

## **CENSUS FIXED FOR SEPTEMBER 26**

The 2010 Population and Housing Census Night has been fixed for Sunday, September 26, 2010, setting the stage for the conduct of the exercise, which the government believes will measure up to and enhance its “Better Ghana” agenda.

Announcing the date at a news conference in Accra yesterday on behalf of the President, the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Dr. Kwabena Duffour, gave the assurance that the government would provide the necessary human and financial support to the Census Secretariat to ensure the success of the exercise.

“At this stage, there is no doubt that the government will complete this assignment,” he said.

The census, which will cover a two-week period, will provide up-to-date socio-economic data for planning at both the national and sub-national levels, as well as indicators for tracking the government’s development policies and goals on education, health, housing and other sectors.

This year’s census is estimated to cost GH64 million, out of which the government has released GH32 million, while it counts on the support of local and international donor agencies and partners to redeem the balance.

The Census Night, fixed for September 26, is very crucial to the conduct of the census because it is the reference point around which the entire enumeration exercise revolves.

That means every activity of the exercise, such as the administration of questionnaire to elicit demographic data, will be referenced to the Census Night.

Already, the census has attracted a great deal of interest with an estimated 117,000 people applying for employment as enumerators, but only 60,000 of them are to be engaged in the exercise, which will cover a period of two weeks after the Census Night.

Dr. Duffour said the government fully appreciated the value of the census and importance of timely and reliable data and added that the enumeration exercise would measure the country’s performance in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

**SOURCE:** DAILY GRAPHIC SATURDAY, AUGUST 7. 2010, FRONT PAGE