

## PRESS RELEASE

### 4<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF CENSUS MONITORING COMMITTEE HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2022

**Islamabad: Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday directed Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) and Provincial governments to ensure the effective coordination for the timely completion of the country's first-ever 7th Digital Population & Housing Census –**

The Minister made these directions while chairing a fourth Meeting of Census Monitoring Committee (CMC) to review progress on the 7th Digital Population & Housing Census held on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 under the chair of Professor. Ahsan Iqbal, M/o PD&SI, at National Census Coordination Center (N3C), PBS, Islamabad. at 1.30 pm. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretaries of all Provinces/Regions with relevant Secretaries, Additional Commissioner Islamabad, DG Military Operations, Directorate, Representatives from NADRA, NTC, Special Secretary Election Commission DG HEC, and senior officers from Education, Local Government, Finance, PBS and relevant stakeholders.

Dr. Naeem uz Zafar, Chief Statistician / Chief Census Commissioner gave a brief overview of agenda of fourth CMC meeting. The main agenda of the meeting is to devise the mechanism for the appropriate and timely resolution of the issues regarding the Census operations i.e. provision of staff, provision of ToT and TOE Venue for the training at Division and Tehsil level and non-joining of provisional census commission from provincial governments. He informed that, the Council of Common Interest had directed to conduct the digital census using modern digital technology and PBS initiated the preparations and for provision of 126000 tablets and Census ERP, the PBS signed an agreement with NADRA on June 20 for preparation of a comprehensive digital solution for carrying out the first-ever digital census in the country. He shared the overall progress of Census activities and informed that PBS with support of all relevant stakeholders had completed major tasks and now prepared for the full rollout of gigantic task of Census. He added that PBS has initiated training of the digital census in three tiers i.e. raining of Master Trainers, Training of Trainers (ToT) and Training of Enumerators. He also discussed the main issues that are being faced by the PBS due to non-willing of joining by Provisional government for conduct of digital census and non-availability of ToT venues at district and tehsil level. Minister PD&SI congratulated that PBS, along with partner organizations that are fully equipped to accomplish the Census activities.

Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, M/o of PD&SI emphasized on the timely completion of Census. He requests the provisional government to nominate the officers on attachment based during census tenure and to immediately provide the training venues along with required facilities to make the training session more effective.

The Minister said that whatever information ECP is required before officially handing over the digital census on April 30, 2023, the PBS will continue to share the information so that the homework of ECP will be complete before the start of the delimitation. "The government is spending Rs 34 billion for the country's first-ever digital census and each penny is public money which must be utilized to maximize the expenditures," said the Minister, while directing PBS to share the details of the procurement purchased for the census. The Minister also inquired about the procurement of the last census and its usage. During the meeting, the Minister also asked the provincial governments to attach their officials with PBS in a week so the process of census could be expedited. Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, M/o of PD&SI emphasized on the timely completion of Census. He requests the provincial governments to nominate the officers on

attachment based during census tenure and to immediately provide the training venues along with required accessories to make the training session more effective.

The Minister also requested Provincial governments a ban on the transfer of officials who have been deputed for census till the completion of the census. It is noted that officials from the education department and others were attached with PBS for the Census.

Meeting ended on a vote of thanks and resolve to continue with concerted efforts for transparent and credible conduct of census.

**Some Glimpses from 4<sup>th</sup> Census Monitoring Committee Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2022**



