

PRESS RELEASE

Meeting of The Minister PD&SI with Chief Ministers regarding 7th Population & Census 2022

A consultative meeting under the chair of Professor Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister of Planning Development & Special Initiatives (M/O PD&SI), was held on 19th May 2022, regarding 7th Population & Housing Census 2022, "First Ever Digital Census of Pakistan" at 3rd Floor M/O PD&SI. The objective of the meeting is to apprise the Chief Ministers of Provinces/ region regarding the Census process and to build consensus on the key issues. The meeting was attended by Provincial/regional Ministers, Chief Secretaries, Senior Member Board of Revenues and senior officers of the Provincial / regional governments. Dr. Jahanzeb Khan, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission (the chairman of the Census Monitoring Committee constituted by Council of Common Interest (CCI)), Mr. Dawood Muhammad Barech, Secretary PD&SI, Dr. Naeem uz Zafar, Chief Statistician, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), Mr. Ayazuddin, Member (Census& Surveys), Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, (Member Support Services & Resource Management), Ms. Rabia Awan, Deputy Director General, PBS and other senior officers of Ministry and PBS attended the meeting.

Minister PD&SI emphasized that Census is national activity of vital importance and highly sensitive due to its linkage with resource allocation, representation in national / provincial assemblies and delimitation process, therefore it is extremely important that Provinces must be taken on board and their grievances must be addressed before conduct of census for ownership and bringing transparency and credibility to the whole census process.

Mr. Naeem uz Zafar, Chief Statistician (PBS) presented in detail regarding the background of conduct of 7th Population & Housing Census and informed that the recommendations for conduct of Census was devised by the Census Advisory Committee comprising of renowned demographers and experts from all provinces. Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal Member (SS/RM) explained in detail the recommendations of the Committee regarding field operations, mode of data collection and method of enumeration. It was informed that 7th Population & Housing Census will be first ever digital census , where data will be collected electronically through tablets with geo tagging of every structure for real time monitoring, to provide quality data with complete coverage. He also apprised the worthy participants that in order to reduce the trust deficit and for broader involvement of all stakeholders , the recommendations of committee have been shared with provincial governments, academia, researchers and policymakers through consultative meetings and sensitization workshops held at all provincial / regional headquarters. The same are duly approved by Council of Common Interest (CCI) in its meeting held on 13th January 2022 along with census work plan, questionnaire, and constitution of Census Monitoring Committee. He further in detail explained the approved method of enumeration i.e. de-jure to clarify the misconceptions regarding the coverage of population.

Representatives from Provinces/ region shown great interest in the process and raised some pertinent questions which were duly addressed. They also ensured their full support for successful completion of the task. Minister PD&SI while closing the meeting stressed upon the need of involvement of all stakeholders in the process for ownership to avoid the problems faced during the 6th Population & Housing Census. He proposed that PBS team may visit provincial headquarters for detail presentation regarding the whole census process to the Chief Ministers and provincial governments for broader involvement and bringing credibility to whole process.

