

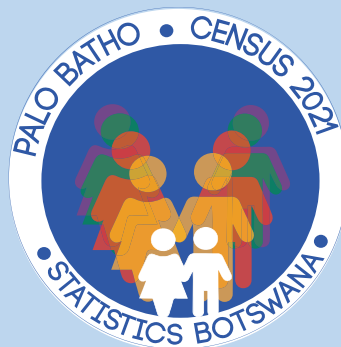


2022 Population and Housing Census Launch Welcome Remarks

By

Statistician General

Dr Burton S. Mguni



Mpala, Ke Botlhokwa

Director of Ceremonies,

**Honourable Minister of Finance and Economic
Development, Ms. Peggy Serame**

**Permanent Secretary of MFED, Dr. Wilfred Mandlebe
District Commissioner, Gaborone District Ms. Grace
Seitshiro**

The UNFPA Representative, Mr. Innocent Modisaotsile

Executives of MFED and staff here present,

National Census Coordinator, Ms. Phetogo Zambezi

Executives of Statistics Botswana and staff here present,

Members of the 4th Estate, the media,

All invited guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning,

1. It is a great pleasure for me to welcome everyone who is here and in the extended virtual audience to the launch of the 2022 Botswana Population and Housing Census. This is indeed a very important day in the census programme.
2. This is the first census that Statistics Botswana is undertaking as a body corporate, and is also the country's first census to utilize digital technological applications to enhance the quality of data and significantly speed up production and disseminating results.
3. The last census and all past censuses were undertaken by the Central Statistics Organization, the predecessor organisation to Statistics Botswana. Many of you will recall that the last census was conducted in 2011, where paper based data collection instruments and maps were used.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. A Population and Housing Census is a massive exercise which involves many participants including various

government ministries, members of the public, suppliers, service providers as well as many temporary staff. Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies are stakeholders in the preparation and conduct of the census. Members of the Public constitutes respondents in their respective households. Suppliers provide the required materials such as Tablets, uniform and software and Service providers provide services such as internet, transport and accommodation and others. Temporary staff will include 6774 enumerators who will collect the data at the households; 1505 Supervisors who will train and supervise enumerators and 152 drivers who will provide driving services for delivery of material and personnel.

5. Preparations for the census began three years prior to the original planned census month of August 2021 with the pilot of the cartographic exercise in 2018 followed by the actual exercise from March 2019 to April 2021. The cartographic exercise, forms the core to the success of a census. Its primary objective is to identify dwelling units, map them, and delineate Enumeration Areas (EAs) across the country. An enumeration area is a smallest geographic area

demarcated to represent the workload of an enumerator. The workload consists of the minimum number dwellings (malwapa) that the enumerator is expected to traverse and interview all the households during the period of enumeration. The average EA size is 350 dwellings in cities, towns, and villages, and 150 dwellings in rural lands, cattle posts and farm areas.

Director of Ceremonies

6. The work on what data is to be collected in this census started in 2019. To ensure that the data collected through the census is relevant and fit for purpose, a rigorous consultative process with a broad range of stakeholders at both the district and national levels on various aspects of the census project including, census topics and logistical preparations was carried out. Stakeholders from all sectors of the economy, as well as private sector and civil society participated in this process, making contributions to the census topics.
7. The census topics were then used to guide questionnaire development, wherein indicators for national, regional and

international development agendas provided a basis for inclusion of new topics or expansion of some of the topics that were already identified.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. It is important to note, that by virtue of the census being a large scale national exercise, it accommodates the needs of all sectors of the economy. It therefore follows that the census collects information on a wide range of topics, and as such provides baseline data with limited in-depth inquiry.

9. The significant and salient features as well as emerging developmental issues revealed by the census data are followed up through the Statistics Botswana's inter-censal program of household surveys to facilitate in-depth inquiry. The inter-censal household survey program includes the Agricultural Census, Quarterly Multi-Topic Survey, Botswana Demographic Survey, and the Census of Enterprises and Establishments, ICT Household survey, Botswana Aids Impact Surveys, among others. These surveys provide a platform for further and deeper inquiries

on issues arising from the census data by Statistics Botswana and other stakeholders.

10. The last major preparatory stage of the census was the conduct of the pilot census in October 2021. The pilot census comprehensively tested all census instruments, census timing, processes and procedures; and personnel and transport resources. Notably, testing of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) solutions related to fieldwork, daily data transfers to the data repository, efficiency of connectivity and synchronization, editing and tabulation applications was done.

Director of Ceremonies,

11. Please allow me to acknowledge the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA); the US Census Bureau; and the various Government of Botswana ministries and departments that have played and continue to play a pivotal role in ensuring that all census preparations are adequately advanced. These departments, have availed their resources to the census project including, transport, personnel, and

publicity platforms, and assisted in securing training venues, amongst others.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. As I welcome all of you to the launch of this monumental project, I encourage each and every one of you to use your platform (including word of mouth) or where possible your organization's platforms to amplify the census message to ensure that it reaches all corners of the country. This is because for a successful count, the census should count everyone everywhere in the country.
13. With a complete count, census data will be accurate and comprehensive, thereby enabling 4th Industrial revolution policy makers, planners, researchers, entrepreneurs and decision makers to make informed decisions for the good of our country, Botswana.
14. In closing my remarks let me on behalf of the Board, Management and staff of Statistics Botswana and all our

census partners express our gratitude for having the Minister be here today to launch Census 2022.

15. I thank you