

## ENUMERATORS LAMENT PROBLEMS

Faced with inadequate questionnaires, some of the enumerators in the Population and Housing Census have resorted to recording information collected from the field in notebooks to be transferred onto the questionnaires when they are made available.

Patience Tetteh, an enumerator in the Ga South municipality told the Times on Thursday, that she was usually given three questionnaires in the day which were used before midday, and in order not to waste the day, she decided to record the information a notebook.

Ms Tetteh suggested that the forms should be allocated to enumerators in bulk to enable them cover enough grounds, considering that only two weeks were allotted for the exercise.

Another enumerator who spoke on condition of anonymity spoke on similar problems and said she had decided to record the information elsewhere and transfer them to the questionnaires when available in order not to waste the day considering the difficulty in getting the people at home.

She appealed to the Census Secretariat to expedite the delivery of the questionnaires to facilitate work.

Another enumerator covering Jei-Krodua enumeration area in the Ga South municipality told the Times that he was often idle because “there is no material to work with”.

However, Michael Ofori, Ga South municipal census officer, told the Times that the practice of recording information into notebooks for onward transfer to the questionnaires was unacceptable, insisting that census interviewing had to be done with the questionnaires.

He admitted the challenges the enumerators were facing, but said the Government Statistician had held a meeting with the census officer and assured of regular and timely supply of questionnaires to speed up the field work.

Responding to questions about the field work on a GTV news bulletin on Thursday, David Kombat, Head of Publicity and Education at the Census Secretariat, acknowledged the problem and said that questionnaires and other logistics had been dispatched to all the regions. He explained that the questionnaires were sent to the regions through the regional officers, and to the district levels to the supervisors for distribution to the enumerators. That process, he said, might have accounted for the delay.

Mr. Kombat said, “ census is incomplete until the last man is enumerated”, and expressed the need for mopping up exercise to cover people who might have been missed out.

The Ga South municipality of the Greater Accra Region has 706 enumerators, and 10 institutional enumerators working under the supervision of 131 supervisors and 13 senior supervisors.