



Pictures of the 2019 Census during implementation from 4th November to 8th December. See reports and photos inside.

Prince Charles counted in Solomon's Census


His Royal Highness Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales has been enumerated and recorded in the Solomon Islands population count as a foreigner after the Census Office counted him on the 'Census Night' (Sunday 24th November 2019). Prince Charles who made an official visit to the country on 23rd-25th November was residing at the British High Commissioner's residence at Tanuli Ridge, Central Honiara when the Census Office enumerated/counted him. Census Commissioner, Douglas Kimi said this is one of the highlights of the 2019 National Population Census and will go down in the country's history records. He said that having someone of such prominence counted in the country's census is a 'history' given that the Solomon Islands was a British protectorate before independence and that Prince Charles will be the future King of the United Kingdom and the commonwealth of nations, where the Solomon Islands is also a part of the commonwealth of nations. Mr. Kimi said that the Solomon Islands Census process follows international (UN) and statistical standards and being conducted on a de-facto basis as in many Pacific Island Countries, example Fiji and other countries in the world. "This basically means that the Census enumerated (count) the population who are 'physically present' - in the household or non-dwelling households/institutions such as hotels, ships, jail/prison, hospital etc. in the country (sovereign territory) and not outside the country



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(outside the sovereign territory) during the census night - regardless of whether the person is a citizen, non-citizen or foreigner, resi-

dent or visitor. He said that 'Census Night' serves as a reference point for the actual enumeration or counting period which commenced on 4th November and ended on 8th December 2019. "The 'Census Night' is a statistical reference point or period for a census. Statistically, by mid-Night of the 24th November, 2019, we will have counted all people in our nation, with data collected referenced to the mid-night of 24th November 2019," he said. The Census Commissioner said that due to security reasons and strict protocols, Census enumerators (field officers) did not turn up physically to do the head count of the Prince but instead submitted a census questionnaire form at the British High Commissioner's residence and they filled the form with Prince Charles and then submitted it to the Census Office in Honiara through collection by our enumeration team. "Yes, it's a history and this will be kept in our archives for future referencing." The Prince spent two nights at the British High Commissioner's Residence during his recent visit to Honiara, which ended with a stunning speech he delivered in Pidjin to a packed Lawson Tama ground on Monday 25th Nov. 2019. Prince Charles arrived in the country on Saturday 23rd November and left on Monday 25th November. Census field enumeration ended on Sunday 8th December 2019. Data cleaning and processing is expected to start soon.




Solomon Islands Census 2019

My count, my future

Be part of the count!

4th November to 8th December

Impacting policies and changing lives with reliable data from the inclusive coverage of the 2019 Census of Solomon Islands





Welcome message from the Census Commissioner

This year, on the 4th of November to the 8th of December 2019, the National Statistics Office, through the Census Project Office has conducted the nation-wide National Population and Housing Census. The 2019 Census was the sixth successive Census conducted since 1970 and hence, it was another large national project that invite the participation and contribution from individual citizens, households and institutions alike.

This year's Census has been conducted in a two-way field visit enumeration (counting) process. First visit or round one was from the 4th November to 23rd November. During the first visit, Census enumerators (field officers) dispatched by the Census Office to each household with the intention of recording every members of the family/household within that period. This was the time actual counting of people has took place.

The mid-night of 24th November was the 'Census Night'. The

'Census Night' was a statistical reference point or period. Statistically, on the mid-night of the 24th November, 2019, we would have counted all people in our nation - with data collected referenced to the mid-night of 24th November 2019.

The second visit or round two was from the 25th November to the 8th of December 2019. During this period, Census enumerators would revisit the households they have visited during the first visit with the intention to confirm and verify information collected. The 2019 Census was also 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 third publication of the Census In-focus newsletter which intended 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 Minister Manasseh Sogavare of the

date of the Census Night, which was on 24th 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 recruited as Census District Superintendents, Chief Census Area Managers, Census Area Managers, Field Supervisors and Census Field Enumerators.

