

PRESS RELEASE

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

Quetta, May 27, 2022 (Friday)

Census is an important National activity whose success depends on collaborating efforts of all stakeholders. To gain confidence of stakeholders their understanding and involvement in the process, from planning of this gigantic exercise till finalization of results and Data Dissemination is important. Provinces are important stakeholders in Census process as they are directly involved in data collection, execution, and monitoring of the entire activity. Therefore, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) has initiated a series of Sensitization Workshops with Chief Secretaries, relevant Secretaries, and functionaries at Provincial levels. This exercise will bring more clarity and ownership of provinces in the process of the census.

For taking stakeholders on board, at first stage consultative meetings with provinces were conducted and at second stage sensitization workshops with Academia, Data users and Researchers were carried out. Now, third stage sensitization workshops of the series with provinces, in connection with the forthcoming 7th Population and Housing Census 2022, (the first-ever Digital Census in Pakistan) are in progress. Third Workshop in this connection was organized by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics at Serena Hotel, Quetta.

The workshop featured the sensitization of the divisional and district administration of Balochistan, as it symbolizes the critical synergetic relationship that will exist between PBS and provincial, divisional & district administration throughout the census. This workshop aimed to inform participants about achieved targets and future strategies, plans, methods, and tools for successful completion of the Census.

Mr. Abdul Aziz Uqaili, Chief Secretary Balochistan was the chief guest. Mr. Bashir Bazai, Commissioner Zhob, Mr. Fateh Khajjak, Commissioner Naseerabad and Dawood Khilji, Commissioner Kalat graced the occasion with their presence. Other representatives from Senior Member Board of Revenue, Secretary Population Welfare, Secretary Education & Literacy Department and all Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners of the Balochistan attended the workshop. Dr. Naeem uz Zafar, Chief Statistician, Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, Member (Support Services/Resource Management), Ms. Rabia Awan (DDG) and Senior Officers from PBS Islamabad and Quetta jointly hosted the event.

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 that is 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) and the recommendations of 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.

Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, in his presentation apprised 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 Sindh, for which he admired the efforts of the Secretary I&C (SGA&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.

Mr. Bashir Bazai, Commissioner Zhob, Mr. Fateh Khajjak, Commissioner Naseerabad and Dawood Khilji, Commissioner Kalat assured their full cooperation on behalf of province in huge National interest.

Mr. Abdul Aziz Uqaili, Chief Secretary Balochistan, spared time from his busy schedule to join the workshop. In his closing remarks, he showed his full satisfaction over the preparatory work done so far by PBS for upcoming Census. He appreciated PBS for conducting sensitization workshops and assured full cooperation of his province in blocks verification and any other Census related activity.

Chief Statistician, Dr. Naeem uz Zafar, thanked chief guest for giving his valuable time. He further thanked the Provincial, Divisional, and District administration for attending this workshop. The cooperation of provincial and district administration at each step was admired and acknowledged by the Chief Statistician with special thanks to Secretary I&C (SGA&CD) and Secretary Local Government Department 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.

Some Glimpses from Workshop



Group photo of participants of Sensitization Workshop on Population Census held at Quetta on 27th May, 2022







