

# RAIN OR SHINE THE CENSUS COUNT CONTINUES



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## **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!*

## RAIN OR SHINE THE CENSUS COUNT CONTINUES



One Thursday evening Aijukah and Mama took a ride on NG Travelers' Bus on their way back home. That day the sky was grey, with rain threatening. The first raindrops were very shy, intermittent whispers, landing on the bus window slowly and with a soft taa taa taa rhythm.

Then suddenly the whispers grew louder, faster and sustained, with a hard ta-ta-ta-ta rhythm as more raindrops joined the dance. Determined to soak everywhere, the heavy downpour came with the uniform, violent waa-aa-aa rhythm, hitting the windows in a continuous flash.

Within minutes, the dusty bus window and the roadway had been washed clean. As the raindrops' anger decreased, the rain softened to a gentle drizzle and finally stopped. The town center and the hills beyond had received a share of nature's gentle touch.

Then Aijukah asked Mama a question. "Mama, do Census Enumerators work on rainy days?".

Mama replied softly, her eyes twinkling with warmth. "Why, yes, my dear, they certainly do! Rain or shine, they're out there counting away".

He further inquired if enumerators were equipped with rain gear?"

Maama replied "Oh yes, each Enumerator may improvise if not equipped with a raincoat, umbrella, and a pair of gumboots to shield them as they walk from house to house".

She added that "in most cases enumerators are provided with a waterproof backpack to protect the census materials."

"So, the rains do not interrupt the Census counting"?

"Not really, responded Maama, If the rains are light, the count may experience minimal interruptions, especially if enumerators are equipped with rainproof gear. However, if the rains are very heavy, the Census can be interrupted especially when it causes floods and landslides. Secondly if it makes travelling

or participation difficult or impossible, safety precautions are prioritised”.

Ajukah absorbed every detail Mama had told him and asked, "But what about when the sun is very hot? Do they still go out then?".

Mama nodded, "Of course, they do! On days when the air is shimmered with heat and the sun is hot, the Enumerators are just as determined. They can wear caps to shield their faces from the sun's rays and drink plenty of water to stay hydrated as they plod and navigate through the village”. Enumerators also ought to eat a lot of fresh fruit and vegetables to provide extra water.

He listened attentively and requested for clarity, "So, rain or shine, the Census Enumerators never give up?". "Exactly, rain or shine the Census Enumeration is done for 10 days" Mama replied, her voice filled with pride. Ajukah smiled back feeling a newfound appreciation for the Census Enumerators.

## **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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