



Namibia: Civil Registration and Data Integrity

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Anette Bayer Forsingdal






Country overview



- Gained independence in 1990
- Total: 824 292 square kilometre
- Population Density: 2,5 person per square kilo metre
- Regions: 14
- Population Size: 2, 4 million (census 2011)
- Urban Population: 45, 7 %
- Population growth: 2,4%
- Income category: Upper middle income



Mandate: Department of CR

	Registration of births and issuance of birth certificates
	Registration of deaths and issuance of death certificates
	Registration of marriages and authorisations of marriage officers
	Production of ID cards
	Registration of divorces (High Court)

Principles on Identification

- Inclusion
 - Universal and accessibility
- Design
 - **Robust**, secure, responsive and sustainable
 - ↪ **unique, secure and accurate identity**
 - ↪ **trustworthy**
- Governance
 - Building trust by protecting privacy and user rights

Rationale of Presentation

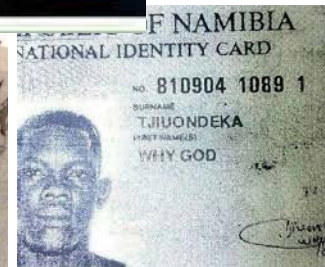
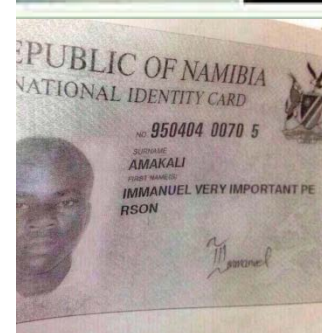
- Namibia has faced major challenges attempting to rectify legacy records through fair administrative processes (within the framework of the law), without jeopardizing data integrity, in order address some of the past injustices
- Consequence: the e-government policy cannot be rolled out if citizens have “multiple” or “fluent” identities
- Share our experience and shed light on the complexity of dealing with legacy records in low resource CR settings, and
- provide some examples of initiatives have launched to ensure data quality and integrity.

A historical perspective – the CR landscape prior to independence

- Due to non inclusive civil registration laws prior to Independence in 1990, the majority of the population were not registered by birth (several systems were in place – manual registers and ID books – some records stored in Pretoria) (Many only in possession of baptism cards)
- In 1978 a compulsory ID resident card were issued (South West Africa ID card) (in most case with no source documentation) (Poor public perception as it was used for controlling purposes by Apartheid Government)
- For Namibian who were residing in exile during struggle were issued with repatriation by UN upon return