Additionally, the Census Office has undertaken a pilot testing of the census questionnaire in August prior to the actual counting so that the Census Office would 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 targeted to achieve an inclusive coverage of census to all ten provinces of Solomon Islands namely, Choiseul, Western, Isabel, Central, Guadalcanal, Rennel & 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 would like to thank the national government, for funding support, our stakeholders and development partners, and all Solomon Islands citizens, households and non-dwelling institutions for the support you have rendered towards the NSO/Census Office during the implementation period of the 2019 National Census from 4th November - 8th December.

Thank you.

Training for Census staff

The training of supervisors and enumerators hired to conduct the upcoming 2019 National Population and Housing Census has inaugurated and is currently underway across the country.

Ran for two full weeks, the Census supervisors and enumerators training commenced, Monday 14 October 2019.

The training is to ensure staff thoroughly go through the Census questionnaire form, enumerators and Supervisors census manual and survey instruments that will be used during the Census exercise.

The two weeks training that was opened by the country's Census Commissioner and Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi, involves over 3000 Census field of-



Census enumerator at one of the training centre on Guadalcanal Province. Photo below: Enumerators during field work.

ficers who will be deployed across the country to carry out the operation.

The population count is scheduled for November 4 to December 8. Training venues are allotted at different wards in each province across the nation.

Meanwhile, Census Commission-

er and Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi said that while Census is a crucial undertaking to ensure the country have an updated population count, collaborative effort and support from citizen's is important to guarantee a successful census.

Solomon Islands conducted cen-

sus after every 10 years. The latest census was held in 2009.

The training ended on Friday, 25 October.





Census Commissioner told officers to give their best

The country’s Census Commissioner and Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi has urged officers recruited for the national population census to take pride of the opportunity and give their best to gather accurate, credible and quality data. Commissioner Kimi made the statement to officially open the two weeks census supervisors and enumerators training in Honiara, October 14. He told the officers that they should be proud that they have

been given an opportunity to serve the country in such an important exercise, thus, they should give their best. Addressing the supervisors and enumerators for Honiara City the Census Commissioner urged the participants to strictly adhere to all the guidelines for the census and ensure that the exercise of counting people is done in a way that will yield accurate, credible and quality data. “Pay attention to all the instructions given and ensure that you

apply to the questionnaire form what is required of you.” The Commissioner also emphasised the two legislations that guided the National Statistics Office/Census Office in its national undertaking. They are; the Statistics Act 1970 (Amendments 2007), and the Census Act 1959. These legislations mandated the Office to compile and disseminate official statistics of the Solomon Islands. He told the officers to perform their work with integrity since

they are duty bound under these legislations. “...perform your onus with honesty. November 4 to December 8, 2019 is the census period. The government uses the data collected during the exercise for planning of development programmes. The data is also used by National and International agencies to inform critical decisions on diverse issues. The two weeks training ended on October 25.



Some of the census supervisors and enumerators for Guadalcanal province, 2019



Census officers during a discussion session.



Census supervisors and enumerators at training, Guadalcanal Province.



Census logistics team transporting census materials and kit.



Guadalcanal Province census officers during logistics operation



Temotu Census staff urged to utilise training

More than 100 participants hired to conduct the 2019 national Census in Temotu Province has undertaken an intensive training held in Lata, Santa Cruz and Otelo in the Reef Islands.

The Census supervisors and enumerators training was part of the 2019 National Population and Housing Census preparation towards the implementation phase in November 4 to December 8.

Other provinces also have their own trainings in their respective provinces.

In his opening remarks, Census District Superintendent for Temotu and Makira province's Francis Badenogo urged participants to be punctual and committed to utilize the two weeks because the training will be intensive.



Group photo of Nende and Vattud Supervisors and Enumerators Lata, Santa Cruz.

The training ended on the 25th October.

Supervisors and enumerators will be deployed thereafter to their respective Enumeration Areas (EAs).

CDS Badenogo said that despite funding challenges they have to go ahead with the trainings since

they have all the logistics available and ready.

Supervisors and enumerators from Vatu and Nende constituencies and are attending training at Lata while Pele constituency officers are in Otelo.

