



Chief Secretary to Government

Circular No: 09/2019

To : PNG Electoral Commissioner
Secretary for National Planning and Monitoring
Secretary for Provincial and Local Government Affairs
National Statistician, National Statistical Office
Registrar General, PNG Civil and Identity Registry

Copy : Prime Minister
: Minister for National Planning and Monitoring

Date : 1st May 2019

SUBJECT : PREPARING FOR THE 2020 CENSUS

Thank you for making the time available yesterday to brief me on work to progress the 2020 National Census.

As we discussed, the Government considers the conduct of the census to be a national priority. Simply put, we all have an obligation to ensure that the census takes place so that the data obtained can inform work to progress important economic and social initiatives.

It is clear to me as Chief Secretary, that within Government there are a number of key agencies that have the capacity to contribute to the census process, and in the longer term, to enable the development of a single source of data for use across Government.

With valuable information being collected across Wards through the Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs, increasing uptake of the National Identity Card, central collection of records on births, deaths and marriages, information contained on the electoral roll and passport information held by the PNG Immigration and Citizenship Authority, we have the capacity to develop a national statistical database that can greatly inform government policy. The challenge is to identify the information that is held, and to work at a whole-of-government level to leverage the power of that information to enable cost savings and effective long term planning. This requires that we think strategically and work together as a team.

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On that basis, and as we agreed, I therefore ask that we convene again at **10:00am on Tuesday, 6th May 2019 at the Department of National Planning** to explore how we can enhance this cooperation further. I ask that all attendees come prepared to provide a detailed presentation on existing data collection methods and holdings, with a view to formulating our approach for conducting the census and managing data in the future.

Now is the time for action. With the Government's continued focus on economic and social reform, the Department of National Planning requires reliable and statistically sound information to inform future work. Together, we have an opportunity to work together to lay the foundations for long term and effective planning. I ask that we not waste this opportunity.

Thank you again and I look forward to our continued discussions next week.



AMB. ISAAC B. LUPARI, CBE
Chief Secretary to Government