



2010 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

YOU COUNT, SO BE COUNTED

2010 CENSUS NEWS

GHANA'S 2010 POPULATION & HOUSING CENSUS: ROLE OF THE MEDIA & OTHER CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS

The 2010 Population and Housing Census which began yesterday, Sunday, 26th September, 2010, is a very important national exercise that involves collecting complete and correct information on everyone resident in Ghana – irrespective of age, nationality, civil status, residential status or religious belief – as at midnight of Census Night.

One very vital aspect of the preparation programme which will definitely help to ensure a successful 2010 Population and Housing Census is an integrated nationwide publicity, public education and advocacy campaign.

The Ghana Statistical Service, having brought preparations to this juncture, is focusing enhancing its partnership with the media to keep reaching out to everybody living in Ghana with a very simple message—“YOU COUNT, SO BE COUNTED” (Census slogan). When it comes to planning for the development of Ghana, everyone counts. Therefore, the Ghana Statistical Service must collect accurate information about everyone resident in Ghana to make the planning process a worthwhile exercise.

There are two major considerations that will ensure the quality census results that Government needs for its planning and tracking of the country's development:

The first is, making sure that each and everyone who is within the borders of Ghana at midnight of Sunday, 26th September , 2010 irrespective of age, nationality, civil status, residential status or creed; people, wherever one resides, just visiting, or transiting to; babies born within a minute or seconds from that midnight; but also those who depart from us only seconds, minutes or days following the census night, are COUNTED IN.

The second is, to correctly collect complete information on each individual's characteristics as at midnight of Census Night.

The role of the Media Fraternity in the Census is very important. Through them, the Census process can be easily facilitated by disseminating on the airwaves and in print, some vital messages that MUST get to everyone, every household, and every community:

First, we must tell everybody that the 2010 Census is not meant to count only Ghanaians, but every person living in Ghana. Because everyone who resides for any length of time in the country – be it one day or several years – need some basic facilities for their existence, planners must take all into account. The Census is not about counting Ghanaians but rather everyone who has made Ghana his/her place of abode for any length of time leading up to Census Night. Nationals and foreigners are all to be enumerated (counted) and every person living in Ghana at midnight of Sunday, 26th September, 2010 will be enumerated.

Second, we must explain to all the significance of the Sunday, 26th September which is designated as Census Night. It is very important that we all keep in mind this date because it is the Reference Point for all the Population and Housing information that will be collected. For example, only people who spend the night within the household should be reported on. It is important to note that Census Night does not define the duration of the exercise but rather sets the context for the actual exercise.

Third, about one week to Census Night (i.e. 20th – 26th September 2010), Enumerators (Census Officials) entered all communities to identify and number houses and other structures. These numbers will be used to ensure the completeness of coverage both during and after the census field exercise. The Ghana Statistical Service requests that the numbers on residents' walls or gates be left untouched for at least 6 months.

Fourth, on Census Night (yesterday, Sunday, 26th September, 2010) the floating and homeless population were enumerated all across the country. There were a range of activities to commemorate the day, so that we can all identify with that day, remember it clearly, and be able to associate movements within the household with the day.

For about two weeks following the Census Night, (i.e. from today Monday, September 27 – October 10, 2010) the Enumerators (clad in Census T- shirts and carrying Census ID cards) will enter each home to interview the head of the household or any responsible adult member of the household.

Notwithstanding that two weeks have been earmarked for the field exercise, the Ghana Statistical Service will continue with the work in every community until the last person has been covered.

It is very important take note of all those who spend the Census Night in our homes, including visitors. We must collect their personal information such as *name, date of birth, age, religious affiliation, marital status, educational level, specific work that they do, place of work and nature of business in the place they work.*

The Ghana Statistical Service reminds everyone:

- that if by the end of 10th October 2010 you are not sure whether your household has been counted, enquire from other members of your household whether a Census Official has visited your household; if not, please call the numbers provided.

- To please cooperate with the Census Officials assigned to work in your area and be sure to provide them with the correct information.

- That if there are any issues to report or clarify, please call:

- 1. 0800 100 42**
- 2. (0302) 689 621**
- 3. (0302) 689 625**
- 4. 0289 553 888**
- 5. 0289 553 889**

The Ghana Statistical Service, through the Media, assures everybody that the census is not for raising funds for Government projects (it is not for taxation, nor is it meant to interfere with people's lives). Rather, the exercise is meant to find out the social and economic settings of each locality in Ghana for good rural and urban planning.

No individual's or household's information shall be released. Any data that will be released will be for statistical purposes to assist planners and other decision makers, public institutions and private businesses alike. The Census Organization is bound by law to keep all information collected on individuals and households confidential.

The Media must impress upon all – religious bodies and traditional authorities – to cooperate in this exercise. There is no belief system that forbids participation in a crucial national exercise as the Population and Housing Census. We must all COUNT OURSELVES IN and make it a truly national undertaking. If we refuse to join in this effort on any grounds, we should have no moral basis to require anything of Government. Ghana needs the participation of all to build the accurate foundation for planning for its people.

Furthermore, it is necessary for the Media to make all and sundry understand that no matter what other registration exercise we have been part of, wherever we have had our names and characteristics recorded, the 2010 Census is a different exercise and ALL must necessarily be a part of this ALSO.

We must inform everybody that they will be counted where they reside (homes, residential institutions, and public places of temporary abode) and nowhere else. No one needs to travel to any place to be in the Census. The public should therefore be made to understand that there will not be the need to queue or rush to catch an Enumerator in order to be counted. They will come to your households.

We must educate the general public that Census Officials shall visit EVERY HOME/RESIDENCE but will not speak to everyone. Officials are instructed to interview the head of the household or any responsible adult of the household. It is from this person that all information about other members of the household shall be obtained.

The Ghana Statistical Service also appeals to all Ministers, Members of Parliament, Traditional Authorities, Public and Civil Servants, Religious Organizations, Civil Society Groups, the Private Sector, Non-Governmental Organizations, Academic Institutions, and the general public to publicize the Census whenever the opportunity avails itself.

Should we find ourselves in a company of friends, family relations, church members who are arguing about the Census and the information being debated on does not seem to be the right thing, we should step in and correct them. It will save the process a great deal.

Let's all remember: when it comes to planning for the development of our nation, everyone counts. Help Ghana collect accurate information about each of us to make the planning process a worthwhile exercise.

Together, we can all make the 2010 Population and Housing Census a success.