Temotu Province is the most remote and isolated Province in the

country in which difficulties remain and always be a challenges in national project like census.

Meanwhile, Census Commissioner Douglas Kimi thanked all the provincial census office staff for ensuring the training is progressing.

He appealed to all Solomon Islanders, Citizens and Residents to take ownership of the 2019 Census and make sure they place their count or their mark in the census enumeration forms.

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

Sport icons vows Census support

The country's renowned sport icons has pledged their strong support to the 2019 National Population and Housing Census, November.

The duo are Jimmy Marau and Primo Higa from Makira-Ulawa province.

The two gold medallist in track events had voluntarily helped Makira-Ulawa Census officers to load Census Materials and kits (logistics) recently.

"Supporting and taking part in such important undertaking is critical and we are willing to support and taking part in this national onus in our community."

Mr. Marau, teacher by profession

had historical record in Guam 1975 South Pacific Games where he grabbed gold medal in the 100m, bronze in 200m, silver in 4x100m and bronze medal in 4x400m.

Also Primo Higa, long distance runner sets a new record in 1997 South Pacific Games in American Samoa raising Solomon flag high with gold medals in 5000m and 1999 Oceania competition in Townsville, half marathon, 5000m and 10000m in 1999.

Speaking to Census District Superintendent (CDS) for Makira and Temotu, Francis Badenogo, the duo stressed that census is an important research survey for the country to ensure Government

make accurate planning for fair distribution of funds and services to the communities.

"Also, based on the information or data to be collected Government will align its policy to help improve socio-economic development in the country. This is to ensure rural populace have access to better health services, education and infrastructure."

They also appealed to their people and individuals in the province (Makira) and also citizens of Solomon Islands to support Census and be part of the count.

Mr. Higa said that data had recorded high number of youth with potential and he wanted to

see young people (must) involve in sports with the support of our Government and especially in the upcoming 2023 South Pacific Games.

At the same time, Mr. Marau commented that data which indicated high rate of people living below poverty line in Makira Province is not acceptable because we all have the resources to improve our livelihood, example cocoa, copra, timber and good number of logging in the province that should already have positive impact on the life of rural people.



Chief Census Area Manager (CCAM) for Makira John Tao, Jimmy Marau, Census District Superintendent (CDS) for Makira and Temotu Francis Badenogo and Primo Higa.



Claims of unqualified people recruited for Census rebutted

The National Census Office has generally refuted allegations that there are unqualified people being recruited to work in the 2019 national census survey.

After the final recruitment of census field officers published end of September, the office continue to received complaints from members of the public alleging that it has avoided all selection criteria and processes yet recruited unqualified people to work as supervisors and enumerators.

Responding to the allegations, the Census Commissioner Douglas Kimi said that the claims are misleading and speculative.

He said that while the office appreciate freedom of speech that allow citizens to express themselves regarding national undertakings, it is irresponsible to say that the office has sidestepped the normal recruitment process and recruited people with no qualification.

"The office has observed all recruitment processes and to claim that the recruitment process has been dishonoured is erroneous.

"Everyone who have applied for the positions are all qualified based on the criteria stated in the media notice as well as special cases of consideration given to isolated areas, language barriers, platform areas, cultural and religious sensitivity, candidates (school students) currently at school, safety consideration and also physical fitness and health concerns of candidates.

Hence, qualification of candidates were not just based on academic qualifications but related core characteristics considered as prerequisites.

Moreover, due to limited space and the closeness of the census implementation phase, we had to recruit candidate's base on these core prerequisites, including experience and commitment.

"There are a lot of students who have applied. These students are qualified individuals but we are unable to engage them due to (their) school commitment as they are also preparing towards their end year exams. So we do not want to disturb them.



Census Commissioner and Government Statistician Douglas Kimi.

"For those who have been already employed but were again recruited for Census Project, there have been some understanding that was reached between the employer and his/her employee that permits them to work (or not to work) in the national census exercise," Mr Kimi explained.

