

THE UNFOLDING FUTURE



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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 UNFOLDING FUTURE



In a remote Buyamba village located in Rakai district, there lived a young boy named Nagenda. Nagenda's home area had no electricity, no running water, no proper road networks, and hardly any school or hospital in a walking distance.

Despite the challenges, Nagenda's family lived simply and happily, surrounded by the beauty of lake Kijanebalola which is nestled among rolling hills and lush greenery. Nagenda's days were usually filled with the simple joys of a village life, despite the absence of modern conveniences.

One day, Nagenda's family received a visit from a Census Enumerator (worker) who was accompanied by the Local Council 1 (LC1) secretary for defence. The Enumerator was carrying in his hands a digital device called “tablet” while a laptop bag slung over the shoulder. The dual explained the reason for the visit, as conducting a digital Population and Housing Census.

The tablet stood out against the traditional backdrop of Nagenda's village, sparking his curiosity and setting the scene for the village's journey towards embracing new technology. Curious but uncertain, Nagenda watched as the Enumerator gently tapped on the tablet, recording information about his family.

With each tap, Nagenda's curiosity grew, and he asked the enumerator "What is a Digital Census?" The Enumerator smiled warmly and explained, "Well, Nagenda, a Digital Census is when we count all the people in this village to know how many of us there are. But instead of using pen and paper, we use digital devices like Tablets to record everyone's information."

"Why use Tablets?" Nagenda inquired. He further explained that using tablets is a faster method of data capture for timely release of the census results. It saves time and reduces errors, provides room to capture additional information such as still pictures, audio-visual and video recordings, and location pins of the area. Tablets also offer a more interactive and user-friendly experience compared to paper forms. Nagenda nodded, trying to grasp the concept.

He then asked, "Why do we need to be counted?". The Enumerator replied, "Ah, that's a great question,". "The Census helps

the government understand how many people live in a village, such as yours. It gives insights into how many village residents are children, youth, and the elderly. It provides information on the living conditions, housing needs, and from where they seek services.

This information helps the government know where to build schools, hospitals, clean water sources, electric power grids and other important things that the community needs."

Nagenda's eyes opened with wonder. He had always dreamt of having a school closer to his home, where he could learn and make new friends without having to walk for miles. The idea that his family's information could help make that dream a reality filled him with hope.

As the Enumerator finished recording the information, they thanked Nagenda's family and bid them farewell. Nagenda watched them go, feeling grateful for their visit and excited about the possibilities that the Digital Census could bring to his village.

From that day on, Nagenda thought about the Digital Census and the hope it brought to his village. He could not help but feel grateful for this new chapter in his village's story. A chapter filled with hope, progress, and the

promise of a brighter tomorrow. As he dreamt of a brighter future, he knew that even in the most remote corners of the world, every voice counted, and every dream mattered.

As time goes on, Nagenda hopes to study in the nearby schools, until when he joins university. His dream is to become a recognized and celebrated accountant in Uganda.

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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