

**TOPIC: KENYA'S EXPERIENCE IN IDENTIFICATION AND  
REGISTRATION OF PERSONS**

**PRESENTED TO: The 1<sup>ST</sup> GOVERNMENT FORUM ON ELECTRONIC  
IDENTITY CARDS IN AFRICA**

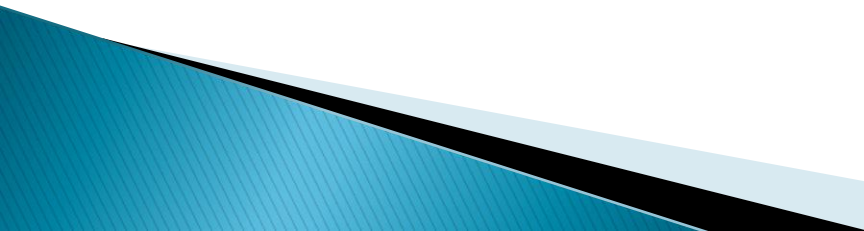
**VENUE: DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA**

**PRESENTED BY: MR. REUBEN M. KIMOTHO, OGW  
DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL REGISTRATION, KENYA**

**DATE: 2ND -4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2015**



# 1.0 Introduction

- ▶ Identification and registration of persons in Kenya is traced back to 1915.
  - ▶ The British colonial Government passed the Native Registration Ordinance which made it mandatory for all male Africans of 16 years and above to register and carry identification papers.
  - ▶ Identity cards were introduced for the purpose of controlling the movement of Africans, facilitating payment of Hut tax and recruitment of male Africans into colonial labour.
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## Intro. Cont..

- ▶ The Registration of Persons Ordinance, Cap. 50 of 1947 required all male persons including Europeans of 16 years and above to register
- ▶ In 1978, the Act was amended to provide for compulsory identification, registration and issuance of identity cards to both male and female persons who are citizens of Kenya and have attained the age of 16 years. The Act also created the department of National Registration Bureau registered citizens.

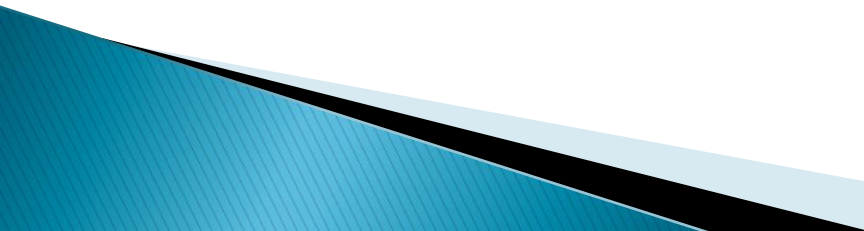
## 2.0 Importance of Identity cards

- ▶ Identity cards play an important role in the security, social, economic and political development of the country by identifying Kenya citizens, facilitating voting process and promoting economic activities.

## 3.0 Key Achievements

- ▶ Issuing and maintenance of a register of 24 million valid 2<sup>nd</sup> generation identity cards to eligible Kenyans , representing coverage of 95% of the registrable population.
- ▶ Establishment of a unique Automated Fingerprint identification System (AFIS) composed of citizens', Aliens' and Refugees' databases;
- ▶ Upgrading of identity card processing and production sub systems to 60,000 identity cards per day;

## **achievements cont..**

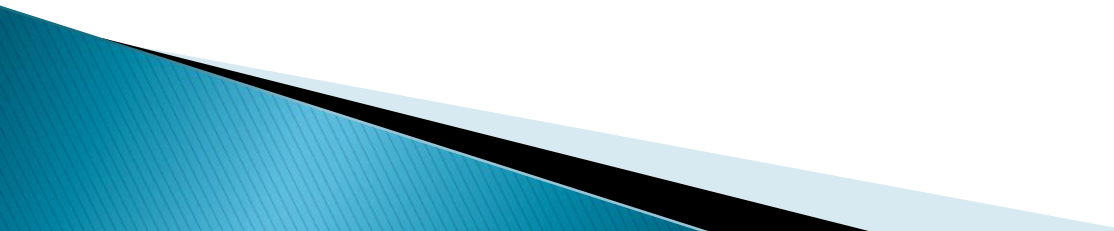
- ▶ Migration of 24 million records to the Integrated Population Registration System which is an electronic depository of data generated by all population registration agencies;
  - ▶ Production of refugees' identification cards and Aliens' certificates; and
  - ▶ Issuance of civil servants' identification cards and staff badges.
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## 4.0 Key Challenges

The main challenges that the department is facing include:

- ▶ Cases of illegal registration (ranging from double registration to foreign nationals attempting to acquire identity cards illegally) and increase in counterfeits and forged identity cards;
- ▶ Presence of un-documented foreign Nationals from all parts of the world, Refugees and a sizeable number of persons alleging to be stateless (i.e. Makonde in Coast region);

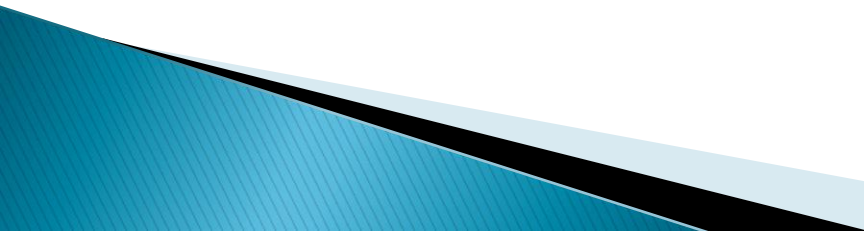
## Challenges cont..

