**National Citizen Database**

**Citizen Data Collection Initiative – Enabling Citizen-Friendly Government Service**

**Action Plan for Implementing a National Citizen Database & Data Collection Initiative for Key Government Stakeholders.**

**June 7, 2021**

**Table of Contents**

[1. Background 3](#_Toc73997122)

[2. Introduction 3](#_Toc73997123)

[3. Progress of the initiatives. 4](#_Toc73997124)

[4. Existing Citizen Data Collection Initiative 4](#_Toc73997125)

[4.1 Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity (SL-UDI) 4](#_Toc73997126)

[4.2 eGN – eGramaNiladhari System. 5](#_Toc73997127)

[4.3 Social Registry Information System(Sris) 6](#_Toc73997128)

[5. Action Items & Responsibility 7](#_Toc73997129)

# Background

Various government organizations collect data from citizens to process citizen’s applications to provide government services and government organizations to perform their functions. This data consists of common data as well as organizations and programme specific data held by various government custodian authorities. Since the government organizations collect the data at different timespans using diverse approaches, it could lead to data duplications, data redundancy and data inconsistencies.

National Policy Framework Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour-(2020-2025) clearly articulated the use of digital technology for enabling citizen-friendly government services. Further, Presidential Secretariat circular PS/GPA/Circular/01/2020 has provided clear guidelines for all government organization to **“Eliminate duplication of IT related work by several agencies and minimize the cost of repeated data collection and data entry effort”.**Therefore, the main objective of this project is to collect all the data related to the citizens at once, and update periodically as demand by the data custodians by creating a comprehensive National Citizen Database which would be managed & maintained by the ICT Agency of Sri Lanka on behalf of the relevant data custodians. Once the National Citizen DataBase is in operations that also formed the basis for creating the Sri Lanka Unique Digital ID framework that biometric would incorporate at a future date. It is proposed to design this database so that amendment to the database could also be performed when new requirements arise, having a foolproof digital ledger technology incorporated to manage the integrity of the data.

# Introduction

Under the patronage of the Hon. Namal Rajapaksha, Minister of Youth & Sports, & State Minister of Digital Technology & Entrepreneur Development, a meeting was organized at the Prime Minister’s office with key stakeholders of various government organizations 24th of May 2021, to discuss the way forward of implanting a National Citizen Database initiative to ***Eliminate duplication of IT related work by several agencies and minimize the cost of repeated data collection and data entry effort.***

**Stakeholders**

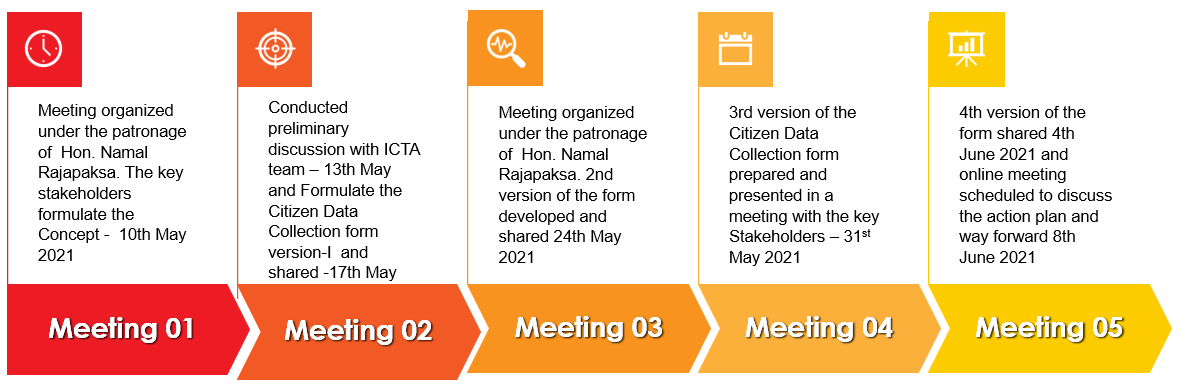
1. Ministry of Public Services, Provincial Councils and Local Government
2. State Ministry of Home Affairs
3. Department of Registration of Persons.
4. Registrar General's Department
5. Department of Samurdhi Development
6. Department of Census and Statistics
7. Ministry of Finance
8. Ministry of Technology
9. ICT Agency of Sri Lanka

As per the meeting minutes of the same meeting (PMO/DEV/1/1/10), this action plan discussed the important aspect of the National Citizen Database and Data Collection initiatives and its time Frame.

# Progress of the initiatives.

The Sri Lankan government has identified and aware of the costs, errors and missed opportunities associated with duplicate data and repeated data collection. Records of citizens and government services and more are duplicated in multiple systems due to a compartmentalized operational of government information systems. No mechanism exists to identify each citizen's unique and associated attributes across systems, and no proactive steps are taken to prevent duplicate records.

With the direction of the political and professional leadership, the ICT Agency of Sri Lanka has worked with the six government organizations to draft a single form identifying and removing the duplicates and repeated information gathering in existing citizens' data collection forms.



# Existing Citizen Data Collection Initiative

There are three main national level citizen data collection initiatives have been identified as the initial and key contributors of the proposed initiative. Hence it is proposed to Integrate the National Citizen Database to the existing data collection initiating un-touching the core systems developed by the respective data custodian agencies (Ex Ministry of Home affairs, Ministry of Public Services, Provincial Councils and Local Government….etc as per the respective cabinet decisions)

## Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity (SL-UDI)

The envisaged “digital democracy” will be achieved by building an inclusive and trusted Digital ID framework, including civil registration, using multi-sectoral approaches and leveraging digital solutions that are applicable and add value to the day to day lives of the masses. It is a well-established fact that the Digital ID directly supports countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Target 16.9: “By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration,” and in making progress towards dozens of other targets such as poverty elimination, reduced inequalities, enhance gender equality and women’s empowerment, safe and orderly migration, universal health coverage, and financial inclusion, among others.

