

AIRPORT ENUMERATION ON THE CENSUS NIGHT



By Nawoova Betty

*Uganda Bureau of Statistics / Statistics House,
Plot 9 Colville Street, Kampala – Uganda*

Volume 1, series 4

INTRODUCTION

In the timeless tradition of storytelling, the author embarks on a transformative journey to simplify selected census processes, concepts, and terminologies. Through the lens of storytelling, she uses relatable examples and familiar scenarios to make the census clear and interesting for everyone. Each delicately crafted narrative brings a census term alive through a fictional character and situation close to the reader.

In this series, the power of storytelling finds its resonance in the lives of Ugandans, drawing from their everyday experiences to explain the population and housing census. In doing so, they unlock the potential for enhanced civic engagement, facilitate informed decision-making processes that lay the foundation for a more inclusive and equitable society. As these stories weave their way into the fabric of communities, they offer not just comprehension, but a shared narrative of empowerment and belonging.

So, get ready for a journey where stories unlock understanding and create a shared sense of belonging. Dive in and discover the power of the census, one engaging tale at a time!

AIRPORT ENUMERATION ON THE CENSUS NIGHT



Baba and Mama Waiswa from Jinja District, Uganda were embarking on a lifetime adventure. For the first time in their lives, they were to board an airplane, flying to the Netherlands to visit their Daughter Dr. Mukyala.

Excited about the journey, a small family gathering was held to see them off. A close family Bishop in his robes, a comforting presence, offered a prayer for the journey ahead. The ray reader, with his charismatic musical voice and graceful moves, captivated the gathering. His performance was elevated by the enchanting instrumentals emanating from the music box beside him. With each note, he urged the crowd to join in, amplifying their voices as they sang their heartfelt desires for a safe travel ahead.

At 7:00pm, the couple bid farewell to the family members, some shed tears, others exchanged hugs, and promises were made to keep in touch. They then made their way to

the newly renovated Entebbe International Airport located on the northern shores of Lake Victoria.

On arrival, the couple was amazed by the gleaming surfaces and modern design a contrast to the warmth of the family gathering they had just left behind. The airport was filled with travellers rushing to catch their flights.

As it clocked mid night, the couple picked up their bags and headed for the check in desk. They were redirected to a special desk, where they met a one Nangobi, a temporary census worker. She had been tasked with enumerating all travellers at the airport on the Census Night. (**Census Night is the reference point for the census enumeration “count” and all questions in the census relate to that night**). She was the face for Uganda Bureau of Statistics, an institution mandated to conduct the National Population and Housing Census in Uganda.

Nangobi greeted Baba and Mama with a warm smile, her eyes reflecting genuine hospitality, and requested them to respond to the census questionnaire. Unlike other travelers who were erratic and riddled with criticisms, the couple gladly obliged. The couple provided their details with a sense of civic duty, before proceeding to the check-in desk to finalize

their travel arrangements. From there, they settled into the comfort of the departure lounge as they eagerly awaited the beginning of their journey.

After a while, the couple swiftly made their way through security and towards the boarding gate. With each step, their excitement grew with a hint of nervousness. As they handed over their boarding passes and stepped onto the plane, they were greeted by the friendly cabin crew, who ushered them to their seats with warm smiles.

At the hour of departure, Baba and Mama Waiswa held hands tightly as they prayed, their hearts filled with excitement. As the engine roared to life and the plane took off into the night sky, their fears melted away, replaced by a sense of wonder and at the beauty unfolding beneath them. They were glad to have been part of the big picture for Uganda's population taken on the Census Night.

NOTE TO THE READER

This Census Story is of imaginary narrative that utilise fictional characters to explore complex statistical processes, concepts, and terminologies. The narratives, crafted offer a captivating escape from the usual technical jargons, thus allowing a reader to relax, be entertained and experience the full range of emotions. Readers are, however, reminded that within the fantastical lies the potential for profound education. So, enjoy the exploration, knowing that even though the stories are imaginary, the lessons learnt hold valuable truths.

CAUTION

The views, explanations and interpretations expressed in each census story tale are entirely those of the author. They do not necessarily represent the views of the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, its staff, or the stakeholders they coordinate, or development partners, nor its Board of Directors.

PROOFREAD by Alfred Geresom Musamali

IMAGES by Okiria Eric Junior