

Mpala, Ke Botlhokwa



Welcome Remarks

By Ag Statistician General
Dr Lucky Mokgatlhe

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Private Bag 0024, Gaborone

Tel: 3671300

Toll Free: 0800 600 200

E-mail: info@statsbots.org.bw

Website: www.statsbots.org.bw



- **Director of Ceremonies**

PS Finance

The Statistics Botswana Board of Directors Chairman, Professor Gobopamang Letamo

The UNFPA Representative,

Representatives of UN Organisations,

Permanent Secretaries,

Heads of Parastatals

Chief Executive Officers and Directors

District Commissioners here present

EXCOM

Members of the 4th Estate, the media,

All Distinguished Guests, Esteemed Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of Statistics Botswana, it is my honor to extend a warm welcome to all of you to this highly anticipated Population and Housing Census Dissemination Conference. **LE AMOGETSWE BAGAETSHO**. It is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to mark the beginning of these crucial discussions. And also extend malebo to our esteemed guest, from the parent Ministry, Ministry of Finance (**Name, PERMANENT SECRETARY**) for gracing this occasion.
2. The Population and Housing Census represents a substantial undertaking for Statistics Botswana, encompassing all stages from planning to dissemination. This iteration witnessed a budgetary increase from the initial allocation of 363 million to a final expenditure of P455 million. This is not surprising given that I was the first to embrace technology from planning (mapping) to enumeration. The importance of this national endeavor lies in its contribution to a robust statistical infrastructure that underpins informed policy and program development. Just to share with you a few quotes - Henry Ford (Industrialist): "If you can't measure it, you can't improve it." W. Edwards Deming (Management Consultant): "In God we trust; all others must bring data." Indeed, the significance of population censuses or the value of statistics has been well-documented by prominent scholars, and their value is further underscored by their inclusion within United Nations mandate. Following the successful execution of the census in March 2022, Statistics Botswana has embarked on a phased release of results, disseminating reports and data through our official portal and website.
3. The census, undertaken every 10 years, is a cornerstone of our nation's development, it provides us with the most comprehensive picture of our population - its size, composition and living conditions. This data is invaluable and serves as a cornerstone for informed decision-making nationally and at local community level, regionally and globally. It provides us with a comprehensive snapshot of Botswana's population, its characteristics, demographics, housing situation, and other vital characteristics.

