



Census night  
24<sup>th</sup> November

Solomon Islands Population & Housing Census

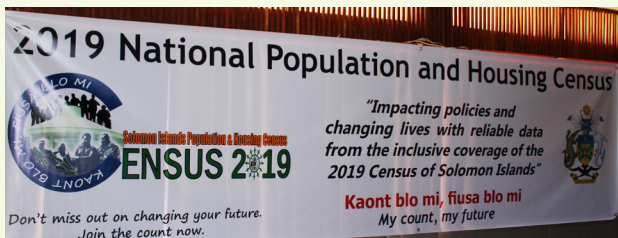
ENSUS 2019

Kaont blo mi, fiusa blo mi (My count, my future)

CENSUS IN  
FOCUS



## 2019 National Population and Housing Census launched



Officials at the formal launch of the 2019 National Population and Housing Census Project in Honiara. From left to right, Census Commissioner, Douglas Kimi, Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare and Ministry of Education Permanent Secretary, Dr. Franco Rodie.

The Solomon Islands Government (SIG) through its statistical agency, National Statistics Office/Census Office has launched the 2019 National Population and Housing Census on Friday 5th July.

Held at the Mendana Hotel in Honiara, the official launching also coincided with the public announcement of the 'Census Night' which is on the 24<sup>th</sup> November.

Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare presided over the launching event.

The occasion was attended my Development Partners, Private Sector and Civil Society Organisation representatives.

Census is the official count of how many people and dwellings there are in the country (SI). It gives a unique snapshot of our communities. Information from the Census helps determine how government funding is spent in the community.

It is also used by the government/policy-

makers to plan for the future.

Solomon Islands had its first census count in 1970, the second was in 1976, and again in 1986, 1999 and the latest and the fifth one in the series was in 2009.

This is the sixth Census survey the country to have since the first one was conducted in 1970 under the then British authority.

While Census field enumeration is set to start on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November to 8<sup>th</sup> December, the Census Office now stepping up efforts as it prepares for that very important time.

Census Commissioner and Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi said the Census Office will be recruiting thousands of people to help the Census operation run smoothly.

Mr. Kimi said this will be the biggest undertaking for the country.

He said the Census Office is trying its best and collaborating to reach every communities across the country.

"Since this will be the largest nationwide Census intended to take in records of every citizens no matter what age category and cultural background, it is important that everyone must support and collaborate with the Census Office and our field officers who will be out in the field for data collection.

"This is a crucial undertaking to ensure the country have an updated population count thus collaborative effort and support is indeed appreciative in this regard to guarantee a successful Census," Mr. Kimi said.

He said unlike any other big events in the country like the election registration which targets only specific age group (18-years old and above) with other surveys/events, Census is different and the biggest ever occasion as it take record of every single residents of a country starting from age zero (0) and above. Solomon Islands conducted Census after every 10 years. The latest was held in 2009.

# "Yes, we are ready to implement 2019 Census" says Kimi

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## Welcome message from the Census Commissioner

**T**his year, on the 4th of November to the 8th of December 2019, the National Statistics Office, through the Census Project Office will be conducting the nation-wide National Population and Housing Census.

The 2019 Census will be the sixth successive Census conducted since 1970 and hence, it will be another large national project that will invite the participation and contribution from individual citizens, households and institutions alike.

This year's Census shall be conducted in a two-way field visit enumeration (counting) process. First visit or round one will be from the 4<sup>th</sup> November to 23<sup>rd</sup> November. During the first visit, Census enumerators (field officers) will be dispatched by the Census Office to each household with the intention of recording every members of the family/ household within that period. This is the time actual counting of people will take place. The mid-night of 24<sup>th</sup> November

is the 'Census Night'. The 'Census Night' is a statistical reference point or period. Statistically, by mid-night of the 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2019, we will have counted all people in our nation - with data collected referenced to the mid-night of 24<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

The second visit or round two shall be from the 25<sup>th</sup> November to the 8th of December 2019. During this period, Census enumerators will revisit the households they have visited during the first visit with the intention to confirm and verify information collected.

The 2019 Census will also be the first Census undertaken in the post-recovery period after the civil unrest the country has faced more than ten years ago.

As the 2019 Census Commissioner, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking your time to read this first publication of the Census In-focus newsletter which will intend to give our readership an outline of our major work programs and the ongoing developments that are currently being administered under the Census Office.

