



2021 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

**Sensitization Workshop of District Commissioners, Council Secretaries,
City Clerk and Town Clerk
Lansmore Masa Square Hotel
Gaborone
22nd August 2019**

Welcome Remarks

By:

Statistician General



Director of Ceremonies,
District Commissioners,
Council Secretaries,
City Clerks,
Town Clerks,
Distinguished guests,
Staff of Statistics Botswana
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good Morning,

1. On behalf of all of us at Statistics Botswana (SB), it is a great honour for me to welcome you all to this workshop of sensitization on the 2021 Population and Housing Census (PHC). This is a very important milestone in the census program, since it marks beginning of a series of workshops/trainings that will be as held as part of the preparation for the conduct of the 2021 PHC. It also symbolizes the beginning of a critical symbiotic relationship that will exist between Statistics Botswana and District Authorities throughout this immense national project.
2. The purpose of this workshop is to sensitize the participants on their specific roles during the conduct of the 2021 PHC as well as on the role of the District Census Officers (DCOs), who as in the past will be the principal implementers of the exercise in the districts.

Director of Ceremonies,

3. Let me to take this moment to inform this workshop that the PHC is a government project that is provided for by the Census Act of 1904 and Statistics Act of 2009. Further, 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.

4. Given that the census is national government exercise, it is accordingly implemented by the District Commissioners in their respective districts. To this end, the District Commissioners are Census Returning Officers. Statistics Botswana being the National Statistical Office is entrusted with the responsibility to coordinate the conduct of census, and hence, the Statistician General is the Principal Investigator responsible to Government for the conduct of census.
5. You will note that, census taking is a massive exercise that requires participation of all stakeholders. As implementation of census is the responsibility of each district, it is crucial that District Commissioners, Council Secretaries, City clerks and Town Clerks as heads of district administrations and council authorities are sensitized about this massive national project, before any major activity in the districts can be undertaken. That is why we have organized this workshop.

Director of Ceremonies,

6. As a country, we have successfully completed five (5) censuses since independence (1971, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011). The 2021 Census which falls in the 2020 round of Censuses will be the sixth to be conducted.
7. I am pleased to inform you that preparations for the 2021 PHC have already started and a number of activities have been done.
 - i. The census cartographic exercise is already going on in the field, having started in March 2019.

- ii. Census Secretariat Office has been established and the National Census Coordinator Mr. Kwenagape Mogotsinyane has been appointed.
- iii. Officers from the Census Secretariat Office undertook a round of visits to the districts in March 2019 to sensitize district authorities on the commencement of preparations for the Census 2021.
- iv. The Census Project Document has been developed and will soon be shared with all key stakeholders.
- v. Stakeholders' consultation workshop on census topics was conducted in July 2019.

Ladies and gentlemen,

8. The global trend in relation to improving efficiency and quality of census results is to use of latest technology to conduct a paperless censuses. Statistics Botswana has adopted this approach for the conduct of the 2021 Census. This involves producing digital maps and collecting data electronically using tablets or smart phones. This approach will go a long way in ensuring that the quality of our data continues to improve and the time to release of all the Census results is reduced which in turn will help us we keep pace with the ever increasing demand for baseline data and information required to timely inform national and international development agendas, such as the NDP11, V2036, Agenda 2030 of SDGs, Africa Agenda 2063, as well as, further investigations through surveys and research programs.

Director of Ceremonies,

9. As I conclude, let me register my appreciation to our revered participants for attending this important census workshop. I look forward to your full

participation in this workshop and thenceforth, your involvement in the census program.

Ladies and gentlemen,

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

I thank you.