

MILESTONE TOWARDS TANZANIA NEW CRVS SYSTEM



The Government of Tanzania, through the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs, together with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and Registration Insolvency Trusteeship Agency (RITA) has conducted a Stakeholders Consultative Meeting on the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Strategy held on 22 September 2015 in Dar es Salaam.

Speaking during the official opening of the above meeting, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs Ms. Maimuna Tarishi said Civil Registration plays a vital role in governance and economic development of nations. In Tanzania, civil registration is mandatory for evidence-based development and transformation of the society, which is in line with the goals of the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty II (NSGRP II) or MKUKUTA II.

Ms. Tarishi said that the Civil Registration and Vital statistics System in Tanzania Mainland has been functioning poorly.

“According to the Population and Housing Census Report of 2012, only 13.4 percent of its citizens are registered hence leaving many unrecognized administratively anywhere,” She said.

She added that Death registration rate is almost negligible and causes-of-death are either wrongly reported or not reported at all making health interventions difficult. Marriages and divorces’ records are also very poor or non-existent in many cases.



The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs Ms. Maimuna Tarishi delivering an opening speech during a one day Stakeholders Consultative Meeting on the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) held on 22 September, 2015 in Dar es Salaam.

Thus, this Strategy is being developed to overcome internal weaknesses and external threats observed as well as to maximize internal strengths and external opportunities from the assessment.

On her part, the Director General of National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Dr. Albina Chuwa said that the major objective of the CRVS System is to establish a permanent, continuous, compulsory and universal vital events registration and vital statistics system with the view to achieving four identified outcomes by 2020/21.

These outcomes are legal rights and privileges to all; good governance and accountability; efficient CR institutional capacity; and trusted statistics.

“The overall goal of the CRVS System is to make the process simple, user-friendly, less costly and to achieve a one-stop shop at all service points which include designated health facilities, District Executive Director Offices and Ward Executive Officer offices,” she noted.



On the other hand, the acting Chief Executive Officer of Registration Insolvency Trusteeship Agency (RITA), Ms. Emmy Hudson said that according to the current Civil Registration system, the lowest service point is at District level which to many is very far from where they live.

This and other reason poses a challenge to many citizens causing the service not to be easily accessible, thus calling for changes to the current system. RITA alone cannot solve these challenges without joining forces with others hence the ongoing improvements.

The history of Civil Registration dates back in 1917 when the German Colonial power enacted a law for registration of births and deaths (Proclamation No.15 of 1917 (Civil Area).

When the British took over the administration of Tanganyika from the Germans they retained the Register of Births and Deaths established under the Germans law by saving it under the Births and Deaths Registration Ordinance, 1920 (Cap.108).



Under both colonial powers, registration of births and deaths was not compulsory for Africans. After independence, the Government took over the registration role with the existing systems that had several shortfalls with most of its population continuing being unregistered.

The CRVS Strategy

The proposed strategy that was a subject of the stakeholders meeting is resulting from the Comprehensive Assessment conducted in the Tanzania Mainland in September 2014. The assessment aimed at taking stock of what is on the ground

and what is required to have a new system operational and come up with a costed STRATEGY for improving the system. According to the strategy, the new civil registration system will cost around 544 million USD and the implementation will take up to six years including one preparatory year. The strategy vision is to have **“EVERY CITIZEN RECOGNIZED”** by the civil registration system, and the mission is **To register vital events to safeguard rights of all and inform evidence-based decisions**