Since the announcement on July 5, 2019 by the Hon. Prime Min-

ister Manasseh Sogavare of the date of the Census Night, which is on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2019, the Census Office has continued to roll out its program with the months of June and July being the months that the office has embarked on a huge recruitment program involving thousands of locals to be recruited as Census District Superintendents, Chief Census Area Managers, Census Area Managers, Field Supervisors and Census Field Enumerators.

Additionally, the Census Office will be undertaking a pilot testing of the census questionnaire in the coming months so that the Census Office will be able to gauge first hand on the sample responses on the census questionnaires. Census is necessary requirement for the country to update its population information and to provide an accurate data for future planning.

Census thus, is a complete count of the Solomon Islands total population. 2019 Census will target to achieve an inclusive coverage of census to all ten provinces of Solomon Islands namely, Choiseul, Western, Isabel, Central, Guadalcanal, Rennell & Bellona,

Malaita, Makira, Temotu province and Honiara.

Hence, gathering Census information requires participation from you and the information you provide will help to gather the estimate population for Solomon Islands, an useful information that will be utilised by the Government to distribute the governments fund and plan services right to the country's community on priority areas like, health, education, housing, sanitation, bank facilities, transportation and environment.

The 2019 Census information will therefore be useful to individuals, stakeholders, organisations of the public and private sectors alike for decision making and planning purposes.

On this regard, I want to urge all Solomon Islands citizens, households and non-dwelling institutions to support the National Statistics Office so that relevant and reliable data are collected during the National Census period to enable the national government to better plan and appropriately budget for the future development of Solomon Islands.

## Yes, we are ready to implement 2019 Census says Commissioner

**T**he 2019 Census Commissioner and Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi has pledged the Census Office within the National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Finance and Treasury its readiness to implement the 2019 census project. Mr. Kimi confidently made the affirmation at the official launch of the 2019 National Population and Housing Census and the announcement of the census date (Census Night) at the Mendana Hotel in Honiara, Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July. "The Census Office is now in a state of readiness to implement the census enumeration in No-

vember 24th 2019," Mr. Kimi said.

Despite the challenges such as additional funding support that is required and risks along the way, Mr. Kimi said that he is a strong believer in partnership and cooperation to resist challenges that may deter the project implementation.

"A number of key activities have been done so far per our annual work plan and we are now in a state of readiness to undertake the census count."

He added that preparatory work to the actual census enumeration is well underway and as part of

the 2019 national census project, the NSO begun preliminary work since 2017/2018 having undertaken the 2017-2018 Village Resource Survey (VRS) and Household Listing.

"...data currently being finalised for integration in to the Provincial wards and Enumeration Area Maps to be ready for enumeration by November, 2019.

"NSO have also recently recruited 8 Census District Superintendents (CDS), 43 Census Area Managers (CAM) and Chief Census Area Managers (CCAM), and Census Project staff and began the roll out for procurement of

supplies, media advocacy campaigns and prepare to recruit enumerators and supervisors as we get ready for November," Mr. Kimi stressed.

The Census Commissioner assured the people of the Solomon Islands that the Census Office will do its utmost best to implement a successful census enumeration by end of this year and provide preliminary results by mid-2020.

Mr. Kimi also used the opportunity and called on the country's major development partners and donors to support the...

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# Census questionnaire reviewed

The 2019 Population and Housing Census Users Committee has met for the first time on Friday 21st June, where they reviewed the 2019 Census questionnaire.

Held at the Star Event Conference room in Honiara, the meeting provided a forum for communication between the Census Office and users of Census data.

Major users of Census data included government, academia, and other key civil society organizations and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs).

Census Commissioner, Douglas Kimi said that the representation from all stakeholders in the Census project is significant.

He said the users committee serves as the coordinating body specifically tasked to ensure that all necessary and relevant information with regards to Population and Housing are well captured during this year's Census.

"Under the leadership of the Ministry of Finance and Treasury and the Prime Minister's Office, the Committee facilitates stakehold-



A committee member look through the Census questionnaire.



Two female staff from the CBSI during the review meeting-July 2019.

er's cooperation, coordination and information sharing to ensure the Census is useful to the general public," Mr. Kimi added.

The Committee meet on a weekly basis to formulate and finalize the 2019 Census questionnaire.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kimi said Census Office

preparation towards the implementation phase of the project in November is progressing well.

He also used the opportunity to call for a cooperative support from all citizens towards the Census Office and its field officers who will be out in the field for data collection.

# Week-long Provincial Census Coordination Workshop

At least 57 newly recruited census officers have undertaken a week-long provincial census coordination workshop from Monday 24 - 28 June in Honiara.

