

CENSUS TAKES OFF SEPT 26

The 2010 Population and Housing Census begins on September 26 and ends October 9,

the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Dr. Kwabena Duffour has announced.

He said the entire exercise will cost the state GH64 million out of which GH32 million will be provided by the government and the rest from other sources.

The Minister said that in spite of the extreme financial constraints facing the country, the government had made the census its topmost priority; hence, the need to source for funds to ensure its successful implementation. “We are committed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to reduce poverty levels among the people,” he declared.

On the significance of the exercise, he said statistical indicators derived from it will inform the government whether or not it is on track to achieve the MDG’s.

“We need to be well informed on our achievements and short-falls to enable us to implement policies that will put the country on track towards reducing poverty levels across our districts,” he said.

Dr. Duffour urge municipal and district assemblies to do their best to ensure that the necessary logistics are available to facilitate the field exercise since a lot of resources have been committed to it.

He lauded the United Nations Fund, the UNFPA, UNDP, the UNICEF and the People’s Republic of China and private institutions for their contribution that had complemented government’s efforts to bring the census to its current level of achievement.

The Minister of Information, John Tia Akologo, in an earlier address, urged the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) to live up to the task ahead in order to deliver accurate data to the government, the private sector, development partners and researchers.

He said with the government’s “Better Ghana” agenda on course, all must be done to ensure that development programmes to be undertaken were measured using data that the census would provide.

“It will further give credence to the government’s assertion that the country is moving in the right direction and that the living standards” of our people are improving’.

The Minister explained the Census Reference Night, saying it is the night when all questions on the census will be referred.

The Government Statistician, Dr. Grace Bediako, said 60,000 officers will be recruited to undertake the exercise after a series of training.

She said Ghanaians living outside the country will not be enumerated.

Dr. Bediako noted that the success of the exercise would require goodwill and support from individuals and called on non-governmental organizations, opinion leaders, security agencies and political parties to support.

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