He added that there are also special cases taken into account by the recruitment committee – like the platform or organised community in Makira-Ulawa province, Christian Fellowship Church (CFC)/community in the Western Province including other regions in the country.

"The National Statistics Office (NSO) through the Census Project Office treat these communities (platform or organized communities) as special cases.

"Negotiation to penetrate/enter these communities was not successful but only allow members of their community (s) to work in the community. Thus, the selection of enumerators in these areas were identified by the community leaders. This is the relationship and co-operation approaches that NSO-Census project office adhere to avoid undercount and resistance.

"There is a slight chance of nepotism and the Census Office sincerely apologizes to the public for any inconveniences these has caused and thank the general public for their understanding at a time where the Census Office has begun intensifying efforts towards the enumeration phase.

"We are taking into consideration your views and concerns and will working on ways to improve future census undertakings."

The Census Commissioner added that how the recruitment done for this year is different.

"Under the demarcation, there are legal boundaries and they include: Solomon Islands as a country, province, constituency and ward. However, for statistical purposes the census office added an additional one, Enumeration Area (EA), which is not a legal boundary, but just to capture information at the ward level.

"There are enumerators carried out a village resource survey in 2017 and 2018, which was actually a village census or pre-census.

"When they went out they carried out Global Positioning System (GPS) of the villages and households.

"In a nutshell we already predetermined from the village census the population of Solomon Islands.

"So we have to re-draw the area in the ward into an enumeration area."

The definition of the enumeration area is 60 households. The 60 household is sufficient for each enumerator to cover over a three weeks period. In Honiara, there will be 50 households in an enumeration area.

"By establishing the households they have to cut new boundaries in the wards based on the village resource survey and the projections."

The Census office has retained most of the workers who participated in the 2017-2108 village resource survey to continue working in the 2019 Census."

Census field enumeration runs from 4th November to 8th December 2019.

The Census Office sincerely apologises to those concerned if the recruitment process was not clear and that these had caused inconveniences amongst certain people. The Census Office continues to assure the public of these concerns and that the office will try its best to address them as and where necessary.

The Census Office again thank the public for your concerns and seeks your understanding and support in this major national project.



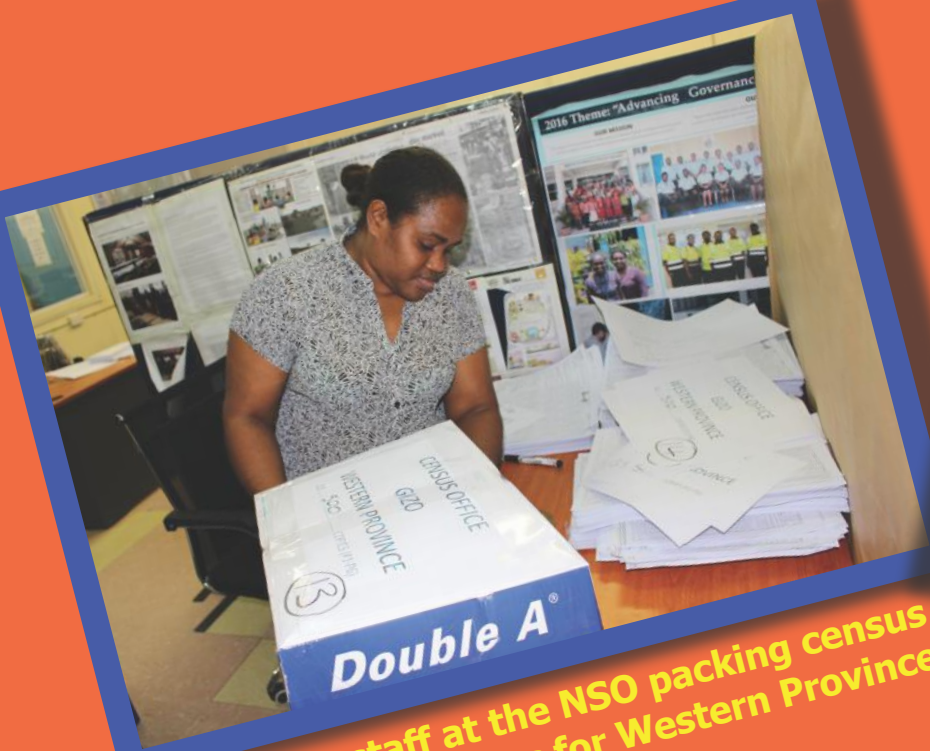
National Statistics Office Senior Information Officer, Joy Talo assisting census applicants, 2019.

