

# THE LOCAL COUNCIL 1 (LC1) CENSUS EXPEDITION



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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!*

## THE LOCAL COUNCIL 1 (LC1) CENSUS EXPEDITION



Akiiki, with his neatly trimmed mustache, was the jolliest Boda-Boda rider in Bulange-Mengo village in the out skirts of Kampala District, Uganda. Carrying his infectious cheer and boundless helpfulness wherever he went. His ever-clean grey bike, named “Kali-Smart”, was much to look at.

One sunny morning, as Akiiki rode his Kali-Smart, he noticed a group of people gathering. Among them was the village chairperson, a wise and respected elder named Mwami Kanya. Intrigued, Akiiki approached Mwami Kanya and asked, "What's happening, Mwami Kanya?".

Mwami Kanya smiled. "Good morning, Akiiki! We're getting ready for the National Population And Housing Census."

"A National Population and Housing Census?" Akiiki echoed.

"Yes, indeed," Mwami Kanya replied. "A Population and Housing Census is a national activity, conducted by the government. It

involves counting and gathering information about all people and housing units within a defined geographical area at a specific point in time.

Akiiki nodded slowly, his smile holding great promise of understanding. "But why are you here?"

Mwami Kamyia's smile widened. "Well, Akiiki, we are discussing how to inform and educate the residents about the importance of the upcoming Census, and how we can mobilise everyone to participate. In addition, I am providing a cultural context and insights to Census officials to ensure the process is sensitive to our local customs and traditions.

Akiiki's eyes lit up with understanding. "But this is not the first time am seeing these officials, what were they doing when they visited last year?"

"Sure, I can explain", responded Mwami Kamyia. During their last visit, the Census officials were preparing and updating a list of all households and institutions within the village administrative boundaries. I did move with them to identify a combination of landmarks spread across the village to provide a reliable reference system. Landmarks in this village included hills, valleys, water sources,

schools, hospitals, places of worship, markets, shopping malls, commercial buildings, fuel stations, masts, radio stations, major roads, boda-boda stages, and taxi park.

After one month, he heard “mukalakasa” the local announcers heralding the Census Enumeration in their village. On the fourth day of the 10-day Census Enumeration period, Akiiki saw “Maama Topi” a village resident dressed in a Census branded apron accompanied by the LC1 chairperson as they made their way towards his neighbour’s door.

Through his half-opened door, he quietly observed the interaction unfold. He watched as his neighbour and the Enumerator engage in an interview. As the interview ended, Akiiki saw Maama Topi gather her items and walk towards his door. He realised it was now his turn to be interviewed.

Gathering his thoughts, he quickly stepped outside with a small bench ready to share his own details and experiences. Mwami Kanya greeted him with a warm smile. He then asked Mwami Kanya why he had to move with the Enumerator.

“Good question!” responded Mwami Kanya, I am here to provide support, ensure safety, resolve any concerns, and make sure the

Enumerator has access to all individuals within the village. You see, the enumerator walks from house to house, occupied or not occupied, so I assist to verify and ensure a complete coverage.

Akiiki's face softened into a kind smile. "So, you're like their guide!".

"Exactly!" Mwami Kanya exclaimed, As the Enumerator introduced herself, Mwami Kanya slowly moved away, giving Akiiki room to respond to the census questions in privacy. Akiiki has since appreciated the chairperson's commitment to the Census activity and his willingness to serve the village at large.

## **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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