



**OPENING REMARKS**

***BY***

**THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

**BUREAU OF PUBLIC SERVICE REFORMS (BPSR)**

***ON THE OCCASION OF***

**THE BPSR LUNCH TIME SEMINAR SERIES ON**

**THE TOPIC:**

**'National Development and The Imperatives of 2023  
Population and Housing Census'**

**HELD AT**

**MAIN AUDITORIUM, FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE, ABUJA**

**On**

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023**



## **PROTOCOLS**

**It is with great pleasure that I welcome us to the first Lunch Time Seminar for the Year 2023. Permit me to use this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us both virtually and physically these past years as we strive to attain a Public Service that can deliver quality services to the citizens.**

**2. Nigeria is endowed with a wealth of human capital, but without effective management, Nigeria might not experience the desired demographic dividend. This pattern would increase the current pressures on the available resources and restrict Nigeria's capacity to offer top-notch goods and services to everyone. To balance the country's growth and its resource availability, a strong population management system would be required.**

**3. This necessitated the choice of our Theme for this month's Lunch Time Seminar Series; 'National Development and The Imperatives of 2023 Population and Housing Census'.**

**4. In terms of our country's development, our population continues to be the most crucial factor. Development must begin and end with addressing the aspirations of the populace for higher living standards because they are both the agents and the beneficiaries of the development process.**

**5. The conduct of the 2023 population and housing census is a top priority for this administration and is borne out of the desire to bequeath an enduring legacy of evidence-based planning for sustainable development. The last comprehensive national population census was conducted in 2006. Since 2017, the National Population Commission have focused her efforts on household and other surveys, in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics.**



6. During the Review of Sectoral Performance 2017 – 2020, it was noted that the National Population Commission had powers to:

- i. undertake periodical enumeration of population through sample surveys and population censuses;
- ii. establish and maintain a machinery for continuous and universal registration of births and deaths throughout the Federation;
- iii. advise the President on population matters;
- iv. publish and provide information and data on population for the purpose of facilitating economic and development planning; and
- v. appoint and train or arrange for the appointment and training of enumerators or the staff of the Commission.

7. The conduct of the 2023 population and housing census is therefore to complement the giant Strides of Government by laying a sustainable basis for a planned and prosperous Nigeria. Importance of Population Census includes the following:

- (i) **Population size:** Population census helps the government of a country to know the specific number of people living in the country and how the structure of the population is like in view.
- (ii) **Revenue estimates:** The population census also aids in the determination of adults that are taxable in order to know the amount of revenue that is expected from that particular sector.
- (iii) **Tell the economic needs of the future:** The population census also helps the country to look into her future economic needs, e.g. housing and food.
- (iv) **Determines the level of unemployment:** Population census provides the government with statistics to determine the level of unemployment in the country.



- (v) **Determination of standard of living:** Population census also assists in the determination of the standard of living of the people in a county through per capita income.
- (vi) **Formulation of economic policies:** The number of people in a country is used to formulate policies of the economy.
- (vii) **Number of immigrants:** The number of immigrants in a country can be known or estimated when there is adequate population census in the country.
- (viii) **Distribution of resources:** Population census helps the government in the optimal distribution of the resources of the country in order to ensure that the states that have a high population like Lagos and Kano will get more resources than areas which has a low population.
- (ix) **Provision of social amenities:** Population census gives the government an idea of the different population in different parts of the country which will in turn aid the government in the adequate provision of social amenities like housing, water, electricity, roads, schools, and hospital which is beneficial to the citizens of the country.
- (x) **Determination of population density:** Population census helps the government to know areas in the country where the population in regards to the area of land is high or low.
- (xi) **It shows the level of available manpower:** Population census helps to reveal the total number of people who are of workable age and gainfully employed or unemployed. When the level of manpower is high as a virtue of employment, the economic development of the country is assured.
- (xii) **Giving of aids:** Population census assists the international agencies and governments in giving help and other assistance to countries that really need it.



(xiii) **Investment decisions:** Investments are usually done in areas where population is thick and dense. The result of Population census helps greatly in the decisions making of the international investors in regarding where to make investments in the country. For instance, a lot of international investors are so much interested in setting up a business in countries like Nigeria because of her high population rate.

(xiv) **Allocation of parliamentary seats:** In Countries like Nigeria, the number of citizens in a particular area or state greatly determines the number of seats in the senate or parliament allocated to that state. The state with the highest number of citizens often has the highest number of seats.

8. In Nigeria this year is also an election year, and Census details could provide the needed control data for validating information provided by persons that registered as new potential voters, updating records on existing registered voters and providing information on those who have attained the age of franchise or even died.

9. We have high anticipation of the fact that at the end of the seminar today, our Guest Speaker would have taken us through the entirety of population and housing census and its imperativeness to National Development. NOT ONLY IS THE CENSUS GOING TO TAKE PLACE BUT IT WILL BE A DIGITAL CENSUS.

10. I look forward to your comments, questions and recommendations at the end of the presentation. Thank you and welcome once again.