

TRACKING THE CENSUS COUNT



By Nawoova Betty

*Uganda Bureau of Statistics / Statistics House,
Plot 9 Colville Street, Kampala – Uganda*

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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!

TRACKING THE CENSUS COUNT

Ayikoru a young lady originated from Arua City, located in the West Nile sub-region, Northern Uganda. The vibrant city is approximately 520 km away from Uganda's capital, Kampala and 75 km from the South Sudan border in the north, but hardly 20 km from the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to the west. Arua is a home to many regional institutions and establishments that serve the needs of its residents and beyond.



Ayikoru just like her name, was a jolly and a happy woman. She had the dynamic spirit of her hometown, reflecting the diversity of the region, with her engaging personality. Her complexion was kissed by the sun and had a smile that could light up even the darkest of days. Standing at a medium height, her steps were quiet a strength of her heritage as she carried herself with grace and confidence. She loved dressing up in kitenge sourced from the DRC, and her choice of fashion fitted elegantly around her. Her colour choices reflected the spectrum colours found in West Nile.

With a sense of purpose and love for her city, Ayikoru took on the opportunity to work as a Census enumerator. she eagerly participated in the Census training and was deployed in her home area.

On the first day of the census enumeration, as the sun rose over the horizon, Ayikoru set out on her mission. She visited the first homestead consisting of several houses, each constructed using locally available materials: mud, grass thatch, or, in a few cases, corrugated iron sheets. The homestead reflected the importance of family and community in the West Nile culture. It had several houses grouped together surrounded by a field of crops and grazing land for livestock.

She greeted each household with warmth and sincerity, putting them at ease as she asked questions about their family composition, size, and demographic details, and then labelling each completed household with a unique census number.

As she continued with the Enumeration, some households took on the form of a single-family house, some with three to four occupants all located in the heart of the city surrounded by commercial building. Some were built with

modern designs but maintained a sense of community and connection to the traditional values all of which she clearly labelled with a unique number.

In one household, she met “Amboo” [elder] Auguma who asked why she had to label his front door. Ayikoru replied "You see, Amboo Auguma, labelling your house shows that your house has been Enumerated “counted”. It helps me keep track of how many houses I have Enumerated in the city.

Amboo Auguma looked puzzled. "Can't you just remember which houses you've been to?" She smiled patiently. "Well, Amboo Auguma, there are many households in Arua, and it's easy to forget. By labelling each house, I can make sure I have enumerated them all."

He nodded, starting to understand. "Ah, I see. So, it's to make sure no one is left uncounted."

"Exactly!" she exclaimed, relieved that he understood.

Auguma smiled. "Alright then, you can label my house". With his permission, Ayikoru labelled his front door with a unique number, reflecting that his household had been counted in the Census.

As the days went by, she encountered more people who were unsure about labelling their houses. But with patience and explanation, she helped them understand why it was necessary and requested them not to erase the number.

At the end of the enumeration exercise, she reflected on her journey with gratitude and humility. For in the act of enumerating households in Arua, she had discovered the potential of her community. For in the heart of Arua, amidst the hustle of urban life, stands as a beacon of hope and inspiration for generations to come.

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.

PROOFREAD by Alfred Geresom Musamali

IMAGES by Okiria Eric Junior