Stories in pictures

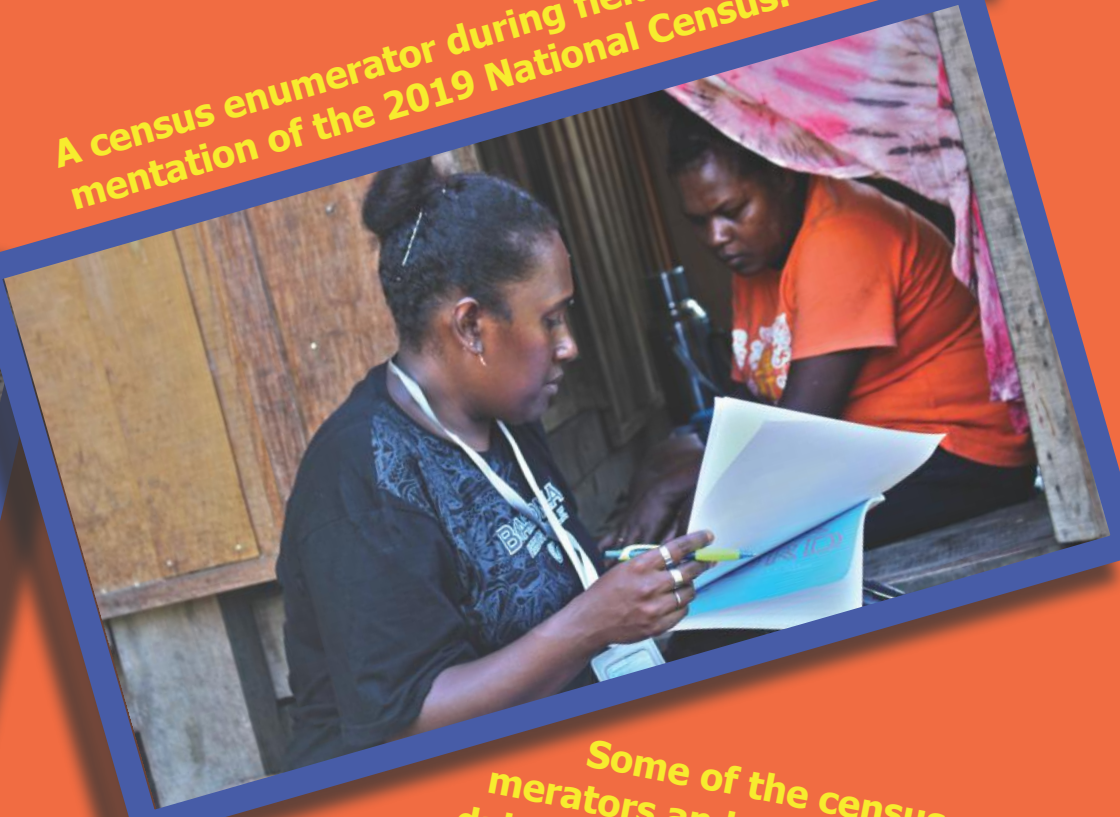
Census staff busy with printing and packing of Census questionnaire forms -2019.



