

# POPULATION CENSUS BEGINS NEXT MONTH

THE MINISTER for Finance and Economic Planning, Dr. Kwabena Duffour has formally announced 26th September to 9th October 2010 as days set aside for the 2010 Population and Housing Census nationwide.

The date marks the start of the period of the enumeration of the census which involves counting interviewing and collection of individual and household data.

It will also serve as the Reference Point for all information that will be requested from individuals, households, institutions of residence and the communities.

The census will provide basic information on the characteristics of the communities districts, and more broadly, the regions, as well as feature in the computation of many of the key economic and social indicators.

Dr. Kwabena Duffour was speaking at the “Meet-the-Press’ session organized today at the Ministry of Information in Accra. The Government, according to the Minister, fully appreciates the value of the Population and Housing Census and its timely and reliable statistical data.

He mentioned that National Census which is under his chairmanship, has ensured that the National Census Secretariat has advanced in the preparations for the Census and added that government, on its part, has resolved to provide the necessary support, both financial and human to ensure that work the gets done to everyone’s satisfaction. Dr. Duffour indicated that the President, Prof. John Evans Atta Mills, also recognizes the critical significance of the population and census, and of the necessity of knowing the exact situations of the housing conditions in the country. He gave the assurance that statistics as well as indicators to be derived from the 2010 Population and Housing Census will informed the government on how best to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the year 2015.

The MDG’s aims at reducing the levels of poverty of the people within the regions, across the districts, and in the communities to track the progress in the

attainment of the various target set. 'Let me conclude that the success of a national exercise of this scope will require the goodwill cooperation and support of all stakeholders in the country', he said.

Dr. Duffour, therefore, called on all individuals as well as institutions, Assembly Members, District Coordination Directors, Regional Coordinating Directors and the MDAs to support this important exercise for a resounding success.

The Minister for Information, Hon. John Tia Akologo, on his part noted that the 2010 Census is another important step to update the country's socio-economic and demographic data adding that it will provide the government with the opportunity of ascertaining how far it has achieved the objectives of its Better Ghana Agenda. *ISD*

**SOURCE:** CHRONICLE, SATURDAY, AUGUST,7, 2010 PAGE 3