



2021 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

Pilot Census Media Briefing

Welcome Remarks

By

STATISTICIAN GENERAL

Dr Burton Mguni

21 October 2021



Director of Ceremonies,
Gaborone District Commissioner, Ms. Grace Seitshiro
Kgatleng District Commissioner, Mr Mochanang
Kweneng District Commissioner, Ms. Mosime
South East District Commissioner, Ms. Dikgope
National Census Coordinator, Ms. Malebogo Kerekang
Members of the 4th Estate, the media
District Census Officers
All Statistics Botswana Officers,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I greet you all.

1.0 I am certainly delighted to welcome you all to this the 2021 Pilot Population and Housing Census media briefing. This welcome is also extended to those participating in the event virtually through the Statistics Botswana social media platforms. Your presence is a testament to your valued support towards continual improvement to the functioning and effective delivery of the work of the entire national statistical system.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- 2.0 As many of you here would generally be aware, a census is essentially a way of counting the human population following a procedure of systematically obtaining/recording information on demographic, social and economic characteristics at a specified time and within defined geographic boundaries. The geographic boundaries in this case are those of Botswana. The key parameters of a population census are individual enumeration; applicable defined territory; defined period of census count and periodicity or census interval.
- 3.0 The census provides information on the geographic and administrative distribution of the population in addition to other demographic and socio-economic characteristics of all the people in the country. The data from the census are classified, tabulated and disseminated so that government, political leaders, election officials, planners, academia, investors, businesses, NGOs and civil society, regional and international organisations as well as well as the public at large, can use the results for policy formulation, programme planning and decision-making as may be relevant and appropriate.
- 4.0 Census results are also used to review and change as deemed appropriate various key provisions relating to

political representation in parliament and at local government level such as the number of constituencies and related boundaries.

5.0 A population and housing census continues to be the largest data collection undertaking in a country by the governments across the world. It covers newly born babies to the oldest person in the country for both citizens and non-citizens and also covers all citizens who are outside the country at the time, regardless of the reasons and period of absence.

6.0 Thus by nature, a population and housing census count exercise covers every corner of the country and visits every dwelling and household. Every person is counted regardless of citizenship status, and at dissemination, the population is reported in its totality and disaggregated by citizens and non-citizens as well as by other criteria for which data was collected. In fact certain disaggregation is only possible using census data.

Director of Ceremonies,

7.0 Coming back to the Pilot Census, let me point out that a pilot census is a critical milestone in the path towards conducting the population and housing census count. It is an internationally well-established practice run for the main census count.

8.0 The pilot census tests the methodology, questionnaires, data collection methods, the training programme for field staff, instruction manuals, data editing and coding, data processing, and data tabulation. It also tests stakeholder engagement, media engagement and overall community mobilisation towards a successful count. This will enable refining of methodologies and approaches to ensure that the census is not only delivered efficiently and effectively, but also that it yields the desired result - a complete and accurate count of the Botswana Population.

9.0 As I conclude, let me take this opportunity to remind you that the population and housing census is a decennial national project, occurring every 10 years. The last one was conducted in August 2011, and this impending one will be conducted in August 2022 having been postponed from this year due to the impact of national measures taken in the fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

10.0 For everyone to be counted with no one being left behind, robust advocacy, stakeholder engagement, community mobilisation and publicity are critical. I therefore request you to utilise your platforms to amplify the pilot census message, so that it reaches everyone as media provides an important link between the census project and the general public. Statistics Botswana and District officials will continue to attend to media enquiries during this time as they have been doing

in the past to ensure that the public is well informed about the pilot census which starts tomorrow, as well as the upcoming actual census.

11.0 I thank you. PULA!!!