The officers are made up of the Census District Superintendents (CDS), Census Chief Area Managers (CCAMs) and the Census Area Managers (CAMs).

In his remarks during the open-

ing of the workshop, Census Commissioner, Douglas Kimi welcomed the senior census officers urging them to use their time well during the workshop to learn all they can about the workshop presentations so that they will carry out the census programs to effectively.

"Make this week the time and space for you to absorb all the important information presented

in the workshop that you will be able to carry out the objectives of the 2019 census program effectively and to the best of your ability", he said.

Mr Kimi also informed the officers that the National Census office will be recruiting more than 3000 person to undertake the 2019 national census so the week-long training for the officers is the beginning of a series of

training programs that the Census office will be conducting in preparation for the 2019 national census that is expected to be carried out later in November.

The Provincial census coordination workshop will be followed by another training workshops earmarked for the supervisors and enumerators who will be recruited in due course.



Census District Superintendents, Census Chief Area Managers and the Census Area Managers during the first day of the training on Monday 24 June 2019.





Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare standing next to 2019 Census Commissioner, Douglas Kimi (in blue shirt), and staff of the Census project and the National Statistics Office staff during the official launch of the 2019 census project on Friday 5<sup>th</sup>, July 2019.

### From page 2

Census Office both in terms of resources and technical expertise not only this year in 2019 but up to 2021 where the Census Office will finalise the results and undertake various topical research and analysis to support the country's national policies, plans and in monitoring and evaluation of its development programs.

"...the success of the 2019 Census will de-

pend very much on development partners and donor support, cooperation of all levels of government and the fullest participation of our people across our nation."

Mr. Kimi said under his leadership, he is optimistic to see the 2019 census a success. Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare presided over the 2019 census project official launch event.



Government officials at the launch event.

# Census staff learns about sea safety procedures

About 50 newly recruited Census staff have the opportunity to learn about sea safety measures after Peter Young, head of Maritime Search and Rescue Unit from the Solomon Islands Maritime Safety Administration (SIMSA) do a presentation on sea safety procedures in July.

The purpose of the presentation was to impart Census staff with necessary skills and knowledge as they are ready for the Census

implementation phase in November to December.

Solomon Islands is a country with scattered Islands separated by sea therefore making sure staff having the basic knowledge about sea safety methods/procedures to deal with unexpected emergency cases at sea is important - especially during the Census implementation phase where Census officers will be traveling by boats between Islands to do

counting of people (field enumeration).

The presentation was an eye-opener for the staff and they appreciated the SIMSA through its Search and Rescue Unit for the wonderful presentation and demonstrations. Staff also learned about the different types of equipment's that can be used at sea when traveling and during emergency circumstances and also how to respond to an emergency.



Census staff during the presentation session.



Peter Young, head of Maritime Search and Rescue Unit doing a demonstration-July 2019.



Some of the Census Area Managers who were part of the presentation session.



Peter Young from the Maritime Search and Rescue Unit.



# PM Sogavare calls for provincial gov't support for Census



(L-R) Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr. Jimmie Rodgers, Guadalcanal Premier, Francis Sade, Prime Minister Sogavare, 2019 Census Commissioner, Douglas Kimi and the Ministry of Finance & Treasury Permanent Secretary, Mckinnie Dentana - July 2019.

Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare has appealed to all provincial government to support the Census Office in implementing the 2019 National Population and Housing Census project.

PM Sogavare made the call during the official launch of the 2019 census project and the announcement of the census date/Census Night on 5<sup>th</sup> July at the Mendana Hotel in Honiara.

“I take this opportunity to call upon all our provincial leaders and administrations to support the Census Office in implementing the 2019 census enumeration in your provinces.”

Mr. Sogavare said the government cannot shoulder the financial and technical burden of the 2019 census on its own.

“The success of this year’s census depends on strong partnership and collaboration with our donor and development partners, our provincial governments and our people.”

PM Sogavare also used the opportunity and call upon all (our) development partners and donors to support and partner with the government through the Census Office at the National Statistics Office (NSO) to make the 2019 Census a success.

Meanwhile, Census Commissioner and Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi said that this will be the biggest undertaking for the country therefore, the Census Office is trying its best and collaborating to reach every communities across the country.

“Since this will be the largest nationwide census survey envisioned to take in records of every citizens no matter what age category and cultural background, it is important that everyone must support and collaborate with the Census Office and our field officers who will be out in the field for data collection.”

