

PERSONAL INFO ON CENSUS WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL

The Government Statistician, Dr Badiako, has re-assured Ghanaians and other residents that personnel information and data collected from individuals by the Government Statisticians Service (GSS) for the 2010 Population and Housing Census, will be treated as strictly and confidential.

The mandate of the GSS by law, she said was to collect data on all persons living in Ghana every ten years for the purpose of a national and that mandate prohibits the Statistical Service from divulging such information to others and persons including the date and place of birth, religious and ethnic origin, political affiliation to any department of government or private institutions.

Dr Bediako was addressing a news conference here, at the weekend at the end of a three day capacity building training seminar for journalists towards next year's census.

She said on no occasion would the Statistical Service be obliged to divulge information collected for the census to anybody not even the state security services for investigative purposes or to the revenue agencies for tax collection.

The government statistician was speaking against the backdrop that people would not be willing to give out details about themselves or their households for fear that it would be used against them in the future for prosecution or discrimination against such people based on their ethnic and political affiliation.

Dr Bediako announced that trail census in six pilot districts around the country would be held on November 8.

The pilot districts are Saboba, and Chereponi in the Northern Region, Sene in the Brong Ahafo, Bia in Western Region. Awutu Senya in the Central Region, and Osu Clotey in the Greater Accra Region.

Dr Bediako, said November 8, will be declared as Pilot Census Day and at midnight all persons both Ghanaians and non-Ghanaians will be enumerated at the place they spent the census night. Also to be enumerated are, all buildings and such other structures as kiosk used for sleeping as these would enable the GSS to give an accurate information as possible in the census results of the socio economic status of the people.

GHANAIAN TIMES

OCT 6, 2009

BY: *NORMAN COOPER*, HO