INTERNATIONAL IDENTITY DAY - 16.9

Compiled by the World Bank Group’s Identification for Development (ID4D) initiative, the Global ID4D Dataset provides a global estimate for the number of individuals without proof of legal identity.

In 2018, there was an estimated 1 billion people worldwide without an official proof of identity.

So, what does it mean?

An undeclared person is “invisible” to the government of his country.

Many policy decisions such as number of schools to build or healthcare facilities are based on statistics derived from the civil status database.

A blatantly off track census will give false indications to policymakers and thereby the quality of life of citizens will be negatively impacted due to inappropriate developmental measures.

A birth certificate is the proof of judicial existence and grants to a person his nationality and all benefits attributed to a citizen of a country.

About the recognition of 16 September as International Identity Day (ID Day).

At the 4th Annual Meeting of the ID4Africa Movement held in Abuja Nigeria in April 2018, a call for recognizing 16 September as International Identity Day was initiated by ID4Africa.

This day of observance was declared on the basis that every cause that is worthy in society is commemorated except identity.

The date September 16 -- 16.9 -- was selected in tribute to the UN SDG 16.9 which calls for legal identity for all by 2030, including free birth registration.

ID Day is also about commemorating our judicial existence which gives us access to our privileges as Mauritian. Compared to countries around the world, our civil status system can boast a quasi 100% registration rate in civil status registration.

Keep up the good work! Happy Identity Day to you all!

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