He said this is a crucial undertaking to ensure the country have an updated population count thus collaborative effort and support is indeed appreciative in this regard to guarantee a successful census.

Census is the official count of how many people and dwellings there are in the country (SI). It gives a unique snapshot of our communities. Information from the census helps determine how

government funding is spent in the community. It is also used by the government/policy-makers to plan for the future.

There have been five (5) censuses conducted in the Solomon Islands over the years including in 1970, 1976, 1986, 1999 and 2009.

The 2019 Census is the sixth one in the series but will be the fourth census after the country gained independence in 1978.

Solomon Islands conducted census after every 10 years. The latest census was held in 2009.

The 2019 census night is on 24<sup>th</sup> November and will be conducted under the slogan, “Kaont blo mi, fiosa blo mi” or in English translation “My count, my future”.

Census actual counting will be from 4<sup>th</sup> November to 8<sup>th</sup> December.



Census staff at the event.



Census Commissioner, Douglas Kimi.



Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare.



Donor partners representatives.



# Stories in pictures



National Statistics Office, Senior Information Officer Joy Talo assisting Census applicants.



Malaita Census team (staff) during the Census Provincial Coordination workshop in Honiara.



A Senior Government Officer raises a point during the Census User committee meeting in Honiara, July.



NSO, Senior Information Officer Joy Talo in discussion with Honiara City Census team.



Census Commissioner, Douglas Kimi meets PM Manasseh Sogavare and Secretary to PM, Jimmie Rodgers upon arrival at the Mendana Hotel to launch the 2019 Census Project, July.



(L-R) Secretary to PM, Jimmie Rodgers, Guadalcanal Premier, Francis Sade, PM Sogavare, Census Commissioner, Douglas Kimi and MoFT PS, Mckinnie Dentana.





# Kirakira public impressed at Census awareness program

The Makira-Ulawa public including students have flocked out in number's to the Census awareness booth in Kirakira to learn about Census and its importance. This was after the Province 2019 Census team headed by Census District Superintendent (CDS) for Makira and Temotu, Francis Badenogo, staged their initial Census awareness program during the celebration of the province's Second Appointed Day event held at the provincial capital, Kirakira in July. The celebration runs from Wednesday 31st July - Friday 2nd August. Makira and Temotu Census District Superintendent, Francis Badenogo said they have erected a stall and have made a presentation during the occasion. They have also distributed information brochures during the event and have been able to answer questions from the Kirakira public. "Good statistics are essential for the delivery of basic services, and it is used to measure inputs, out-

puts, outcomes and providing reliable assessment. The need for reliable data is essential to take our province and country forward", he said. During the presentation at the provincial day celebrations, the Makira Census team has announced that any queries regarding the Census dates and process should be taken to the Makira Census office which is located at the former BSP Bank premises. Mr. Badenogo said that the highlight of the awareness program was student flocked their stall to learn about Census and its usefulness. He said that for some, it was their first time to get the knowledge and learn about what is Census. Mr. Badenogo added that they were also run out of informational materials (brochures) as more and more people come to know about Census importance during the awareness program. He said that the people of Makira-Ulawa Province are ready and willing to participate in the Census comes November. At the same time, Mr. Badenogo

acknowledged the Makira-Ulawa Provincial Assembly for their support in allocating an office space for them in Kirakira and for their assurance to support the Census project in the Province. Meanwhile, Census Commissioner and Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi thanked all the nine provincial Census team including Honiara as headed by their Census District Superintendent (CDS's) for their continuous work in raising awareness in the communities across the country to ensure people informed of the coming Census. He said that this is a crucial undertaking to ensure the country have an updated population count therefore collaborative effort and support from everyone is important to guarantee a successful census. Census is the official count of how many people and dwellings there are in the country (SI). It gives a unique snapshot of our communities. Information from the census helps determine how government funding is spent in the community. It is also used by

the government/policy-makers to plan for the future. There have been five (5) censuses conducted in the Solomon Islands over the years including in 1970, 1976, 1986, 1999 and 2009. The 2019 Census is the sixth one in the series but will be the fourth census after the country gained independence in 1978. Solomon Islands conducted census after every 10 years. The latest census was held in 2009. Census night is on 24<sup>th</sup> November but Census actual field enumeration (counting) will commence from 4<sup>th</sup> November to 8<sup>th</sup> December. The 'Census Night' is a statistical reference point or period. Statistically, by mid-Night of the 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2019, we will have counted all people in our nation - with data collected referenced to the mid-night of 24 November 2019. The de-facto enumeration will apply a two-way visit enumeration process. This year's Census will be conducted under the slogan, "*Kaont blo mi, fiosa blo mi*" or in English translation "*My count, my future*".