A historical perspective: CR post independence

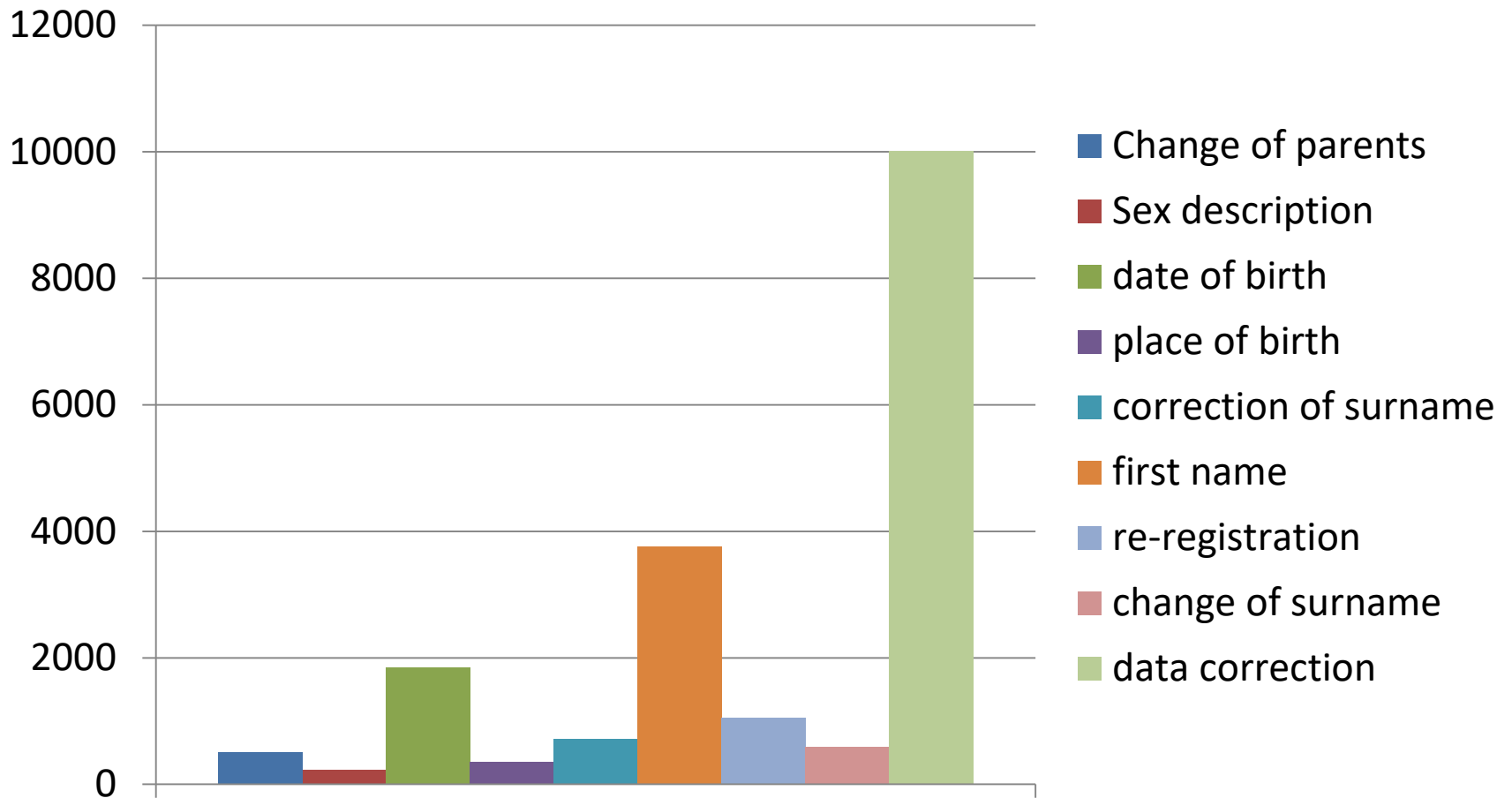
- In order to rectify the injustices of the past – the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration launched major mobile campaigns to all the regions – no source documents were required as many were unregistered, and so where their parents
- Law requirements were bypassed to accommodate all, and in some instances the issuance was outsourced to councillors and teachers
- Registers were not filled in, and in many instances new birth certificates were issued on regional level, and no amendment was done in the registers
- In 1994 a new Namibian electronic printed ID card was introduced for citizens and permanent residents . The profile from SWA ID was migrated to the new National Population Register - until today it is undetermined how to deal with specific groups that were legal residents before independence but does not meet the requirements of new citizenship laws., but was issued with SWA IDS
- The new ID management system only initial provide biometric verification, not verification of details, allowing two persons to use the same birth certificate.



