



2021 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

Pilot Census Media Briefing

Statement

By

Gaborone District Commissioner

Ms. Grace Seitshiro

21 October 2021



Director of Ceremonies,
Kgatleng District Commissioner, Mr Mochanang
Kweneng District Commissioner, Ms Mosime
South East Deputy District Commissioner, Ms Tsie
Statistician General, Dr Burton Mguni
National Census Coordinator, Ms Malebogo Kerekang
Members of the Media
District Census Officers
All Statistics Botswana Officers,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good Morning,

1. I am very honoured to deliver this media briefing on behalf of the District Administration Authorities, District Commissioners of all districts in the country, and indeed on my own behalf. Today's briefing is being made in advance of the Pilot Census count which will be conducted in selected areas across the Districts from 22 to 31 October 2021. The Pilot Census is a practice run of all the processes that will be implemented in the actual Census in 2022.

2. The Population and Housing Census is a government project with its legal provisions found in the Census Act of 1904, and the Statistics Act of 2009. Furthermore, the census is enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Botswana in Sections 64 and 65, as an important project that facilitates for equitable democratic representation at both the local and national levels.
3. By virtue of being a national government exercise, the census is accordingly implemented by the District Commissioners in their respective districts while Statistics Botswana, being the National Statistical Office is entrusted with the responsibility of coordinating the project.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. The Principal Investigator responsible to Government for the conduct of the census is the Statistician General. The National Census Coordinator (NCC), appointed by the Statistician General, is responsible for overall oversight and coordination of the census project across all the districts. The NCC leads the preparations for the conduct of the census in liaison with a broad spectrum of partners and stakeholders across the country.

5. The District Commissioners are the District Census Coordinators and hence, are Census Returning Officers in their respective areas of authority, just as they are for all other government projects in their districts. To this end, it is the District Commissioners' responsibility to involve and fully engage their counterparts in Council Authority, and other government institutions such as the Tribal Administration and Land Board. Hence the District Commissioner provides census briefings at Full Council Meetings.
6. As guided by the National Census Coordinator, the District Commissioners have appointed the District Census Officers to be responsible for administrative issues, management and day to day execution of the census program in the districts. These district officials work collaboratively with Census Technical Officers from Statistics Botswana under the leadership of the District Commissioner to deliver the census mandate at district level.
7. Some of the core activities undertaken by the district census officers include dissemination of census information to communities; community mobilisation and stakeholder engagement within the districts; design, packaging and delivering census information to special groups in the

communities, recruitment of census field workers; and logistical arrangements for census activities. Furthermore, the district census officers will ensure that every locality/village in their district is enumerated; and they will compile census program reports for submission to the census authority, Statistics Botswana.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. The district census officers will encourage willing cooperation by members of the public, and ensure that no individual or group of people obstruct/disrupt the conduct of the census. Where deliberate obstruction/disruption of the census process occurs, the district census officers in consultation with the District Commissioner, may instigate formal and/or legal proceedings against the concerned person(s). In brief, ***no one can refuse to be counted!***

9. Before I conclude, I would like to highlight that due to the complex nature of the census project, and the need for stakeholders at various levels to be engaged, the District Commissioners have established District Census Committees which comprise of different strategic departments or

organisations in their districts. These committees comprise amongst others Council Administration, Department of Information Services, Department of Broadcasting Services, Central Transport Organisation, Botswana Police, Ministries' Extension Offices, Tribal Administration, Land Board, Department of Wildlife and National Parks, and Department of Water Affairs. The District Census Committee provides technical support, advises and assists the district census officer(s) in implementing the census program in the district.

Director of Ceremonies,

10. Let me take this opportunity to state that all these processes are in place in my district, and in other districts across the country, as I understand from my interaction with my peers in other districts. Through the pilot census exercise, all of the structures, activities and processes will be tested, and improvements will be made even at district level where implementation of this government project is based.

11. As I conclude, let me register my appreciation and congratulate Statistics Botswana and District Commissioners, as well as their teams for their relentless efforts to eventually bringing the 2021 Population and Housing Census project to

this point amid the challenges brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic. This demonstrates determination and resilient disposition.

12. I thank you all for your attention.