- ▶ Manual registration in the field which is slow and cumbersome ;
  - ▶ Insufficient resources such as vehicles and budgetary provisions; and
  - ▶ Procurement obstacles resulting from competition among electronic identity card solution providers. This has delayed the introduction of electronic identity cards in Kenya.
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## 5.0 Registration process

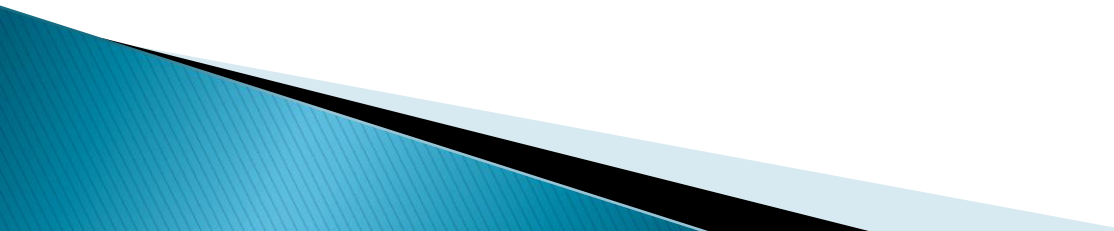
There are four categories of applications for identity cards, namely:

- ▶ Initial registration;
  - ▶ Replacement;
  - ▶ Duplicates-resulting from lost, defaced or mutilated cards ;and
  - ▶ Change of particulars resulting from change of name(s) and residence.
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## Registration process cont..

- ▶ Positive identification of all persons seeking first registration is one of the key pillars of the identification process in Kenya. A lot of care is taken to ensure that only eligible citizens are registered and issued with identity cards.
- ▶ All persons seeking initial registration are required to prove their citizenship , age and be positively identified by local National Government Administration officers(Assistant chiefs, Chiefs and County Commissioners) before they are registered.
- ▶ Applicants in border and cosmopolitan areas undergo vetting by identification committees comprising local elders, Immigration officers, Registration officers and local security personnel.

## Registration process cont..

- ▶ Application forms are completed manually in field stations and then forwarded to the production centre;
  - ▶ The application forms undergo quality check and verification at the production centre to ensure that they comply with all legal provisions and procedures before they are processed.
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## 6.0 The proposed electronic Identity card system (3<sup>rd</sup> generation)

The proposed System shall entail automation of the registration and identification processes through:

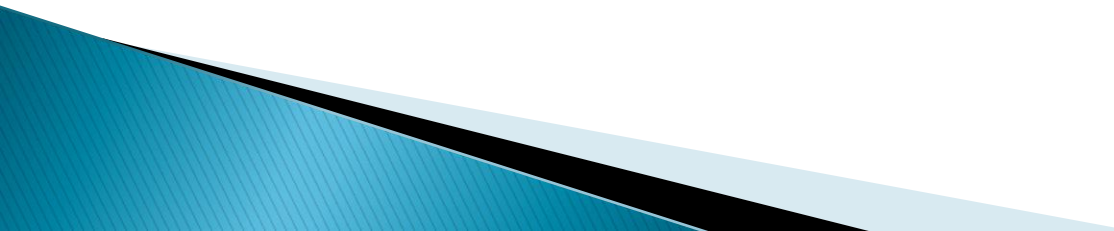
- ▶ installation of live data capture equipment in field offices;
- ▶ upgrading of the current centralized semi-automated production centre and automated Biometric Identification System to a smart card personalization and production facility. The two will be supported by more robust and appropriate operating systems.

## **7.0 Benefits of the proposed electronic identity card system**

- ▶ Enhanced security of identity cards and in the country
- ▶ Increased efficiency in registration and card issuance process by allowing for data transmission in real time.
- ▶ will lead to issuance of a secure multi-application smart ID card that can be used as a voters' card; driving license and as a traveling document within East African Countries.

It is also important to point out that upgrading to the new system will involve cleansing and validation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation identity card database.

## 8.0 WAY FORWARD

- ▶ There is urgent need to introduce an electronic identity card system in Kenya in order to embrace the best international practices in the issuance of documents of personal identification.
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**THE END**

**THANK YOU**