

## **GH¢25 MILLION ALLOCATED FOR CENSUS**

The government has allocated GH¢ 25 million towards the 2010 National Census. The donor community is also expected to provide the remaining 50 percent of the amount for the exercise.

A member of the 18 member National Census Planning and Management Committee, Hajj Hamid Chodi, disclosed this at 11<sup>th</sup> Mujahid Annual Ramadan Lecture organized by the Ghana Muslim Academy in Accra.

Hajj Chodi said the Government would collaborate, with the Ghana Statistical Service to ensure an effective and problem-free exercise. He, therefore, called on organizations and religious leaders to help educate the public on the importance of the census, which he said, was the core ingredient to the development of the country.

He added that the population census would help the Government to allocate funds equitably and properly to implement national development programmes and services including education, housing, and housing and health care. He said many organizations largely relied on the census to provide social services to the people, thus ensuring national development.

Hajj Chodi further added that the data for locating factories, shopping malls, banks and officials which credited jobs for the unemployed in the country were all obtained from the census. He, therefore, urged all to actively participate in the exercise.

A Research Fellow at the Academy, Hajj Adam Yunus urged the Ghana Statistics Service to orient and educate census officers to detach themselves from all interests, whether political, ethnic or religious. He urged the leadership of the Muslim community to be provocative in educative in educating Muslims on the essence of the census.

He also advised the public to make themselves available to be counted and rrase all misconceptions about the use of the population census. He added that it was significant for the country to embark on such an exercise, since it had a strong and direct connection with the socio-economic development of the country.

**Source:** Daily Graphic, Saturday September 12, 2009, Page 18.