

# GRANNIE FLO'S 6<sup>TH</sup> CENSUS



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**Volume 1, series 1**

## **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!*

## **GRANNIE FLO'S 6<sup>TH</sup> CENSUS**

Born, raised, educated, and married in Kampala - Uganda, Grannie Flo is one of the local elders. She is always dressed in simple clothes that are impeccably kept and reflect an inner respect for herself. When she speaks, her voice is low but seasoned with years of wisdom to her right is right and wrong is wrong.

Her age and illness have bent her spine changing her posture and height. Time has engraved itself onto her face reflecting laughter lines around her eyes that still hold her beauty. Her once thick and beautiful black hair is now dusted with silver grey, and efforts are geared to keeping it short, curly, and ever dyed.

Her 1980 fashioned home is situated in the heart of the city, surrounded by buildings with bold architectural statements beyond her time. Her small sized compound features geometrically shaped short trees and spaced concrete flowerpots are placed along her veranda. The strategically diverted concrete pathway leads to her front door.

The exterior wall paint reflects the light green trends of the late 1980s which she gladly maintains. The wide windows are considered

outdated but still bring in the much-required natural light and sunrays. The entrance has since been replaced with the state of art metallic double door welded with stronger hinges that she carefully locks.

Born in 1948, she was first Enumerated (“counted”) in a National Population Census of August 1969, the inaugural post-independence enumeration. That was a time when Uganda’s population was estimated at 9.5 million. At that time the “youthful Flo” was full of life. She walked tall and proud, with the vibrancy of her clothes mirroring the fire within her.

Her second Enumeration was in January 1980, a Census that enumerated her 1974-wedded husband, her blessed children, and one of her long servicing house help called Jessica. She recalls with pain and states “My dear father was not enumerated as he had passed on at the start of the year”. In that year the Uganda’s population was estimated at 12.6 million.

Her third enumeration was in 1991, with a reference Census Night of Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 1991. This time round the family count had more than doubled. She had been blessed with another child, and cared for a group of relatives, friends, and in-laws.

Uganda's estimated population in 1991 was 16.7 million.

The fourth enumeration was in 2002, with a Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2002 as the reference Census Night. That round missed the enumeration of her first grandchild who arrived a month after, and two of her children who were out of the country. The estimated population in Uganda in 2002 was 24.2 million.

The fifth and the most recent enumeration was conducted in 2014, with a Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2014 as the Census Night. She remembers this Census very well and speaks proudly of her niece who participated in the exercise as an Enumerator. The estimated population in 2014 was 34.6 million.

Although Grannie Flo, has been counted 5 times other Ugandan residents have witnessed and participated in past censuses. For instance, prior to independence, Ugandans were enumerated in the 1959 and 1948 East African Population Census. A time when Uganda's population was estimated at 6.4 million in 1959 and 5.0 million in 1948.

History reveals that in April 1931, 1921, and 1911 population counts by race (African and non-African) were undertaken by the colonial

government. In 1931, residents were enumerated at the parish level and estimated at 3.5 million. In 1921 and 1911 enumeration was done at sub-county headquarters and estimated at 2.9 million and 2.5 million respectively.

The 2024 National Population and Housing Census will add Grannie Flo a 6<sup>th</sup> census story. Now widowed and consoled by her grandchildren, she reluctantly awaits her 6th count. She, however, wonders why the Census Nights are often set on Thursdays or Fridays.

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## **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.*

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