Therefore, priority has been given for a national level program for the establishment of a Unique Digital Identity Framework for Sri Lanka (SL-UDI). For this purpose, a Programme Preparation Committee (PPC) has been appointed by His Excellency the President and the Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA) has been appointed to function as the implementation /execution agency.

The Department for Registration of Persons (DRP) has been vested with powers by the Registration of Persons Act No. 32 of 1968 to secure the identity of persons. The Electronic National Identity Card (e-NIC) Project which had been granted approval by the Cabinet of Ministers (Cabinet Paper No. 11/1611/503/088 dated 27.07.2011) intended among others, to establish a secured centralized National Register of Persons (NRP) of citizens with biographic and biometrics data. Therefore, the PPC has identified the DRP to be a key stakeholder of the SL-UDI Project

## eGN – eGramaNiladhari System.

Enhancing the ICT accessibility at the grass root level government officers, such as Grama Niladharis, and enabling to carry out their duties by using ICTs will be a sustaining linkage in providing Government services to the people more conveniently, in both urban and rural settings.

e-Grama Niladari (eGN) project has been implemented by the State Ministry of Home Affairs with the technical and project management consultancy of the ICT Agency of Sri Lanka. The Cabinet of Ministers approved the Memorandum No. 21/0503/303/039 submitted by His Excellency the President in his capacity as the Minister of Defense, of whom State ministry of Home Affairs ro continue implementing the eGN project as planned, fulfilling several key policy, legal, logistic and financial requirements.

The same Cabinet Memorandum sought the approval to make arrangements related to issuing necessary regulations under the Electronic Transaction Act No. 19 of 2006 by the Ministry of Technology, to enforce the required official applications through scanning and electronically / information submitted by citizens using the household data collection form and other strategies of the project.

## Social Registry Information System(SRIS)

Government of Sri Lanka conduct several social safety and welfare programmes to its citizen. There are about 36 welfare programs spent over Rs. 160 billion per year. Welfare Benefit Board of the Ministry of Finance manage the welfare programs in different government organisations centrally. There is no mechanism to ensure the right people are selected for the beneficiary schemes and receiving the eligible benefits.

With Integrated Welfare Management System, the data is being updated periodically, and records will be reviewed to ensure that only eligible beneficiaries remain. The System will increase efficiency and transparency in beneficiary selections. This will enhance the services and benefits given by the Government to the citizens of Sri Lanka (G2C). Increased beneficiary number has an input to the country poverty levels and other Indicators. Develop software solution for managing social welfare schemes is a DLI / World Bank, for funding.

This project will be developed and established Integrated Welfare Management System to facilitate entry and updating of beneficiary data and application of the new selection criteria to determine program eligibility. It will provide poverty scores for the distributers like Elderly,Samurdhi,Disable and Kidney. It was decided to provide ICTA technical support for the current four steps strategy

1. **Initiate:** Transfer the Available Electronic Information on to the SRIS System,
2. **Create:** Update the Available Electronic Information to 2021 Information,
3. **Maintain:** Ensure the updated 2021 Information is continuously kept updated
4. **Expand:** Register the balance 20 odd social safety net assistance programs within the IWMS System

As a decision of Project Steering Committee – 4th June 2019, it was decided to complete the project with 2 Iterations out of 3 Iterations. WBB signed off the UAT final acceptance for Iteration 2 and WBB has initiated the carryout of support and maintenance contract with the supplier.As a decision of Project Steering Committee on 31st March 2021,it was decided complete remining targets activities before the 30th June 2022.

# Action Items & Responsibility

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Action Items** | **Responsibility** |
| 1 | **Finalizing the Data Collection Form** | All Stakeholders |
| 1.1 | Finalizing Data Collection fields |
| 1.2 | Obtain Written Confirmation from the Stakeholders on Finalized Fields |
| 1.3 | Finalizing possible answers and options of each Questions in the form |
| 1.4 | Obtain Written Confirmation from the Stakeholders on Finalized Form |
| **2** | **Developing the Data Collection Methodology** | Department of Census and Statistics & all stakeholders |
| 2.1 | Review Finalized questions and answers |
| 2.2 | Develop data collection and validation methodology |
| 2.3 | Data Collection and validation guideline |
| **3** | **Cabinet Approval and Budget Allocation** | Minister of Technology & Ministry of Home affairs |
| 3.1 | Submit Joint cabinet paper & get the approval |
| 3.2 | NPD Approval for the Project Proposal and Procurement items | ICT Agency of Sri Lanka |
| **4** | **Development of Legal Framework and Amendment of Relevant Acts** | ICTA & All stakeholders |
| 4.1 | Review Existing Legal Frame for against National Citizen Database requirement and identify gaps |
| 4.2 | Develop required legal instruments. |
| **5** | **Designing of the Database & Data Entry App** | ICTA |
| 5.1 | Database Implementation |
| 5.2 | Data Entry Application Development |
| 5.3 | Stakeholder Application Integration to the Database |
| **6** | **Procurement of Devices (14000)** | Ministry of Home affairs & Ministry of Technology |
| 6.1 | Publish Tender for devices procurement |
| 6.2 | Award Contract |
| 6.3 | Delivery of the Devices |
| **7** | **Data collection** | Ministry of Home affairs, ICTA  & other stakeholders |
| 7.1 | Procurement of Training Partners |
| 7.2 | Development of training material |
| 7.3 | Conduct training for GNs |
| 7.4 | Data Collection |