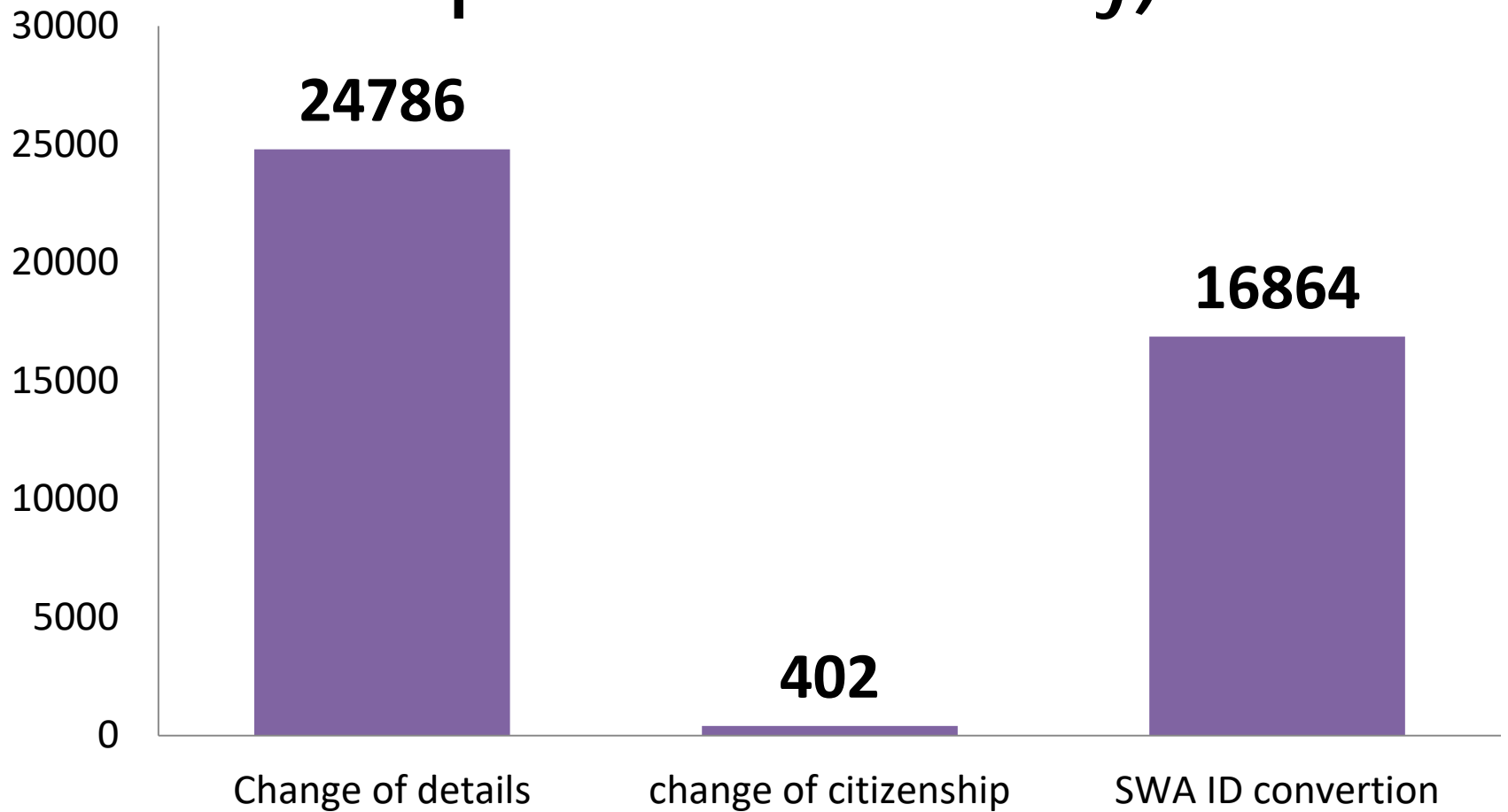
Case scenarios

- Discrepancies between birth record and ID record – *which one is the correct reflection?*
- Multiple birth records with discrepancies – *which one is the correct one?*
- Incorrect reflexion of parents particulars – many persons have been registered with non –biological parents – *how to prove maternity and paternity after death?*
- Declared supposedly wrong date of birth at the time of birth registration, got records with different dates of birth (repatriation or baptism card) , which presented by the correct record. – *what is the implications?*
- Two ID records created on the same birth record – *who is the rightful owner?*
- Dual ID records with same particulars or different particulars – *which ID was used where?*
- Declared death but still alive – *Action: proof who the right owner through fingerprint taking deceased*
- Married with incorrect property regime (*Different property regime depending where you married*)

Statistics – amendment of birth records (23 229) 2015-2017



ID Statistics(2013-2017) (8,5% of all IDs produced annually)



Costs associated with amendments records

Client:

Change of surname: N\$ 1200 (US\$ 1200)

Corrections on BC: N\$ 30 (US\$ 2,5)

Conformation letters: free of charge

Government:

Centralised Unit: 18 staff members recruited to process the amendment birth records according to the law and set guidelines. (Annual salary costs: N\$ 3,000,000) (US\$275 727)