Public in Kirakira flocked the Census awareness booth to learn about Census and its importance.



Makira and Temotu province Census District Superintendent, Francis Badenogo responding to questions from members of the public.



Kirakira public at the Census awareness booth.



# Kimi calls for 'Census' collaborative support

The appointed 2019 Census Commissioner, Douglas Kimi is calling on everyone to support the Census Office within the National Statistics Office, Ministry of Finance & Treasury as it prepares to implement the 2019 Census in November.

Mr. Kimi who is currently the Government Statistician, was appointed the 2019 Census Commissioner by the Caretaker Prime Minister Rick Hou on Monday 18 March at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Delivering his speech shortly after the announcement of his new appointment, Mr. Kimi said the 2019 Census success depends very much on every citizen's cooperation in one way or the other.

He said this is the biggest undertaking for the country, therefore, everyone's joint effort is necessary for a successful census operation.



Census Commissioner, Douglas Kimi.

However, the Census Commissioner assured the people of the Solomon Islands that under his leadership, the Census Office will do its utmost best to implement a successful census enumeration by end of the year (2019) and provide preliminary results by mid-2020.

Mr. Kimi also stressed that the success of the 2019 Census will also depend very much on development partners and donor support, cooperation of all levels of government and the fullest participation of our people across the nation.

He also used the opportunity and called upon the country's development partners and donors, line ministries and key stakeholders, and citizens to support the Census Office and the National Statistics Office (NSO) implement the 2019 Census.

## Citizens urged to take ownership of Census

Solomon Islands citizens and residents are called on to take ownership of the coming 2019 National Population and Housing Census.

The 2019 'Census Night' is on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2019 but actual field enumeration (counting) start from 4<sup>th</sup> November to 8<sup>th</sup> December.

Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare while launching the 2019 Census project in July said that it is important citizens/residents of the country must take ownership of the census project.

"...I appealed to all Solomon Islanders, Citizens and Residents to take ownership of the 2019 Census and make sure you place your count or your mark in the census enumeration forms.

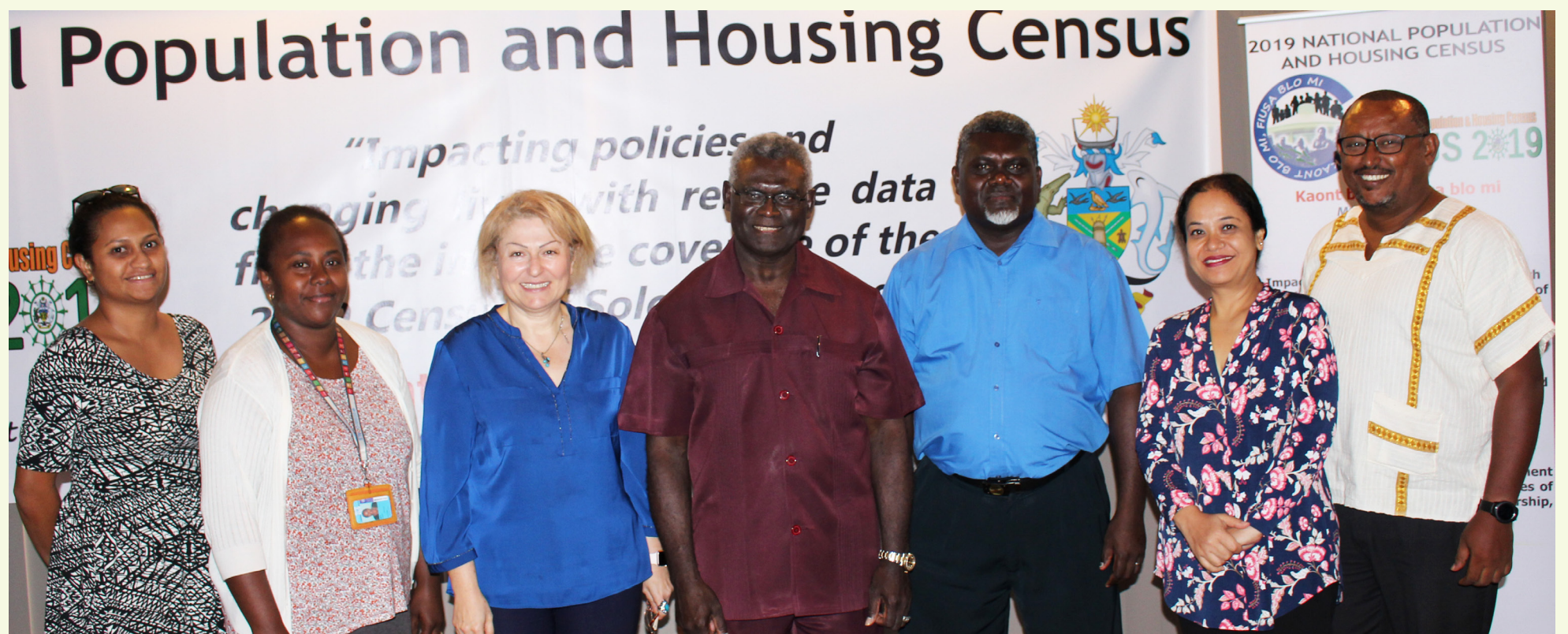
"Together we will make our counts mean something for our country in a way that informs and drives policy change for the betterment of our children, our youths, our women and men and out nation – Solomon Islands," PM Sogavare stressed.

