

‘DISPLACED PERSONS WILL BE ENUMERATED’

The government statistician Dr Grace Bediako, has given the assurance that people displaced by floods will be adequately captured in the 2010 Population and Housing Census.

She said efforts would be made to enumerate such displaced people in their new settlements during the census, explaining that in the areas where the displacement was on account of widespread destruction of houses and infrastructure, there, would be the need for a special post-census survey in order to have a fair idea of the state of their infrastructure.

Dr Bediako told the Daily Graphic yesterday that such measures were very necessary to ensure that every community benefited from the census on account of their population and infrastructural needs.

The opening of the Barge Dam in Burkina Faso and torrential rains in the northern parts of the country recently have caused flooding in some areas, wreaking considerable havoc on life and property.

As a result of the flooding, many settlements have been washed away or submerged, displacing some residents in the process.

Although census officials have been equipped with raincoats and wellington boots to cope with the situation, Dr Bediako nevertheless admitted the flood in the North would pose a major challenge to the enumeration exercise.

She said the Census Secretariat would be required to re-visit flood-ravaged settlements during the post enumeration survey to capture their details.

The post-enumeration survey will be conducted six months after the census with the aim to ensuring that all the responses given during the enumeration exercise were accurate.

Dr Bediako expressed the hope that the floods would recede before the enumeration exercise in order to avoid any challenges.

Clarifying some issues on the conduct of the census, the Government Statistician said only floating population and homeless people would be counted on the night of September 26, whose midnight, designated as the Census Night, is the reference point around which the exercise will revolve.

The rest of the population would be conducted over a two-week period, beginning September 27, 2010.

Meanwhile, materials and logistics for the conduct of the census such as motorbikes, bicycles, raincoats, wellington boots torch lights and printers have been dispatched to all the regional capitals for onward transportation to the districts and sub-districts.

The military played a key role in the transportation of the materials by providing trucks, while the other security agencies are also ready to support the exercise in roles that would be assigned them.

Listing of houses and structures and counting of institutional population, including students on campuses of senior high and tertiary institutions, patients on admission at health facilities and prison inmates, were scheduled to begin last Tuesday.

Dr Bediako urged all to co-operate with census officials during the listing of houses and structures, appealing to them not to clean the numbers on their houses and structures because they would be linked to the questionnaires to be administered

The Head of the Publicity and Education Unit of the National Census Secretariat, Mr David Kombat, said so far everything had gone on smoothly, adding that officials did not anticipate many problems in the course of the exercise.

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