4. **Director of Ceremonies,**

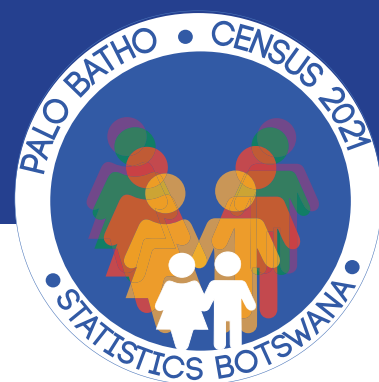
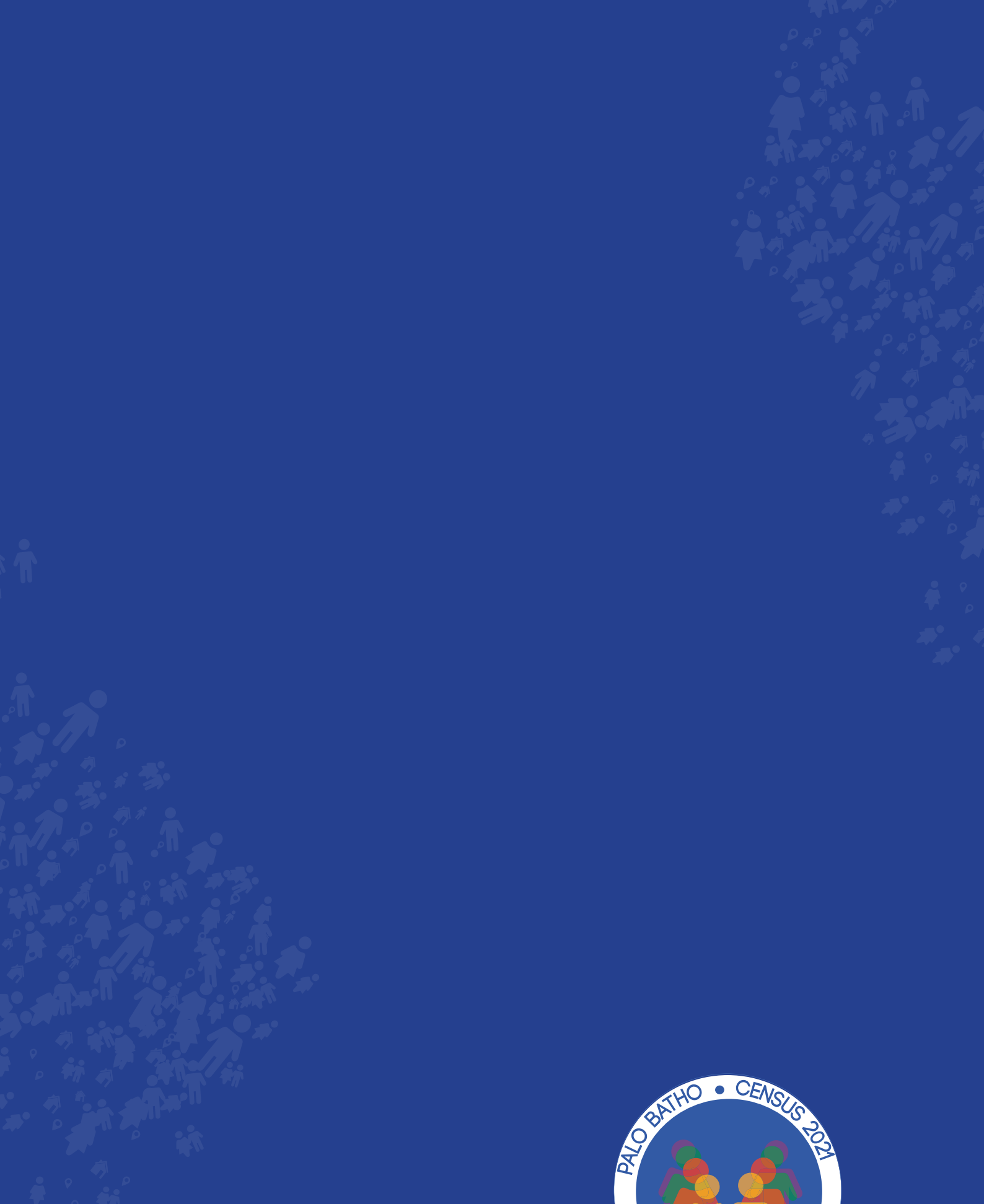
5. This dissemination conference marks a crucial juncture. We are now poised to unlock the wealth of knowledge embedded within the census data. Thus, over the next 2 days, we will delve into the census findings, exploring critical trends and patterns that shape our society. We will discuss innovative methodologies, data collection strategies and the crucial role of public participation. Your expertise and diverse perspectives are essential for ensuring a successful and inclusive census. These insights will equip us to:
6. **a) Craft effective policies:** By understanding the population's composition, needs, and geographical distribution, we can design targeted policies in areas such as education, healthcare, infrastructure development, and social welfare programs, etc. **b) Monitor progress:** The census data serves as a benchmark to gauge progress towards national and international development goals and identify areas that necessitate further focus.

7. Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. Businesses, civil society organizations, and research institutions and the public at large can leverage this data to inform their strategies and interventions, establishment of businesses, ultimately contributing to a more prosperous and equitable Botswana.
9. I am particularly excited to witness the engagement between data experts, policymakers, researchers, and the broader public. Your diverse perspectives will ensure a rich and productive dialogue, fostering a deeper understanding of the census data and its practical applications.
10. This conference is a platform for collaboration and knowledge sharing. As already alluded to, throughout this conference, we will have the privilege of hearing presentations from esteemed speakers who will illuminate the data from various angles. I encourage you to actively participate in the discussions, pose questions, and share your insights.
11. Let us use this platform to harness the power of the census data and embark on a collaborative journey towards a brighter future for Botswana.
12. I thank you.

PULA!!!





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