

## **MUSLIMS URGED TO PARTICIPATE IN CENSUS**

The greater regional imam of the Ahlul Sunna wal Jama'a's Muslims sect, Sheikh Swallah Abubakka, has urged Muslims to participate in the forthcoming National Population and Housing Census.

That, he said, was crucial since it would enable the Government to know the true Population of Muslims and assist in planning for their welfare in the country.

Sheikh Swallah made the call in his sermon during the Eid-ul-Fitr prayers at the Efua Sutherland Children's Park in Accra.

Hundreds of Muslims, young and old, dressed in their splendid Islamic and traditional apparel, converged on the park to observe the prayers.

Sheikh Swallah expressed worry that Muslims had shunned the past, which made it difficult for the enumerators to capture the true statistics of Muslims in the country.

He, therefore, said this time around all Muslims must make themselves available to be counted.

Sheikh Swallah said Allah had promised to forgive Muslims all their sins during the fasting period because of the virtues of love, unity, peace and sharing that they exhibited during the period.

He, therefore, charged them to continue exhibiting those virtues throughout the year, as that was a sign of the acceptance of their work.

Sheikh Swallah condemned the suggestion that the oil find would be a curse instead of a blessing to Ghanaian, rather he said, Ghanaian should think positively about the oil find and pray for it to benefit all Ghanaians.

The national Imam of the Ahlul Sunna wal Jama'a's sect, Sheikh Umar Ibrahim Imam, asked Muslims to contribute to the endowment funds established by the office of the National Chief Imam, the Ahlul Sunna, the coalition of Muslims Organization, Ghana (COMOG) and the Moslems Caucus in Parliament.

He said the contributions were needed to promote socio-economic development among Muslims.

In a speech read on his behalf, Vice-president, among John Dramani Mahama, reiterated the need for Muslims to participate in the forthcoming census.

He reiterated the commitment of the government to improve the living conditions of Ghanaians through the implementation of proper Policies.

**Source: Daily Graphic: Wednesday, September 15, 2010**