



2021 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

Training of Enumerators for Pilot Census

Welcome Remarks

By

District Commissioner

7th of October 2021



Director of Ceremonies,

(District Protocols to be observed and greetings mentioned accordingly)

District Census Officers

District Census Matrons

District Census IT Officers

All Statistics Botswana Census Officials

Trainee Enumerators

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good Morning,

1. On behalf of the Government of Botswana, the District Administration Authorities, Statistics Botswana, and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to welcome you to this training. The training is of enumerators for the pilot census exercise. It is a great honour for me to welcome you all to this momentous training workshop on the 2021 Population and Housing Census (PHC). This training is one of the most important indicators of progress in the implementation of the census program. It signals the materialization of the long awaited **second** field

implementation of the project, after the **first**, which was the cartographic exercise already completed in April 2021.

Director of Ceremonies,

2. Let me take this moment to inform the participants that the 2021 PHC is a series of censuses that Botswana conducts every 10 years. The 2021 Census is the 6th to be conducted since independence. The last census was in 2011. Like other censuses before, the 2021 Census is a government project that is provided for by the Census Act of 1904 and Statistics Act of 2009. Moreover, census taking is enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Botswana in Sections 64 and 65 as an important project that facilitates a foundation for democratic representation.

3. Given that the census is a national government exercise, it is accordingly implemented by the District Commissioners in their respective districts. Statistics Botswana, being the National Statistical Office is entrusted with the responsibility to coordinate the project, and hence, the Statistician General (SG) is the Principal Investigator responsible to Government for the conduct of the census. The National Census Coordinator (NCC), appointed by the SG, is responsible for overall oversight of the project implementation at the Districts and in liaison with the

broad spectrum of partners and stakeholders across the country. To this end, the District Commissioners are Census Returning Officers in their respective areas of authority. The District Commissioners have in turn appointed the District Census Officers (DCOs) to be responsible for the day to day execution of the census program in the districts.

Director of Ceremonies,

4.The pilot census follows a trail of meetings, workshops, and discussions with all stakeholders and role players, since the project was incepted in 2019. Although the COVID-19 Pandemic presented serious challenges, among which principals are, operational and budgetary, we are grateful to see ourselves here today getting ready to go to the field during October 2021, to conduct the pilot census.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5.We have assembled here today primarily to train enumerators in the administration of the census instruments in order to collect information from the households. As enumerators, you are the most important personnel in this project because firstly; you are the medium of linkage between the members of the public, at household level, and the Offices of the District Commissioner and Statistics Botswana. Secondly you are

responsible to collect information that is chiefly needed as baseline for development policy and program formulation.

6. Based on the foregoing the success of the project depends on your commitment to learning and mastering processes during the training, and, your subsequent zeal to perform meticulously during the process of enumeration.

Director of Ceremonies,

7. Please allow me to further mention this to the trainees, that; as you have been informed at the districts that engaged you, you have been recruited as trainee enumerators. You will undergo intensive training from today, the 7th, to the 19th of October 2021 and at the end, a test will be administered to select those who will be appointed as enumerators. The selection criterion will be based on best performance, and not necessarily that, those who do not get selected would have failed. Thus, it is ardently important that you listen attentively during the training sessions, attend to exercises or assignments, read the enumerators manual, and seek clarifications as and when you need to do so at any point in time during and outside class sessions. Statistics Botswana personnel in its different categories of cadre is here to train you in all technical matters

of the pilot exercise and administration of the questionnaire in its electronic form using tablets.

Director of Ceremonies,

8. As I conclude, let me register my appreciation and congratulate our revered trainee enumerators for having been successfully invited to this training. I also wish to thank the Statistics Botswana and district census officials for their relentless efforts to eventually taking the 2021 Census project to this point amid so many challenges, among which, was COVID-19 pandemic, and still is. This demonstrates determination and resilient disposition to driving this mammoth national undertaking, and I wish to implore us all to continue in the same cohesive team spirit and propel the census project to the end.

9. You are all aware of the pandemic, COVID 19 that is facing us as a country. Our Government has done all it can to avoid the spread of the disease. Protocols have been put in place and the vaccination program continues to be rolled out. I would like to congratulate all those who have taken a deliberate decision to vaccinate, either on their own or through arrangements that have been made for them.

Like it has always been pointed out, this vaccination is not a cure but at least it allows our bodies to fight the disease, should

one get infected. I encourage all of us to observe all COVID-19 protocols throughout this training and also during enumeration and beyond. Let us protect ourselves and those around us.

10. Finally, I look forward to your full participation in this training for the next 13 days and your subsequent involvement to the end of pilot census enumeration.

Ladies and gentlemen,

11. At this juncture I am happy to declare this training officially opened and wish you all to have successful deliberations and a pleasant stay.

12. Let us all observe COVID-19 protocols and stay safe.

13. I thank you.