

National population and housing census to tarry

Though no specific date has been set for the conduct of the 2010 population and housing census, the Minister of finance and economic planning has stated government's resolve and commitment to ensure that the exercise is conducted this year. The programme was previously scheduled for March this year.

Since January 2009, the government has taken steps to ensure that a population and housing census is conducted in 2010. To this end, the government provided GH¢ 5 million in the 2009 budget to commence the process. An additional GH¢ 32 million has been provided in the 2010 budget for the census", the minister of finance said at a news conference in Accra yesterday.

He noted that the budgetary provision for the census programme have to date enabled the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) and the collaborating institutions and partners to make significant progress in the planning, implementation of the programme. The setting up of institutional machinery for planning, implementing, supervising and monitoring of the census process has been completed," he noted.

He acknowledged that the population and housing census was a unique data that provides benchmark information for effective planning and good governance at all levels of government. Without an exercise like the census , District Assemblies, for example, cannot get the data they need for evidence based management and administration in their respective district ,''he added.

Dr. Grace Bediako, the Government Statistician, said her outfit had prepared a report on the lessons that have been drawn from the pilot census which are now been incorporated into the strategies and instruments that would be used for the main census. She said the statistical service is considering others factors that would facilitate and maximize data collection during the exercise.

The Government Statistician mentioned that her outfit was considering factors such as the weather and major events such as the world cup, slated for June this year, the hajj and many other events that would see a lot of people move both internally and externally, which could jeopardize the exercise.

So we are looking at these possibilities and conditions that may affect the coverage of the normal population of the country, to set the date," she noted.

Source: The Chronicle, Wednesday, January 6, 2010.