

Regional Seminar on MRTDs, Biometrics and Identification Management  
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**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)

# REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT OF JAMAICA

## 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.

# Breeder Document

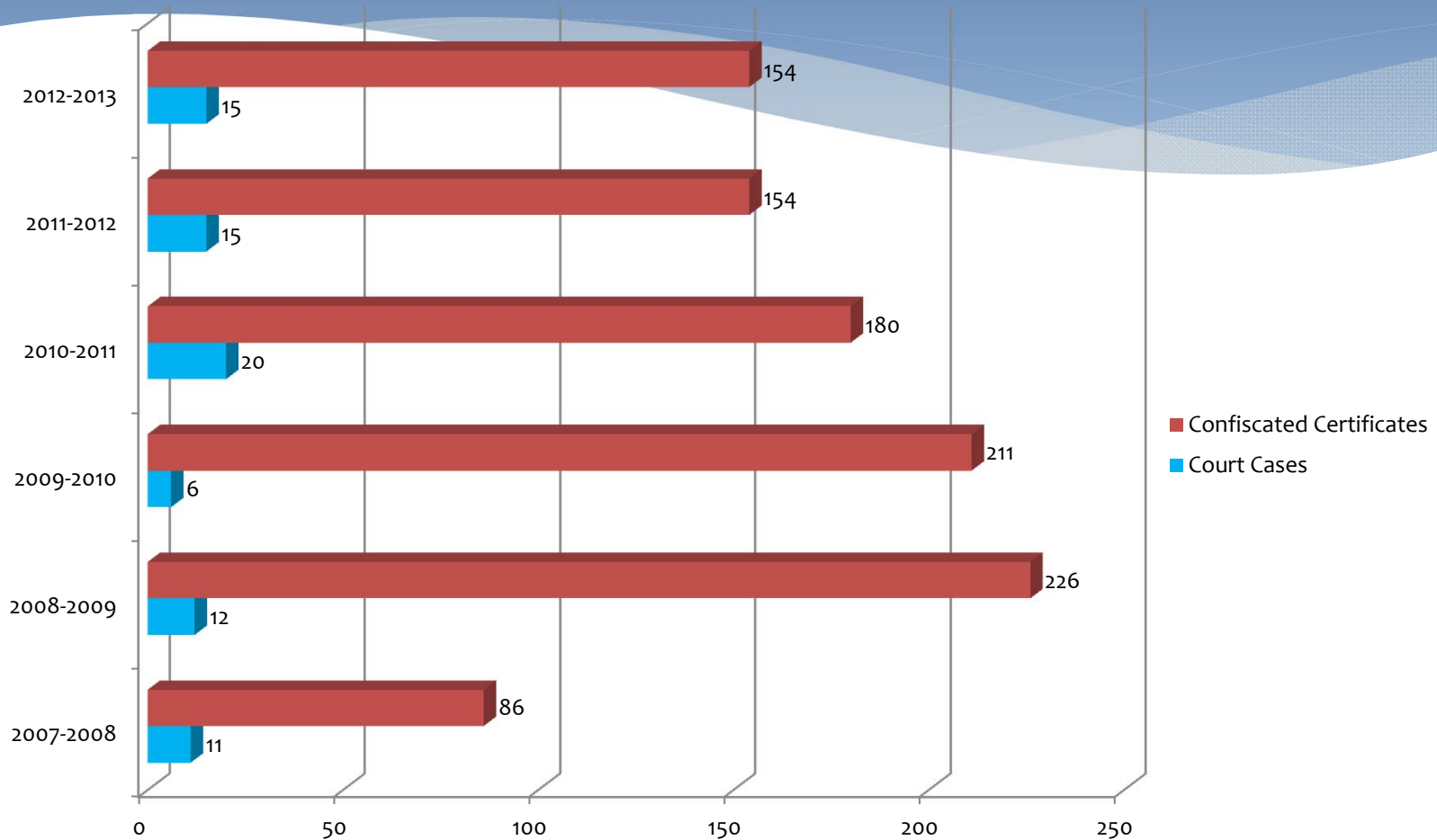
- \* A birth certificate is the most common form of breeder document that allows persons to obtain other documents.

# BREEDER DOCUMENT (cont'd)

## 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



# 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

# CHALLENGES

- \* 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).



