a position to advise the discontinued use of the black and white certificates that cease circulation in 2002 and many of these were fraudulently constructed.
* Persons willingly sell their identities (common among siblings).
* The security feature certificates were introduced by the RGD on May 7, 2001 to eradicate fraudulently produced certificates.
SECURITY FEATURES CERTIFICATES (cont’d)

- Deeply engraved “blind” embossing, Watermark
- Deeply engraved texts
- Embossed latent image
- Chemical sensitivity
- Invisible imprint
- RGD’s Logo
- Microlines
- RGD verifier – handheld device
* Jamaica currently does not have a central national database with the accompanying system for verification and authentication. The absence of a central identification system often leads to frustrating experiences for our Jamaican citizens.
Solutions
Plans for Future Identification System

National Identification System

* The Government of Jamaica is designing and developing a National Identification System (NIDS), that will provide a comprehensive and secure structure to enable the capture and storage of personal identity information for citizens and persons ordinarily resident in Jamaica.
The NIS will establish a reliable database of all Jamaican citizens and will involve the issuance of a unique lifelong National Identification Number to every person.

One main objective of this initiative is to strengthen immigration, border control management, public safety and national security.
NIDS will be significant for Jamaica, both in the public and private sectors, including registration of births and deaths, criminal records, traffic ticketing, tax compliance, records management, road and drivers licensing, among other things.
For all birth registrations, demographic information, including current address, along with other identification numbers will be captured.

The NIDS will also capture biometric and other data such as fingerprint, footprint, signature, facial photographs.
Solutions (cont’d)
Other Initiatives to be Undertaken by the RGD

* The RGD will implement a Online Verification System with the necessary features to protect against fraud.

  Stakeholders such as the Embassies, Consulates and Passport Office will have access (electronic lick) to this information.
The Agency continues to embark on a number of community outreach programmes as well as training for stakeholders to create greater public awareness about identity theft.
Persons continue to find creative ways to create a new identity, hence, we have to be vigilant at all times.
THANK YOU

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