

HOW MANY ARE WE?

On Sunday 26th September 2010 Ghana would embark on one of those rare national exercises in her development history- Housing and Population Census.

Like national elections, the enumeration is capital intensive, requiring the support all citizens to make the outcome credible and beneficial to the cause of the country development interest.

A headcount of just how many of us inhabit the portion of the world is an exercise whose importance cannot be over emphasized or even down played. The subject as it engages the relevant government department, has been a demanding one, full of challenges especially as we inch towards Sunday.

It is gratifying to note that personnel of statistical service assigned the national exercise have been turning all stones to ensure the successful count of all of us.

Considering the importance of the exercise, we implore personnel charged with the onerous to continue to show a high sense of commitment and loyalty so that the media and Ghanaians in general would not have any cause to query their performance.

Much water has passed under the bridge since the public education campaign on the head count, which is two days away, commenced. We are convinced therefore that the word has adequately seeped throughout the country and that we will not be beset with a situation where ignorance about the enumeration exercise would constitute a stumbling block and rod us of total success.

With the collaboration between the media and the Statistical Service so far, we have no doubt in our in our minds that most Ghanaians, if not all, know that on Sunday the enumeration exercise would begin across the country to commence the headcount.

It our view however that much as Ghanaians have been adequately sensitized about the fourth-coming nation exercise, it is important that they are encourage to lend support to it.

In the 1930s, the Gold Coast had a headcount of the citizens of the then British colony, an exercise which even in those pre-independence days attracted a high dose of urgency. Available archival pictures depict colonial enumerators visiting households for the enumeration. It is this urgency that we seek for the forthcoming exercise.

Development plans require knowledge about how many persons live within a geopolitical area. Without such a figure or an approximation, planning for development purposes would be impossible.

Ghanaians would have to be supportive of the enumerators' assignments when they come knocking on their doors. It is a demanding as noted in an earlier paragraph and when households are not forthcoming with the necessary support the national goal would be far from being realized.

The mantra of development which is basically what governance is all about, especially in the developing world is premised on the availability of the necessary data such as the number of Ghanaians in the country.

Source: Daily Graphic, Friday 24th September, 2010.