PM Sogavare said that he is very confident that the country will have a very successful Census.

"Our teams at the Census Office of the National Statistics Office (NSO) have undertaken extensive preparatory work since 2017 and are in a state of readiness to implement the census enumeration."

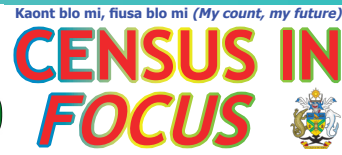
Mr. Sogavare also used the opportunity and commended the Census Commissioner, Douglas Kimi, and staff of the Census Office of the NSO for all the preparatory work undertaken to date.

"I wish the Census Commissioner and his team every success in the implementation of the census."



PM Manasseh Sogavare (centre) and Census Commissioner, Douglas Kimi with representatives from development/donor partners during the launching of the 2019 National Population & Housing Census Project - July 2019.





# Temotu provincial gov't pledges Census support

The Temotu Provincial Government is keen and pledged to support the 2019 National Population and Housing Census activities in the province.

Deputy Premier and Acting Premier Hon. Philip Mali assured the province Census Officers while launching the 2019 census project in the province capital, Lata on Friday 12th July.

"My government through the Administration are looking forward for a good working relationship and cooperation to support census activities in the (our) province.

"There will be huge challenges ahead of us and we will always face this due to our remoteness and isolations of our Islands, so it will not be easy. In saying this, I am calling for generous response to the questionnaires during census by all people in the prov-

ince."

He urged all Temotuan's and every good people residing in the Islands to (must) take responsibility and feel ownership of the (this) census.

"The importance of this census and why we should take responsibility is because it will provide the Solomon Islands institutions especially our government here in Temotu information needed to plan, monitor and evaluate policies and goals of the province, it will help us disseminate information to general public and private enterprises and to all economic and social agents involved in decision making.

"Our aim is to improve the statistical system of this Province and support our development in moving towards a market economy. The 2019 Population and Housing Census data collection will determine the creation

of new wards and constituency boundaries including this province in preparation for 2023 National and Provincial elections," Mr. Mali stressed.

The Hon. Deputy Premier also highlighted that in 2009 Population Census, Temotu recorded a total of 21,365 people with an annual population increase of 1.4% per annum.

"Temotu population density during 2009 population census confirmed 25 people per square kilometre compared to an average population density of 17 people per square kilometre.

"If the population projection is correct, this year our population density would increase to 50 person per square kilometre.

"Another important information I want us to take of according to 2009 census is in the area of sanitation practices, in 2009 we have very poor record of 99 per cent

people are still using open defecation, this I hope we should improve in this year's census findings. The good news however is that in literacy rate, we recorded a significant increase above 90 per cent.

"These are pointers/indicators to give us signal in our decision making and positive participation in this crucial 10 year event in our province and the country as a whole. Therefore, our positive contribution in this 2019 Population and Housing Census for Temotu Province would be highly appreciated."

Mr. Mali then thanked government staff/officials, representatives from private companies, NGOs and the general public who joined the launching event as he declared the 2019 Population and Housing Census open in Temotu Province.



Two Provincial MPA with members of the public during the launching event.



Deputy Premier Hon. Philip Mali delivers his keynote address.



Temotu Census team with an Australian Volunteer, Erica in discussion during the Census Provincial Coordination workshop in Honiara.



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