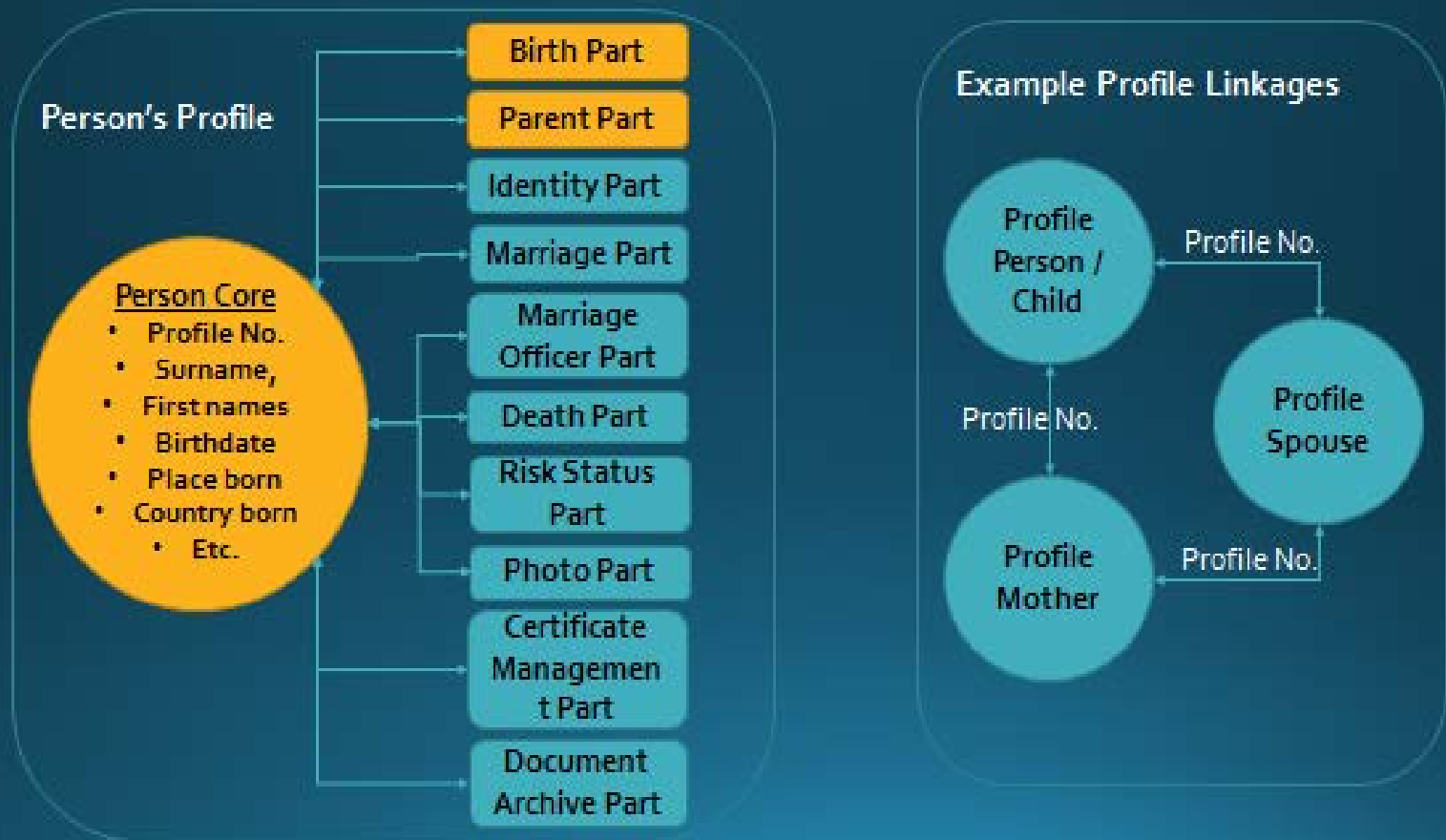
Third parties:

