



2021 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

**Sensitization Workshop of Deputy Commissioners, Senior Assistant Council
Secretaries, Deputy City Clerks and Deputy Town Clerks**

Cresta President Hotel

Gaborone

28th November 2019

Welcome Remarks

By:

Statistician General



Director of Ceremonies,
Deputy District Commissioners,
Senior Assistant Council Secretaries,
Deputy Council Secretaries
Deputy Clerks,
Deputy 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 workshop is a very important milestone in the census program, since it signals commencement of a series of workshops/trainings that will be held as part of the preparations for the conduct of the 2021 PHC. It also marks the beginning of a very important relationship that will exist between Statistics Botswana and District Authorities as we undertake this immense national project.
2. The purpose of this workshop is to introduce the participants to the census program and highlight specific roles that they are required to play during the different phases of the 2021 Census.

Director of Ceremonies,

3. Let me take this moment to inform this gathering that the 2021 Population Housing Census, like other census before, is a government project that is provided for by the Census Act of 1904 and Statistics Act of 2009. Moreover, 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 project, and hence, the Statistician General is the Principal Investigator responsible to Government for the conduct of the 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 Deputy District Commissioners, Senior Assistant Council Secretaries, Deputy Council Secretaries, Deputy City clerks and Deputy 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. 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 districts in March 2019 to sensitize district authorities on the commencement of preparations for the 2021 Census.
 - 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.
 - vi. District Commissioners, Council Secretaries, City Clerks and Town Clerks were sensitized in August 2019.

Ladies and gentlemen,

7. The global trend in relation to improving efficiency and quality of census results is the use of latest technology to conduct paperless censuses. To this end Statistics Botswana has adopted this approach for the conduct of the 2021 Census. This involves producing digital maps reflecting geospatial information 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 census results is quickened from the time of enumeration, which in turn will help us keep pace with the ever the 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,

8. 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 to the end.

Ladies and gentlemen,

9. 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.