

TRAVERSING THE CENSUS ENUMERATION AREAS



By Nawoova Betty

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

Volume 1, series 2

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!

TRAVERSING THE CENSUS ENUMERATION AREAS

Across Uganda's diverse landscapes, communities thrive in a variety of environments: on mountain slopes, on cool highlands, along the lake shores, on scattered islands, while some settle on the vast arid plains. Each unique setting paints a distinct backdrop, shaping the challenges and approaches census enumerators must take when traversing these landscapes.

On the slopes of mountains such as Mt. Elgon in the east, Mt. Rwenzori in the west, and the Kigezi highlands in southwest Uganda, generations have thrived.



Here, amid the rugged terrain their spirits are shaped by the untamed beauty of their

surroundings.

Through the dense vegetation and across roaring rivers, the census enumerator presses on. They climb steep and rocky paths to reach isolated homes where a few dares to tread. Along the rugged slope trails, they are greeted

by friendly natives who welcome them with open arms and are eager to share their stories.

In the crystal-clear waters of Lake Victoria, in Kalangala District, another story unfolds. Here,



amidst the gentle waves a community thrives on the widely scattered Ssesse islands, their lives are shaped by the shores of the white sand beaches, natural forests, palm tree and banana plantations, fishing activities and fish markets.

From the delightful adventure to a challenging endeavour such as the unpredictable weather, dangerous wildlife, and hazardous plants the census enumerators press on. They brave water waves that threaten to engulf their boats as they sail to distant islands.

In the sunbaked plains of Karamoja sub-region, a timeless story unfolds. In this semi-arid sub-region of northeastern Uganda, the Karamojong have carved out a life for centuries. Their existence is a true reflection of the ancient traditions, a rich cultural heritage passed down through generations.

Neighbouring the untamed wilderness of Kidepo National Park, the Karamojong way of life is shaped as a semi-nomadic pastoralist. Their very identity is defined by the herds of cattle they protectively manage to the delicacy of meat, milk, and occasional blood, not forgetting the various products shaped out of cow horns and skins.



Amidst the golden grasslands, stand distinctive structures called Manyatas, the Karamojong name for perimeter wall. Manyatas are one of a kind, that enclose a housing estate “homestead” in a circular form with a wooden fence made of thong brushes to protect them from cattle raiders, wild animals, and invaders. Its entrance is uniquely designed, and each census enumerator must get on all fours (both hands and knees) to enter the homestead. With their hearts full of courage and determination they traverse these scorching hot plains.

With maps to guide their path, all the census enumerators journey on. They know that every census interview matters, whether they live on the shores of Lake Victoria or at the top the highest mount slope, or in the heart of the furthest Manyata. For in their hearts, they

carry the belief that every person, no matter how remote their home may be, deserves to be counted."

Through it all, the census enumerators remain committed to their mission, knowing that their efforts would help shape the future of these far-reaching communities. And as they return home, they carry with them the stories of the unique environments they traversed during the enumeration.

May their braveness and tireless dedication to the census enumeration live on as an inspiration for generations to come. May their tales of courage, compassion, and the unwavering belief that it matters to be counted, continue to resonate, and empower future generations to actively participate in shaping a brighter future.

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