

# THE PAPERLESS CENSUS ENUMERATION



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**Volume 1, series 3.**

## **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 PAPERLESS CENSUS ENUMERATION

Once there lived a curious young girl named Atuhaire. Her home was surrounded by modern technology, with her digital gadget called a Tablet never far from her grasp. She loved exploring the digital world and attending online classes since the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID 19) lockdown.

One day, Atuhaire's parents received a message on their smartphones. It was a reminder that 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> May 2024 is the **“Census Night”: the reference point for the census enumeration “count” and all questions in the census will relate to that night.** They were reminded to take note of the night. The message added that the enumeration was scheduled for 10 days starting 10<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024. They were informed that the upcoming census will adopt paperless procedures, utilizing digital methods for data collection, including conducting interviews in person. A transition that marks a significant shift towards modernizing census-taking processes in Uganda.

Atuhaire's parents explained to her that a Census Enumerator “(worker)” would carry a tablet with a pre-loaded digital map and an application for the census questionnaire. The

digital map would be used to navigate the village and help in locating their households as well as physical landmarks in the village. The census questionnaire application would be used to record information about everyone who spent the Census Night in our household, ensuring an accurate count.

Excited by the prospect of something new and different, Atuhaire eagerly awaited the arrival of the Census Enumerator. She imagined them to be like characters from her favourite science fiction stories, equipped with even more futuristic tablets or i-pads, global positionings systems and other gadgets than she had.

Sure enough, eight days later, at exactly 4:00pm, there was a gentle knock on the door. The family welcomed a female Census Enumerator into their home. She was tall, dark, and elegant, with brilliant eyes and a smile that exuded confidence as she greeted the family and introduced herself. Atuhaire's eyes widened with fascination as she watched the Census Enumerator tap away on the tablet, recording information about their family.

With each tap and swipe, Atuhaire listened carefully to the Census questions while her father provided all the names of the people

who spent the Census Night at their household, father himself, Mama, Brother, Baby sister who was born a few hours before the Census Night, the house help they called Birungi, the gardener, and the visiting grandmother who had since returned to Sheema District.

After the Census Enumerator had finished, Atuhaire's family thanked them for their visit. As they bid farewell, Atuhaire could not help but feel a sense of pride knowing that they had been counted and that their voices would be heard in shaping Uganda's future.

A few months later, the Census results were released. Atuhaire was pleased that results had come out quickly, helping everyone understand who they were, where they lived, and what they needed. She remembered the Census Night and how technology had been used to collect the census information. As she tapped away on her own Tablet, exploring the digital world around her, she knew that even in the digital age, being counted still mattered.

## **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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