



**DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIR  
COUNTRY STATEMENT 2**

**FOR  
MINISTERIAL SEGMENT ON POLICY PRIORITIES FOR  
IMPROVING CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS  
IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

**POLICY PRIORITIES FOR IMPROVING REGISTRATION  
AND VITAL STATISTICS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

Your Excellency Dr Shamshad Akhtar,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Ministers,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parties for convening this meeting and the opportunity to update members on initiatives by the Malaysian Government on streamlining and contemporizing civil registration and collation of vital statistics in Malaysia to ensure timely and accurate data.

2. Cognizant of the importance of vital statistics to the sustainable development and well-being of our Nation and its people, the Government of Malaysia has embarked on improving and structuring civil registration and vital statistics systems since civil registration was first made mandatory by law in the three (3) Straits Settlement states of Singapore, Penang and Malacca in the late 1860s. The administration of civil registration and vital statistics remains a requisite and central priority for good governance, thus the relevant structure and systems are consistently reviewed and enhanced through the years when manual records were maintained and to the

present use of ICT to record all significant events of an individual in every niche of the country.

3. Since the enactment of the Births and Deaths Ordinance 1884 of North Borneo, Ordinance on Registration of Births and Deaths in 1869 in the Straits Settlement and Order No. 111 Registration of Births and Deaths 1910 for Sarawak, various legal instruments have been put in place to enable structured and systematic civil registrations up to this date. Currently Malaysia has 20 legal instruments to legislate and facilitate CRVS in Malaysia.

4. Besides putting in place the legal framework, strategic networking of all relevant agencies to coordinate policies and programs has been put in place to ensure effective coordination and implementation in CRVS. The National Registration Department (NRD) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Department of Statistics, the Ministry of Health, The Royal Malaysian Police, Economic Planning Unit under the Prime Minister's Department, The Attorney-General's Office and other agencies such as the Department for Development of Indigenous People share information, collaborate and

coordinate programs and activities to enhance not only public services but also collation of vital information.

5. To date, NRD which plays a pivotal role in CRVS has a total of more than 126 million records including births, deaths, adoptions and marriages. The records were collected and kept by the Department dates back to the 1800s till this day; 27th November 2014!

## Excellencies

6. In terms of government and political commitment, I can state here that the Malaysian government supported by the legislature and administrators are in sync in terms of the importance of CRVS towards better governance and these commitments and collaboration on policies, development and budgetary plans are evident at all levels; federal, state and district.

7. But, similar to other developing countries, Malaysia faces various challenges in capturing vital information of all

individuals in the country largely due to geographical, resource and communication barriers.

8. Nevertheless, these challenges have not hampered efforts by the Government to further improve Malaysia's CRVS systems and public services. Allow me to share Malaysia's initiatives and some of the effective strategies that we have applied over the years. Malaysia has managed to use the data and information from our CRVS systems to steer the country towards economic and social development.

## Excellencies

9. Malaysia's success in establishing and maintaining a robust CRVS system is not only due to our policies, commitment and strategic plans but also due to the application of ICT extensively in all developments including in our CRVS systems. When Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) program was mooted and launched in 1996 to accelerate the objectives of our Vision 2020 to transform Malaysia into a developed nation by the year 2020, ICT was an absolute pre-requisite towards our goals.

10. The National Registration Department was one of the agencies that benefitted from the Government's push for the pervasive use of ICT in all aspects of administration and economy, by fully adopting ICT in its systems. Currently the Department runs 10 ICT systems to ensure operations in 229 centers with 1400 counters for registrations in all parts of the country. In addition, the Department has mobile outreach programs to ensure coverage in rural towns or remote areas. This year alone, 230 mobile outreach programs were done in remote areas in the country.

11. Malaysia recognizes that we still have more rooms for improvement for our CRVS management and we look forward to exchanging and learning more from the discourse in this notable conference. We commend this initiative to bring together governments and organizations to set The Way Forward for collaboration in improving CRVS by all countries.

Thank you.