Costs for authentication and verification

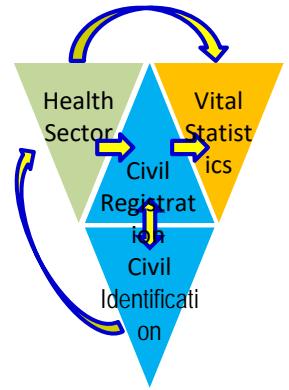
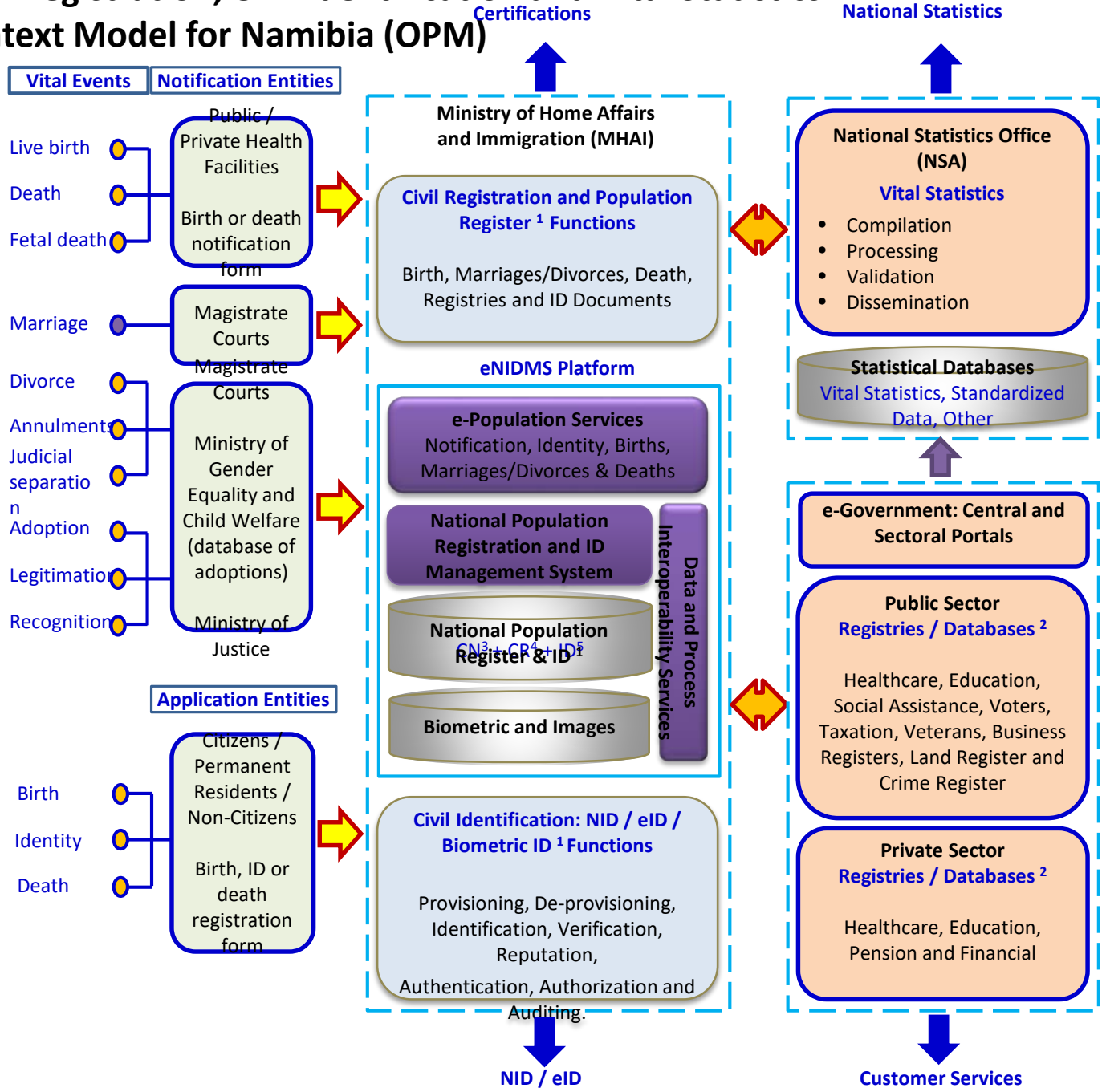
Initiatives

eNPRS Person Population Profile Data Architecture Model

At the heart of the eNPRS lies the profiles of persons that are formed through the different civil registration and civil identification processes. Profiles represent the vital event life cycle which a person will go through during their life (i.e., From Birth to Death) which relates to civil and identity registration.