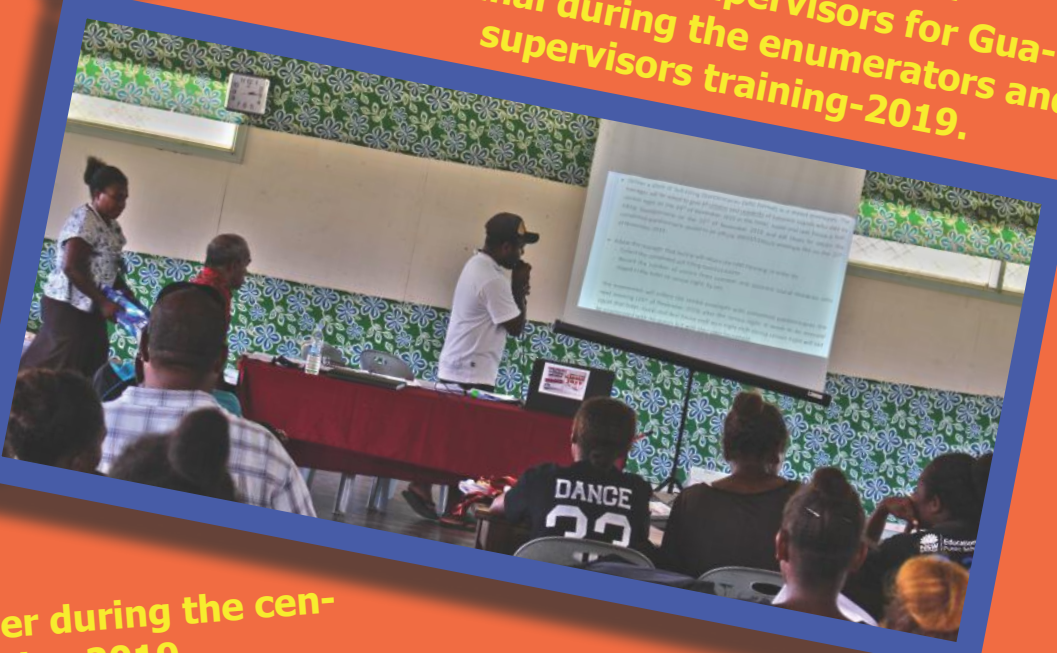
A female staff at the NSO packing census questionnaire forms for Western Province.



A census enumerator during field implementation of the 2019 National Census.



Some of the census enumerators and supervisors for Guadalcanal during the enumerators and supervisors training-2019.



A census enumerator interviewing a mother during the census implementation period in Honaira-2019.





Census employs 3,000 workers

The National Census Office through its National Statistics Office has recruited about 3,000 people to conduct the 2019 National Population and Housing Census. This was the biggest ever recruitment the office has undertaken compared to previous censuses, and in a short period of time. Census Commissioner and Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi said he is pleased to see many unemployed youths are given the opportunity as part of their work experience. He said the short-term job opportunity will be beneficial to individuals as it sharpens their knowledge and skills and prepare them for future undertakings or statisti-

cal surveys or future employment. “Having unemployed youths busy in such national undertaking is significant, and the experience gained by the youths would be a useful pre-requisite for future long term employment. “This is where they can build their confidence and life time work experience that will surely help them in future responsibilities and career quest. “Also, there are a lot of young mothers who also recruited in this census exercise and I believe with this part-time job they will earn money to sustain them and help their family afford basic needs and meet their children school fees,” Mr. Kimi stressed. At the same time, Mr. Kimi calls

on everyone to cooperate with census field officers who will be visiting homes and institutions to collect data or information from 4th November to 8th December. “Please welcome and assist our officers (census workers) who will be visiting your homes/residents during the census period. “It is also important that we work together to ensure we have a successful census that will yield credible and quality information for government future planning.” Solomon Islands have 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. 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. The government uses the data collected during the exercise for planning of development programmes. It is also important for the budget allocation process for the national government, and will be used in future planning, as well as monitor the progress of government development programs. The data is also used by National and International agencies to inform critical decisions on diverse issues.



Census District Superintendent for Makira and Temotu Province Francis Badenogo and Makira Census officers with census materials and kits.



Census Secretary Gwen Vola showing off copy of the 2019 Census questionnaire form.



Census field officers during the census enumeration period at a community in Guadalcanal Province.



A census enumerator interviewing a mother during the census enumeration period at a community in the Honiara outskirt.

