

UK SUPPORTS CENSUS WITH £2M

The Department for international Development (UKaid) has announced a release of two million pounds sterling (approximately GH¢4.5 million) grant to support the Ghana population and Housing Census.

The provision of the funds is to support the census Secretariat in the post-enumeration survey and dissemination of the exercise.

UKaid's new Director for western and Southern Africa, Jim Drummond, announced this yesterday when he interacted with census enumerators at Takoradi in the western Region.

Mr. Drummond, who is on a three-day official visit to the country, said "census is crucial to update information on social, demographic, economic and housing characteristic, of country's population

"it will help provide the basis for the design and implementation of strong development plans and programmes that can meet peoples' need," he explained.

Mr. Drummond said census was thus essential for the government to be able to provide services such as health and education in areas where they were most needed.

"It is also important for government to be able to understand where it is making progress and where it is not, he said.

At another meeting with beneficiaries of the livelihood empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) programme in the shama District, he said it was a very important intervention to provide social welfare payment to the most vulnerable.

He noted that 35,000 households were benefiting from the grants, and added that UKaid was determined to support government's effort to reach about 164,000 very poor households by 2012/13.

Meanwhile, the Census Secretariat has dispatched a number of materials to beef up supplies' for the exercise. The items include enumeration forms, raincoats, clean boards and wellington boots.

The head of publicity, education and fieldwork, David Kombat, who disclosed this to the times, said even though most of the materials were dispatched prior to the census, the secretariat realized the need to beef up the supply, in view of its determination to reach out to everybody within the two-week period of the exercise.

Source: Friday, October, 1, 2010, Back Page