

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-third session

Item 3 (f) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: civil registration, vital statistics and statelessness statistics

Document E/CN.3/2022/9 – Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the UN Legal Identity Agenda – Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

Statement provided by:

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Statement:

- (a) Malaysia would like to welcome the report and to convey our note of appreciation for the effort made by the Economic and Social Council. The report serves as a guide in strengthening the national civil registration systems and the production of accurate national vital statistics despite the COVID-19 pandemic.
- (b) The pandemic also brought an unexpected challenge to civil registration processes in many countries, highlighting the need for a resilient system, especially considering the importance of accurate and real-time data. The National Registration Department (NRD) was not listed as essential services as stipulated in the Federal Constitution of Malaysia. Thus, the registration for births and deaths are only available by appointment during the pandemic. This meant the births and deaths data accessible by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) represented only a fraction of the expected births and deaths.
- (c) The Ministry of Health (MOH) registers and keeps records of births within and outside its facilities as well as deaths within its facilities. Meanwhile, the Royal Malaysian Police (RMP) registers and keeps records of deaths outside health facilities. The records are transmitted online to NRD for issuance of births and deaths certificates. However, DOSM has access to the consolidated and verified records at NRD but not raw records at MOH and RMP. There is a need to further strengthen the collaboration with the stakeholders and the potential to have access to their data in such a time of emergency. CRVS stakeholders in Malaysia have learnt the importance to heighten CRVS data sharing and thus, data sharing agreement was formalised between MOH and DOSM. This will certainly lead to a more resilient vital statistics system. Malaysia will also continue to make improvements and modernisation for the civil registration and vital statistics systems; including digitization and integration with administrative and survey data, while recognizing the importance of systematic planning for ICT.
- (d) DOSM as a source of Malaysia's official statistics continues to produce the Vital Statistics Report quarterly and annually every year. In the absence of complete and timely data, DOSM has estimated the data by using 10-year time series data and considering the current situation, for example, the rate of road accidents has dropped by nearly 70 per cent during Movement Control Order (MCO).

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(e) Malaysia appreciates the effort shown by the task force which contributes to and supports global and regional events related to the implementation of the agenda.

Submitted on:	2/24/2022
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