Census in Honiara go digital

The National Census Office through its National Statistics Office has employed tablets and captured data for the first time in the agency's 49-year history during the 2019 Population Census, especially in Honiara. The new initiative was a move that looks to replace and end the 10-yearly survey with a digital alternative in the future.

Census Commissioner, Douglas Kimi said the initiative was a new challenge yet a step forward for the government statistical agency as it endeavouring to cope with technology.

However, Mr. Kimi stressed that

the tablets were only used by census field officers in Honiara City while the other provinces were still use the paper questionnaire forms.

"We are thinking of trying this out in the provincial centres but for now we want to test it in Honiara first.

"There will be a slight difference from the 2009 census where Honiara city data was captured/filled in a paper forms and this will minimise the amount of time taken in each household.

"Using the digital mode will ensure privacy, faster processing and data safety.

"But for the other nine provinces paper forms/questionnaires will be still used in the 2019 Census," Mr. Kimi said.

"This is a new challenge but we are hopeful that by using the tablet gadgets it will help us make references for future statistical undertakings. "There are different ways we could take a census in the future, and they have different strengths and weaknesses but at least we start somewhere."

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 was the sixth one in the series but 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.



Chief Statistician Anterlyn Tuzakana trying out the taplets.



Principal Statistician Hendry Risoni trying out the laplet app.



Statistician Desmond Papage going through the tablet app.



National Statistics Office staff with the census tablets.



Census chief meets CSSI senior executive

Census Commissioner Douglas Kimi on Tuesday 12 November met with the senior executive of the Correctional Service of Solomon Islands (CSSI) in Honiara. The meeting was purposely to brief the CSSI executive regarding the 2019 census operation.

each other in the census implementation phase and ensure census enumerators and supervisors can be able to visit the detention centres or prisons centres both in Honiara and in the provinces and do their task by interviewing inmates without apprehension. CSSI Deputy Commissioner,

Meanwhile, Mr Kimi thanked the CSSI’s assurance and looks forward for both government’s organisations (CSSI and NSO) close collaboration in future statistical undertaking. The Solomon Islands 2019 National Population and Housing Census is a nationwide survey and the biggest ever

ic characteristics of individuals within private households and non-private dwellings such as age, gender, religion, occupation, education, disability, economic activity financial inclusion, natural disaster and even a question on the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) will be asked.



Census Commissioner and Government Statistician Douglas Kimi.



Some Correctional Service of Solomon Islands (CSSI) Senior executive members during the meeting-2019.



CSSI Deputy Commissioner Christopher Bwekulyi.

Discussions were surrounded in the area of close collaboration – especially on Non Private Dwellings (NPDs) which include; correctional centers and detentions/prisons, hotels, motels, rest houses, patients admitted in clinics and hospitals in the provinces including National referral Hospital in Honiara, and ships. The short meeting was fruitful as both government organisation (Census office/National Statistics Office and CSSI) agreed to support

Christopher Bwekulyi thanked the Census Commissioner Douglas Kimi and his team for the courtesy call and assured the Census Office of CSSI’s full support. He said census is a national undertaking and a very crucial survey research for the government and policy-makers therefore collecting quality data is critical to help government in its policy formulation and future planning. The census exercise runs for six weeks.

census operation with about 3,000 field officers (enumerators and supervisors) has been recruited by the Census Office to carry out data collection across the country compared to previous censuses, and in a short period of time. Also it is the biggest-ever census attempted in our development history in terms of the scope and nature of questions to be asked from the current population. These include questions about the socio-economic and demograph-

Census Commissioner Douglas Kimi again appealed to fellow citizens to participate in the census and support field officers who are now in the field to collect and record data or information “for the good of the nation.” “My appeal to all brothers and sisters of the country is to wholeheartedly take part in the enormous national tasks of Census implementation phase. It is important for the nation as well as you,” he said.



Chief Statistician Anterlyn Tuzakana.



CSSI Senior executimve members.



A CSSI Senior member take a look at the Non Private Dwelling census form.

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