Changes to the Legislation

There will be legal provisions established to protect the use and misuse of personal information. Parliament will enact new legislation and regulations related to identity management, verification and data sharing. Existing laws related to identity management and storage will be reviewed and amended if necessary. Data Sharing Agreements will be established among government entities.

Support

The implementation of the National Identification System is a collaborative effort that involves various Ministries and Agencies. These include:

1. Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency
2. Registrar General’s Department
3. Electoral Office of Jamaica
4. Ministry of Labour and Social Security
5. eGov Jamaica Limited
6. Tax Administration Jamaica
7. Planning Institute of Jamaica

Need Further Information?

Contact the NIDS Project Team:
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National Identification System (NIDS) Project
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What Is It?

The National Identification System or NIDS will be a national database of all Jamaicans, providing each citizen with a unique National Identification Number. A NIDS is a secure and reliable way to verify a person's identity.

Personal information as well as biometric data in the form of a fingerprint for each individual will be collected and stored in the national database alongside their unique number. Persons will be required to use their national identification number when transacting business at any government office. Eventually, a multi-purpose smart card will be used along with the number.

The National Identification System is funded by the Inter-Development Bank and the Government of Jamaica.

How can it help?

1. Creates a reliable database of Jamaican citizens with a unique NIN as the key identifier for everyone.

2. Enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of government agencies, and the management and delivery of government services to the public. This will include programme benefits, creating linkages between entities and providing the following services: Citizen to Government G2G, Government to Government G2G, Government to Business G2B and Government to Citizen G2C, among others.

3. Facilitates the growth and development of commerce and economic activity through a platform of greater security and integrity for public-private partnerships.

4. Strengthens immigration, border control management and public and national safety

5. Facilitates increased compliance of citizens responsibility to state obligations such as payment of taxes.

Benefits for Citizens

1. Protects citizens by reducing identity theft and preventing them from being misidentified in a crime situation.

2. Reduces the need for multiple registrations to access government benefits.

3. Gives all citizens a secure and reliable system to prove their identity.

4. Provides quicker and easier access to government services.

Benefits for Government

1. Minimizes capacity for persons to assume multiple identities.

2. Prevents illegal activities like money laundering and tax evasion.

3. Simplifying the government’s processes and eliminating paper costs and administrative tasks by reducing the need to register for each benefit and/or obligation.

4. Helps in the fight against crime by giving relevant authorities access to a secure database that captures civil and biometric data of citizens and residents in Jamaica.

Why Do We Need It?

The country needs to have a reliable and secure means of verifying and authenticating the identity of its citizens. Without this system, persons are more likely to assume multiple identities, engage in identity theft and commit fraud.

In addition, the systems now in place are not connected across Ministries and Agencies, with each government entity issuing different numbers and logistical and legal barriers that prevents them from sharing information. This lack of inter-connectivity results in inefficiency in the management and operations of government offices, and transactions are time-consuming for Jamaicans.