Civil Registration, Civil Identification and Vital Statistics Context Model for Namibia (OPM)

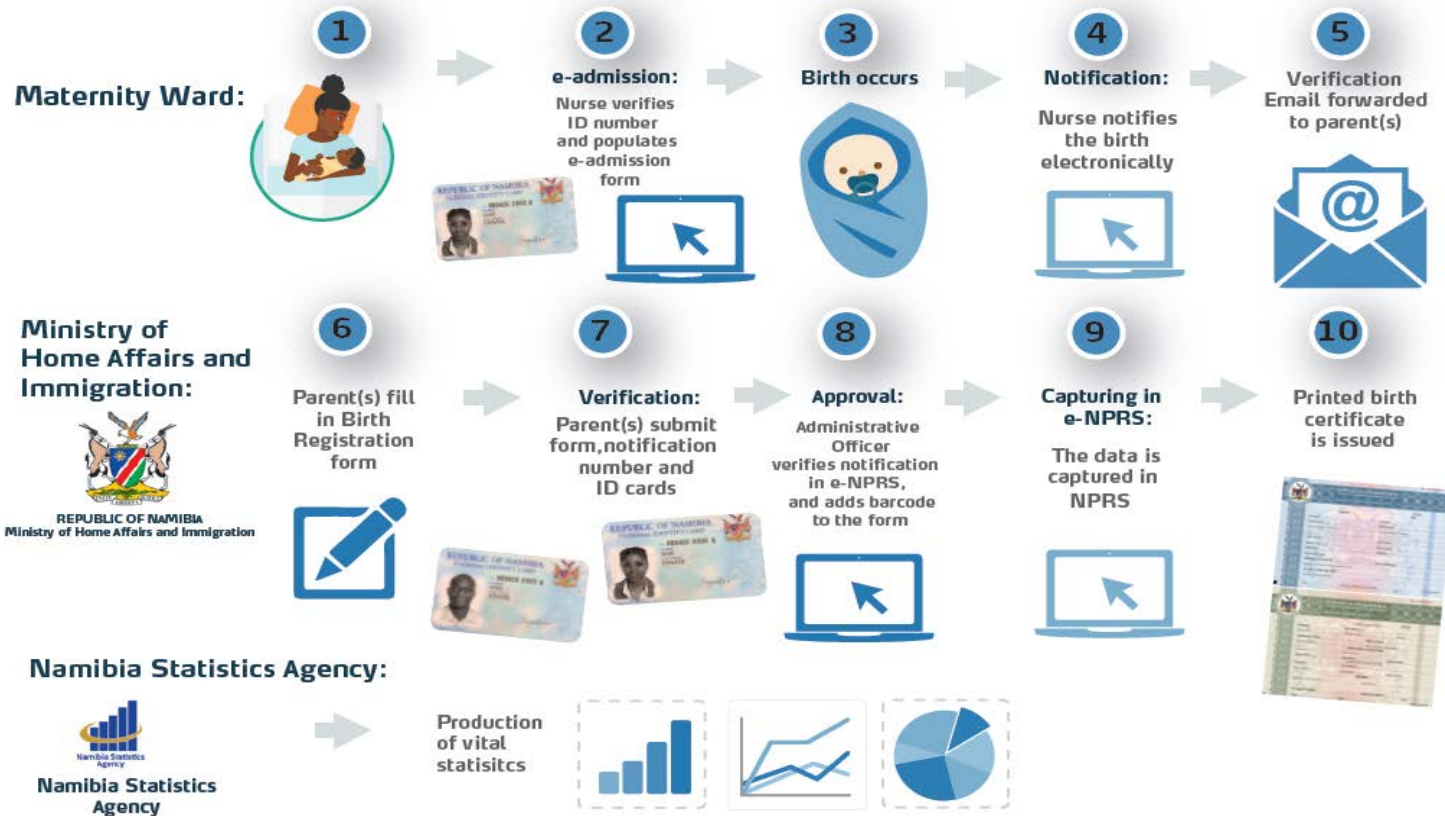


Link between Civil Registration, Civil Identification and Vital Statistics

- Key:
- (1) Legal (Foundational) registries
 - (2) Administrative (Functional) registries
 - (3) CN: Civil Notification Data
 - (4) CR: Civil Registration Data
 - (5) ID: Identity Data

e-birth notification system

Process: Notification & Registration of Birth



Administrative and Legal Initiatives

- Through consultations and assessment of cases, guidelines and principles have been agreed upon and implemented, in order to ensure that all individual only have one legal identity . (Age Committee)
- As part of the law reform, new processes will put in place, limitations to corrections/amendments, permission to re-construction of records, and corrections of property regime through court.
- The Namibia Statistics Agency, through utilising the records of the eNPRS has pointed out entry errors in the system, and supported in setting up edit controls

Thank you!

