South Africa’s Progress in Civil Registration

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Overview

- Role players in the Statistical Environment
- The South African CRVS system
- Notification, registration and issuance of birth certificates
- Improvements in CRVS in SA
- Identity Life cycle
Role players in the Statistical Environment

Besides the use of Statistics a well functioning CR system has wide ranging benefits

Government

- Appoints SG
- Removes SG

Minister

- Approves Work Programme on advice of the SG & Council
- Manages performance of the SG
- Appoints the Council

Statistician-General

- Execute the Statistics Act
- Exercises independence
- Defends statistical methods & best practice
- Responsible for official and other statistics

Statistics Council

- Safeguards official statistics
- Advises both Minister and the SG
- Independent of Stats SA
South Africa’s civil registration system covers all vital events; vital statistics produced for births, deaths (including causes of death), marriages and divorces.

System is well coordinated and largely manual (paper based).
Key Beneficiaries of SA’s CR system

Besides the use of Statistics a well functioning CR system has wide ranging benefits

1. Department of Basic Education
   - Birth certificate for admission in school
   - Identity document for Matric students to sit for final exams

2. Department of Social Development
   - Provision of comprehensive social services which protect the poor and vulnerable
     - Birth certificate for access to child grants
     - Identity documents for access to old age grants and disability grants
     - Death certificate (e.g. for foster care grant)

3. Independent Electoral Commission
   - Biometric system for voter identification

4. Banking systems
   - Biometric system for identification and verification of individuals

STATS SA
Statistics South Africa

NDP
The South Africa I know, the home I understand
High level overview South African Civil Registration system
The Nation Population Register play a crucial role the functioning of the CRVS
The National Identity System (NIS) will replace the current national population register and will draw data, in real time, from the civic registration and immigration systems. Given the rapid advance of the fourth industrial revolution the National Identity System must be digital, integrated and operate in the cyber environment using e-identity. The system will be a critical enabler of access to efficient services and inclusive economic growth.

*Dept of Home Affairs, White Paper 2019*
Registration of vital events requires a number of role-players
Status of SA Civil Registration (Key Indicators)

Besides the use of Statistics a well functioning CR system has wide ranging benefits

1. **BIRTHS**
   - 88.6% Completeness
   - 78% Within 30 days

2. **DEATHS**
   - 96% Completeness (Adult)
   - 77.5% within 72 Hours
   - 13.2% unspecified CoD
   - 47% Drs trained in certification (2014)

3. **MARRIAGES**
   - Challenge of Estimating denominator
   - Delayed submission of marriage registers

4. **DIVORCES**
   - Not prioritised (Ownership)
   - Lack of awareness for downstream processes

Concerted efforts to improve the quality of data (e.g. training in cause-of-death certification & key stakeholder collaboration)
SA has benefited from a number of initiatives aimed at improving CRVS
Improvements in registration of vital events

A number of initiatives combined have resulted in greater registration of vital events

- Comprehensive CRVS legislation, consistently amended
- Demand of registration documents to access social services
- Mobilisation by DHA... of the nation to adhere to civil registration laws through national campaigns and outreach programmes

- Institutionalisation of key role players, Traditional Authorities (Completion of DHA 1680)
- Funeral Undertakers (Section 22 officers)
- Clear roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders
- Legislated instruments/forms and well documented processes
- Increase in civil registration service delivery points (e.g. hospitals, mobile units, Thusong centres)
- Improved turnaround times for births and deaths registrations.
Examples of Dramatic Improvement in Birth Registrations

LATE REGISTRATIONS PEAKED TO 78% IN 1998 DROPPING TO 9% IN 2017.

Source Recorded Live Births, 2017
Improvements in CRVS was a *Key Phase of the African Symposia on Statistical Development*

*Country-led initiative that gave rise to discuss technical matters of statistical development 
Platform for Harmonisation, Cooperation and Coordination within Africa*
Ndzi hela kwala!