

## **PRESS RELEASE**

The Consultant on Census and Former Chief Census Commissioner of PBS held a press conference on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 highlighting preliminary results of Census-2017 and gave clarifications on various terms used in the Census process. The Consultant mentioned that PBS has taken all those areas as “Urban Areas” which have been notified as urban in terms of notification issued by the respective Provincial Governments. The “Urban Area” for the census purpose was taken as “All localities which were Metropolitan Corporation, Municipal Corporation, Municipal Committee, Town Committee or Cantonment at the time of the Census were treated as Urban”.

In addition to above, the Military Land and Cantonment Department, Ministry of Defence also notifies certain areas as Cantonments. Hence PBS has classified the whole geographical area of the country into two mutually exclusive groups as “Urban Areas” and “Rural Areas”.

In this context, the Consultant quoted examples of other countries like India who classify their geographical areas as “Urban” keeping in view the size of the population, population density, percentage of population involved in non-agricultural activities and other urban like characteristics prevalent in the area. Further the Consultant explained the definition of “Household” stating that household means “A household means a group of persons living together who have collective arrangements for eating. A person living alone was also considered to constitute a household. The distinguishing characteristic of a household is its common cooking arrangements”. The Consultant mentioned that a segment of population is criticizing the population growth of Karachi city in comparison to Lahore city. He

clarified that the Provincial Government of Punjab in the year 2015, had declared whole Lahore district as an urban area, resultantly the boundaries of Lahore city were extended to whole District of Lahore, while on the other hand the Sindh Government did not extend the boundaries of Karachi city since long except conversion of seven (7) *dehs* into urban areas. Keeping in view the current position of both the cities, the percentage increase in population is normal.

The Consultant also quoted the International references in which projected population of Karachi city was quoted. According to him the results of Census-2017 are in line with the projections made by the NIPS and estimates given by the Report of UN-Agency. He further mentioned that no concrete evidence has been reported from any quarter for non-counting of segment of population in the census process or areas left out in the census coverage. He clarified that PBS has complete documentation available, which can be shown to the Technical Committee of Sindh province to remove the doubts of Sindh province.

While highlighting the role of Provincial Governments in the Census process, he mentioned that Provincial Governments were extensively involved in the Census operation i.e. hiring and training of enumeration staff, distribution and retrieval of census documents were the sole responsibility of the Provincial Governments. The Deputy Commissioner / Assistant Commissioners were the Census District Officers in all over the country, who have furnished completion certificates pertaining to their areas certifying that all areas under their jurisdiction have been enumerated completely. On the other hand role of PBS in the whole process was to provide policy guidelines, coordination with the stakeholders, financial support and redressal of complaints etc. PBS has made all out efforts to explain the process

through departmental meetings, seminars and print & electronic media campaigns. The Teams of International and National observers were also invited who visited the whole country and showed satisfaction on the census operation.

The Consultant further informed that, first time in the history of conducting census, on-line verification of family information through SMS with the help of NADRA's database was adopted which served as deterrence for the wrong doers. The Consultant also briefed the media personnel about methodology adopted for enumeration of Afghan Refugees and TDPs. He mentioned that in the year 1998, the Afghan Refugees were confined to the Refugee Camps and were not enumerated in the census, while in 2017-Census, the Government has de-notified the Refugee camps and renamed as "Refugee villages". Moreover, Refugees were allowed to move out of Refugee villages and to live with common population. Hence all such Refugees were enumerated in the census process while Refugees living in Refugee Villages have not been enumerated in the census.

Similarly an enumeration methodology was derived for counting of TDPs in consultation with SAFRON, FATA administration and Political leadership. PBS has ensured that all TDPs are enumerated in the census process and no one is left-out. By the Grace of God, FATA people didn't raise any objection on the figures of FATA population.

The Consultant / Former Chief Census Commissioner acknowledged the services rendered by the Army Personnel involved in Census Operation, the role played by the Federal Government Department, Provincial Governments, District Management, Law Enforcing Agencies and Field Staff engaged in this operation for smooth conduct of Census Operation. He further lauded the services of those who sacrificed their lives for this national cause.

At the end consultant, took questions from the press and gave a comprehensive reply to the questions asked by the audience.

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