# Black and White Version of Birth Certificate

**BIRTH REGISTRATION FORM** (Section 12)

1. BIRTH IN THE DISTRICT OF Spanish Town

2. PARISH St Catherine 3. NO. EA 6742

4. Place of Birth Public General Hospital Spanish Town

5. Date of Birth Thursday 10 December 1990

6. Sex Male Age time 26

7. Name of Child LEON ALDRIF

8. Physician or registered midwife in attendance Douglas D. Rowe

**FATHER**

9. Name and Surname Leon Duncan

10. Age at time of birth 35 years 11. Occupation Factory worker

12. Birthplace St Catherine

**MOTHER**

13. (a) Residence 14 St John Road

(b) Town or Village Spanish Town (c) Parish St Catherine

14. No. of children previously born to mother (a) Alive 2 (b) Still-born Nil

15. Name and Maiden Surname Ann Marie Duncan

16. Age at time of birth 35 years Occupation Cashier

18. Birthplace St Catherine

**INFORMANT**

19. Name and Surname Leon Camuda

20. Qualification Present at birth

21. (a) Residence Spanish Town

(b) Town or Village Spanish Town

(c) Parish St Catherine

Signature of Informant L. Camuda

**REGISTRAR'S CERTIFICATE**

22. (a) Signed in my presence by the said informant;

(b) Entered <sup>(or)</sup> by me from the particulars on a Certificate received from

23. Witness The Registrar

24. Date Tuesday 11 December 1991 (Signed) [Signature] Registrar

**NAMES IF ADDED AFTER REGISTRATION OF BIRTH**

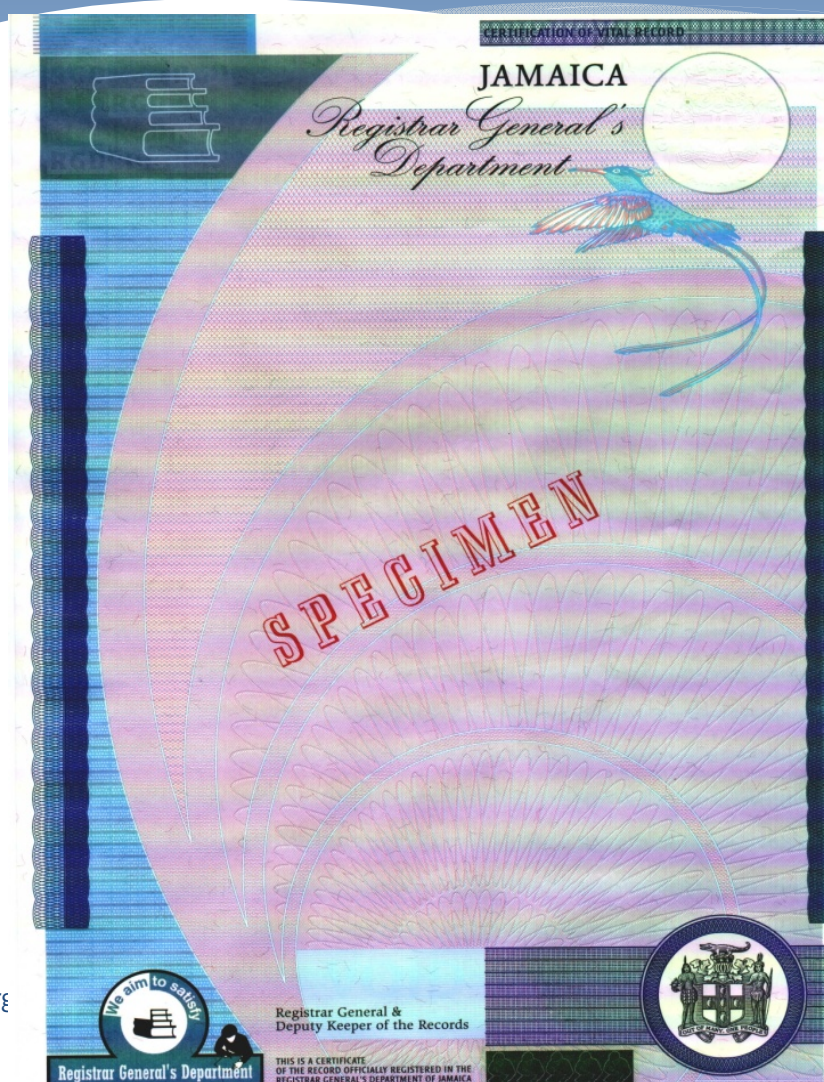
26. Name

27. Authority

# SECURITY FEATURES CERTIFICATES

- \* 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

# The Importance of a Secure Centralised Identification System

- \* 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.

# Solutions (cont'd)

- \* 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.

# Solutions (cont'd)

- \* 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.

# Solutions (cont'd)

- \* 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 link) to this information.

# SOLUTIONS (cont'd)

- \* 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.

# Lesson Learnt

- \* Persons continue to find creative ways to create a new identity, hence, we have to be vigilant at all times.

# THANK YOU

## Contact Information

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