A Presentation to the National Research Institute Population, Statistics and Society Seminar.

PNG Civil and Identity Registry: Country Update.

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1. WHERE WE ARE NOW?

(DECEMBER 2022)
PNGCIR is empowered by its Act, the Civil Registration Act 1963 (Amendment) 2014, to facilitate civil & identity registration.

- Record and maintains registers for births, marriages, adoptions, divorces, deaths and legitimisations.
- These are civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS).
- This includes also running and maintaining an Archive.
- Undertook the National Identity Document (NID) Project in 2015.
- NID Project is a Special Purpose Vehicle of Civil & Identity Registration

- Under NEC Decision 68/2017, PNGCIR is standalone organisation and reports directly to the Minister.
- One of the two institutions in this country to empowered by law to collect biometrics.
- It is headed by the Registrar General, which is a Government Gazetted position.
The overarching aim of the PNG Civil and Identity Registry (PNGCIR) is to achieve a complete civil registration system for the country that can provide:

i. All members of public with foundation identity documents through which they can claim their civil and human rights, including access to services;

ii. The government with individual identification records needed for governance; and

iii. The government with a national source of vital statistics.
NID PROJECT HIGH LEVEL BRIEF

- 2,855,271 NID Registrations:
  i. Birth registrations (under 18 years of age) – 26%: (773,568)
  ii. Births & NID Card (adults) registrations: – 74%; (2,081,305)

- Processed so far:
  i. Printed birth certificates: 2.1 million
  ii. Printed NID cards: 1.1 million.
  iii. Backlog 400,000 registrations.

- Provincial offices connected: 17/22.

- Districts connected: 3 (24 signed MOU yet to fund capex).

- Cost per completed registration: K50.00.

- Assisting with Alesco Payroll cleansing

- Mine sites connected: 1 (Ok Tedi) 30th October 2019.

- On 31/12/2022 have 455 staff with an average age of 26 years, half with first degrees, GPA of 2.6.
Our Footprint
CHALLENGES

• Present our Bill to Parliament Q1 this year
• Financial Challenges need to lower cost to sub K25 per registration.
• Front loading of funding is important for projects like NID.
• Districts are signing MOUs but not assisting in funding the roll out.

• A number of operational technical issues have been identified in terms of CIRS system limitations.
  • Vendor Lock in;
  • Software and hardware;
  • Knowledge transfer an issue;
  • Frontloading of NID base stock cards and consumables; and
  • Integration of external peripheral devices difficult due to Vendor Lockin.
LOCK IN BY PROJECT VENDOR

• Devices like new NID card printer, new mobile registration kits, remote satellite upload devices etc, cannot be connected to the NID registration software (CIRS) core without having to pay expensive connection fees.

• Work is in progress to address this with some success.
POSITIVES

• Huawei did not put our CRVS/NID system online;
• We have a system rightly or wrongly does not matter;
• We have developed capacity given this complex Project;
• We have found new friends who are helping us from technical support to alignment;
• Data movement in real time;
• This year New MPs and Development Partners have been very supportive in the programs we conduct;
• Contributing to youth employment;
• Developing a new work culture in the public service through the young generation;
• We have a young team and energy; and
• It gave us a opportunity to develop our own human capital and well as systems and processes.
Development work to date

• Tracking system developed.
• Secured a high volume biometric card printer. Initial cost K22 million, purchased, installed, tested and commissioned for K5 million.
• 2015 level updates and some enhancement undertaken since. Minimises cost and delivers some speed into the system.
• Developing new software, new platforms and systems update.
• Re-engagement of Huawei – with a more focused engagement terms.
• Ministerial directive for deployment of NID card readers for internal travel.
• Built a new 30 workstation data entry centre in Lae fully staffed and high speed linked back to Pom.
• Trained staff on maintenance and repair of Biometric printer.
COLLABORATION

- Department of Personnel Management (DPM) – cleaning up of the Alesco/Ascender payroll and use of VSAT in Pomio – NID and Alesco/Ascender payroll;
- Electoral Commission – Bereina Ward 5 By-election voter identification;
- Assisted many MPs with seasonal labour requests;
- Morobe, Southern Highlands and Eastern Highlands PHAs for registration of births and deaths;
- Police – Criminal Investigation Division – working on design and implement their biometrics for Police clearance as an SPV;
- National Department of Education – registration of teachers and administrators;
- NSO – looking at assisting with resources to help with National Census 2022;
- Ok Tedi for footprint registration;
- Lutheran Church and Latter Day Saints for NID rollout; and
- DICT Digital Government engagements.
2. Policy Directive: 95% Registration by 16\textsuperscript{th} September 2025 by Hon. Peter Tsiamalili Jnr MP Minister for Internal Security
2023 - 2025 Mobilization Curve @ 3.2% Annual Growth Rate

3 YEARS (2023 - 2025) TO COMPLETE REGISTERING WHOLE OF PNG AND SETTING IN PLACE AN CIRS ECOSYSTEM THAT IS ACTUALLY OPERATIONAL
What we need:

- Process around 7 million persons in 2.75 years.
- 400+ mobile registration kits.
- More staff (500+)
- Office space (twin towers) to help.
- More workstations.
- More funds
- Innovative and dedicated staff

- Reduce cost – replace human processes with machines.
- KPI based performances for all staff.
Going Forward – the Digital Era

• DATA MINING
WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SPONSORS

- OTML K9 million register 70,000 persons.
- Total E&P PNG Ltd
- Pacific Agro
- NBPOL
- Bloomberg D4HI (Global Health Advocacy Incubator, Vital Strategies, Melbourne Uni);
- UN Systems (UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF);
- DFAT (Govt of Australia);
- National Planning and Monitoring Department (GoPNG);
- Province: Simbu Provincial Government, East Sepik, Enga, AROB;
- BPNG, PNG Customs.
TENK YU TUMAS