

PRESS RELEASE

Sensitization Workshop on 7th Population and Housing Census 2022, the First Ever Digital Census of Pakistan

Quetta, January 3, 2022 (Monday)

Fourth 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 Officer's Club Quetta.

The one-day workshop featured the sensitization of the researchers, academia, policy makers as well as the public, as it symbolizes the critical synergetic relationship that will exist between the PBS and the stakeholders throughout the gigantic national activity. The event covered Keynote speeches, Presentation on 7th Population and Housing Census 2022-First Ever Digital Census, discussion session between the stakeholders and PBS.

Mr. Pasand Khan Buledi, Chairman Balochistan Revenue Authority, Quetta was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, Focal Person on Digital Census, Ms. Rabia Awan, Director Census Project Management Unit along with other Directors/Senior Officers from PBS Islamabad and Quetta hosted the event.



Mr. Pasand Khan Buledi, Chairman Balochistan Revenue Authority, Quetta in his inaugural address, congratulated PBS for organizing sensitization workshop on Population and Housing Census and appreciated the initiative of Census Awareness Workshops. He also highlighted the value of Census and Population data for providing baseline for development especially for developing countries like Pakistan. He shared his experiences being the Provincial Census Commissioner during 2017 and identified the issues and problem faced during census operation that were coordination, management of trainings, transportation and communication issues. He further added that proper representation of provincial government as nominated by respective government may be made in all committees constituted for conduct of census 2022 for aligning it with ground realities of the provinces.

Focal person on Digital Census, Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, in his presentation highlighted the recommendations of Census Advisory Committee for conduct of the 7th Population & Housing Census-2022. Moreover, he informed audience that Keeping in view the Prime Minister's vision of digital Pakistan, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics has decided to conduct the next census digitally through tablets along with geotagging of every structure for real time monitoring, complete coverage and quality data. As per decision of CCI, PBS is going to

conduct Census after five years interval, for the first time, with the use of latest tools and technologies by adopting the best international practices with the high aim to fetch improved quality of data. Further the questionnaire has been drafted by the technical committee to address the objectives of the census. All efforts have been made to address the issues identified in Population & Housing Census 2017. He emphasized that involvement of stakeholders will be prioritized by making census process comprehensive for wide acceptability of census results. During Q/A session, all queries of the participants were addressed related to Digitization process of Census 2022.



Prof. Dr. syed Muhammad Arif, Member, Governing Council, PBS in his closing remarks urged audience to own this activity and contribute sincerely for its successful completion. He appreciated the efforts of PBS team and hoped that they will work with same commitment to accomplish this task. He highlighted the importance of census data and informed the audience that Census data is important for improvement in following areas: Research, Employment, Economic Planning, Demography, Representation in legislation, Income distribution, poverty alleviation, Revenue collection, Education, Population density and Health care etc.

The efforts of the Provincial Office of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics and Focal Person on Digital Census in Quetta were admired and acknowledged by the Member, Governing Council, PBS for successfully organizing the sensitization workshop.

GLIMPSES FROM THE WORKSHOP

