

PRESS RELEASE

Sensitization Workshop for the Conduct of 7th Population and Housing Census 2022- Digital Census

Lahore, May 23, 2022 (Monday)

As per recommendations of Census Advisory Committee and the directions of Professor Ahsan Iqbal, Minister PD&SI, PBS has initiated a series of Sensitization Workshops with Chief Secretaries, relevant Secretaries, and functionaries at Provincial levels. These workshops will bring more clarity and ownership of provinces in the process of the census as provinces are important stakeholders and are directly involved in data collection, execution, and monitoring of the Census process.

In this connection, The first stage sensitization workshop of the series in connection with the forthcoming 7th Population and Housing Census 2022, (the first-ever Digital Census in Pakistan) was organized by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics at Avari Hotel, Lahore.

The workshop featured the sensitization of the divisional and district administration of Punjab, as it symbolizes the critical synergetic relationship that will exist between the PBS and provincial, divisional & district administration throughout the gigantic national activity. This workshop aimed to inform participants about completed tasks so far and about future strategies, plans, methods, and tools for successful completion of the Census.

On behalf of Chief Secretary Punjab, Mr. Asad Rehman Gillani, Secretary Local Government & Community Development Department (LG&CD), Punjab was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Dr. Naeem uz Zafar, Chief Statistician along with Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, Member (Support Services/Resource Management), Mr. Ayazudin, Member Census and Surveys, Dr. Amjad Javaid Sandhu, DG (Admin), Dr. Syed Wasim Abbas Director/Incharge PBS Provincial office, Lahore and Senior Officers from PBS Islamabad, Lahore jointly hosted the event. Secretary LG&CD, Commissioner Lahore Capt. Muhammad Usman, representatives from Senior Member Board of Revenue, Secretary Population Welfare, Secretary Primary & Secondary Healthcare, and all Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners offices of the Punjab and Director General, Punjab Bureau of Statistics attended the workshop.

Dr. Naeem Uz Zafar, Chief Statistician, PBS welcomed all the distinguished guests and briefly told them the background and importance of census process. He informed that Census is an important national activity and linked with resource allocation to provinces, representation in National/Provincial assemblies and delimitation process. Therefore, it is need of the day to take provinces on board and address their grievances before conduct of Census. He further informed that PBS is planning for Census as per decision of Council of Common Interest (CCI) which along with the recommendations for conduct of census was devised by the Census Advisory Committee (CAC) comprising of renowned demographer and experts from all provinces. CAC advised the involvement of provinces at earlier stage will be helpful in resolving challenges faced in previous census well before time.

Then, Mr. Asad Rehman Gillani, Secretary LG&CD, Punjab, in his inaugural address, shed light on the value of Census and Population data in evidence-based decision making and appreciated the working of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics towards the initiation of the first-ever digital census in Pakistan. He also emphasized the cooperation of the Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners for

the successful conduct of the Census Operation in line with the instructions of the federal government and PBS.

Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, in his presentation aware the participants about the recommendations of the Census Advisory Committee for the conduct of the 7th Population & Housing Census-2022. Moreover, he included that as per the decision of CCI, PBS is going to conduct Census after five years intervals, for the first time, with the use of the latest tools and technologies by adopting the best international practices with the high aim to fetch improved quality of data. Geotagging of each structure, tablet-based and self-enumeration system will build the trust of stakeholders. He also added that a National Census Coordination Committee (N3C) has been developed at the national level in the House of PBS. While the development of the Provincial Census Coordination Committee (P3C) in provinces is in process. He also shared that to monitor the process, standards, and protocols of the Census a Census Monitoring Committee has also been constituted. Census Support Centers in Census Districts have also been established in almost 90% of the tehsils of Punjab, for which he admired the efforts of the Secretary LG&CD, Divisional and District Administration. He also shared that, a social media team is hired by the PBS to statistically literate the public about the sensitivity of the Census activities through awareness campaigns.

Chief Statistician, Dr. Naeem uz Zafar, in his closing remarks thanked the Provincial, Divisional, and District administration for sparing valuable time and attending this workshop in person from all the corners of Punjab. The cooperation of provincial and district administration at each step was admired and acknowledged by the Chief Statistician with special thanks to Secretary LG&CD for actively working for the successful conduct of this workshop. He also appreciated the efforts of the PBS team, working day and night for this National cause, and hoped that they will work with the same commitment to accomplish this task. While concluding, all the participants unanimously agreed upon the fact that this workshop greatly helped in clarifying the concepts related to the upcoming 7th population and Housing Census.

