



**NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE  
2000 CENSUS**



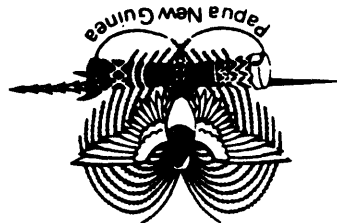
**INTERVIEWERS MANUAL**

POPULATION AND SOCIAL STATISTICS DIVISION  
NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE  
PORT MORESBY

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Papua New Guinea conducts a census every ten years. The last census of our country was in 1990, and before that, in 1980. The next one will probably be in 2010. The 2000 census will be carried out from 9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> July 2000.

## 1.2 How often do censuses take place in PNG?

Census is not a new thing. The Bible tells us that the Romans were the first to count their people regularly. Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem to register for the census because Joseph was born there, and that was where Jesus was born. In those days people had to go back to their birthplace to be counted. This story can be read in Luke 1:2. in your Bible.

The census is a complete count of every man, woman, boy and girl in our country, and even babies. It is called the **National Population Census**. All governments, all over the world, conduct censuses to provide the information they need to govern their countries.

## 1.1 What is a census?

### GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CENSUS

The success of the census depends on the skills of the interviewers. You are the key person in the census exercise. Your team will collect census information by interviewing people in every household in the area assigned to you. It is essential that you have a clear understanding of the census form and all other tasks an interviewer needs to carry out.

**The census is concerned only with total numbers of people in each category. Information on a single individual is NEVER made available.**

All over the world countries count their people in some way. A census is one way of doing this. Information on a wide range of topics is collected from each person, such as their age, their education, and the type of work they do. These important details give the Government a better understanding of the people and how to plan for their needs.

National and Provincial government planners need this information to plan for schools, hospitals, health centres and roads. They need to know the number of people, where they live and what these people do.

## INTRODUCTION

### **1.3 What is the aim of 2000 Census?**

To count every man, woman, boy and girl in Papua New Guinea and to cover the whole country using **the same census form** for every household.

### **1.4 Who should be counted?**

Everyone living in Papua New Guinea at the time of 2000 Census will be counted. This includes Papua New Guineans and people from other countries living here. They will be counted where they slept on the night of 9<sup>th</sup> July 2000. A Sunday night 9<sup>th</sup> of July is the Census Night.

### **1.5 Why is the census needed now?**

Populations are constantly growing and changing. A census is needed now to tell us what the population is like now, and how it has changed since the last census held in 1990. Our Government, under the Organic Law, needs up-to-date information to plan for development and proper allocation of money for roads, aid posts, schools, housing and other community needs.

### **1.6 Census Preparations**

During the preparation stage, census preparation workers have visited every village and town to:

- Locate and list information on how many census units there are;
- List all heads of houses, households, and services;
- Make a sketch map of all census units;
- Distribute Household Record Cards (HRC) to every household in rural areas;
- Collect census unit information using the Social and Economic Conditions Study (SECS) Form.

### **1.7 How will the counting be done?**

- Interviewers visiting every household and interviewing the head of household do most of the counting.
- Where every household cannot be visited, councilors or elders will ask the people to come together in one central point so interviews can take place.
- People living in hostels, dormitories, guesthouses, hospitals, barracks and single quarters on plantations and mines will be visited and interviewed individually.

The main users of the results of the census are the Provincial, District and Local Level Governments (LLGs), as well as the National Government Departments. The census results help to determine how money and resources will be distributed to LLGs and Wards.

### 1.11 Who uses the results of the census?

Only the National Statistical Office (NSO) staff deals with the information collected, and the forms are destroyed. The information is then put on computers so it can be tallied and analysed. No individual person's name is entered into the computer files.

During the census, all information is recorded on the census forms. After every census form is completed for a particular area, these forms are packed and sent to the census headquarters in Port Moresby, where the information is entered into computers.

### 1.10 What will happen to the information people give during the census?

## USES OF CENSUS DATA

- Interviewers must keep everything they learn from the people very private.
- They must promise at the end of their training **NEVER** to tell anybody else about what people say during their interview.
- They must sign an **Oath or Declaration of Secrecy Form** (see attachment 1 of this chapter) which forbids every census worker from giving information about people.
- Interviewers may discuss problems with their supervisor or other interviewers and census workers but with nobody else.
- People can be confident that only people working on the census will ever know what they said during the interview.
- The census forms are then destroyed under strict supervision.

The same law, the **Statistical Services Act of 1980**, protects everyone.

### 1.9 Will the information given be kept as private or a secret?

A law, the **Statistical Services Act, of 1980**, governs the census. As interviewers you will be acting under the instructions of the National Statistician, who is given the responsibility to conduct the census for the Government of Papua New Guinea.

### 1.8 What power do interviewers have to get information from the people?

## LEGISLATION