CENSUS 2022 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is a Census?

A: A census is the total count of a population whereby all people including children, babies, homeless people and foreign nationals within the borders of a country are counted. It also collects data about a country's socio-economic dynamics – people's living conditions, access to basic services, income, etc.

Q: When is the next Census taking place?

A: The next Census will be conducted from 02 February – 07 March 2022 (Census 2022).

Q: Why must I participate in a Census – how do I, as a member of the public benefit from participating in a Census?

A: Census creates more than 160 000 contract work opportunities, it helps government and private organizations with statistical data that helps to improve service delivery across South Africa. For example, all areas with no access to water are recorded and this information is used by the Department of Water and Sanitation to prepare a budget to start a project of water supply in those areas. If an area has a large number of children going to school far from where they stay, this information would help the Department of Basic Education plan adequately for a school to be built in that area. In essence, Census data assists Government Departments, Research institutions, as well as private organisations with planning, evidence-based decision-making processes and ensures that there is equity in distributing the national fiscus, i.e. the country's budget, and assist citizens to take part in democracy**.**

Q: What is a Reference / Census night?

A: A reference night is the night before the Census day – the day the collection of data commences. - This is the decisive point in time whether a person is included in the questionnaire or not, and is set at midnight.

Q: When is the reference night for Census 2022?

A: The Reference or Census night is the night of the 2nd of February 2022 - the eve of Census day.

Q: What is a Census day?

A: This is the reference day for persons who were away from home during Census night for work, entertainment, travel, and any other activity or event, but who returned home the following day without being counted elsewhere or where they were on Census night.

Q: What is a Household?

A: A household is defined as person, or a group of persons who occupy a common dwelling unit (or part of it). Basically, the **people live together and share resources** as a unit. Other explanatory phrases can be 'eating from the same pot' and people who 'cook and eat together'.

Please note that a household is not necessarily the same as a family.

Q: What are multiple households?

A: Two or more separate households living in the same dwelling unit. Multiple households occur when there is more than one household at one dwelling unit.

Q: Who is a Fieldworker?

A: For the purpose of Census 2022, a Fieldworker is a person who conducts publicity, unpacking and data collection in a specific enumeration area assigned to him/her during fieldwork.

Q: What is Enumeration?

A: Enumeration is the process of counting members of a given population and collecting demographic and other information about each person.

Q: How will fieldworkers for Census 2022 be recruited?

A: Potential candidates are selected from a Stats SA's Human Resource recruitment database, which was opened to all applicants to register.

Q: Is participation in Census compulsory?

A: Section 16 of the Statistics Act (Act No. 6 of 1999) makes it compulsory for respondents to participate in a Census and cooperate with Stats SA fieldworkers performing their official duties. The Stats Act makes provision for penalties that will be levelled against respondents who refuse to participate in a Census or Survey.

Q: How will data collection be conducted?

A: Respondents will have the option to choose how they want their information to be collected. The following options will be available:

1. Stats SA fieldworkers will visit households, hotels, lodges, prisons, hospitals, the homeless, the transient etc. - to collect data for Census 2022.
2. Respondents may also choose self-enumeration, where they complete the questionnaire in the comfort of their homes, online (which will use no data). However, they will need to register with Stats SA so that they can access the online questionnaire and complete the required information.
3. People may choose to be interviewed over the telephone. You need to register online or with a Stats SA Fieldworker, Call Centre Clerk or online in order for a Stats SA official to contact you and assist in completing the required information.

Q: Who can participate in Census 2022?

A: Everyone – excluding Diplomats – within the borders of South Africa must participate in a Census.

Q: **How do I register to participate in Census 2022?**

A: You need to register through the following options;- a) with a Stats SA Fieldworker, b) Call Centre Clerk or c) online – data free.

Q: **Who do I call should I require assistance to compete the questionnaire?**

A: Respondents can contact the Census toll-free number; **0800 110 248 (Monday to Friday from 08h00 to 19h00, Saturday from 09h00 to 17h00, and Sunday from 09h00 to 15h00.**

Q: **Who needs to complete the questionnaire?**

A: Any responsible adult or the main decision-maker in a household or establishment, or in the instance of minors in a child-headed household – a guardian or the oldest child or main decision-maker who was available during the reference night.

Q: **Do I need my Identity Document (ID) to participate?**

A: No, only ID numbers are captured, unless you have not committed it to memory. However, for respondents without IDs, only their names will be captured by the Fieldworker for this purpose.

Q: What is the homeless population?

A: The term “homeless population” refers to persons with no form of shelter and no known residential address.

Q: What is a dwelling unit?

A: A dwelling unit is a structure/part of a structure/group of structures occupied or meant to be occupied by one or more than one household.

Q: What is a transient?

A: Transients are persons who are on the move during the census night and who are not going to their usual places of residence the following day, e.g. truck drivers, persons leaving the country after midnight of the reference night, etc.

Q: What are Special Dwelling Institutions (SDI)?

A: Special Dwelling Institutions (SDIs) are establishments that provide a communal type of accommodation where people sleep over, differentiated by length of stay/duration and service provision, and are generally available to people for reasons of employment, study, special needs, legal requirement or recreation. Examples of SDIs are army barracks, designated police living quarters, university residences, frail care centres and hospitals.

Q: **Who will be the focus of Census 2022?**

A: The focus of Census 2022 will be on all population groups, such as:

- Special dwelling institutions (SDIs)

- Homeless
- Transients
- People who reside in dwelling units
- Foreign nationals (documented and non-documented)
- New-born babies
- Physically impaired, as well as frail and old people

Q: How safe and secure is the personal information provided to Stats SA through their different methods of data collection completion?

A: Stats SA uses data protection software to secure data received from respondents. The necessary information security controls are in place to ensure that information imputed is secure at all times. Stats SA is governed by the Statistics Act (Act No. 6 of 1999). In terms of Section 17 of the Act, information collected on individuals and their households is treated as confidential. Section 18 (e & g) stipulates that any Stats SA official found guilty of contravening this Act will be fined a penalty equal to an amount not exceeding R10 000 or imprisonment of up to six months, or both.

Q: Will the questionnaire be available in all official languages?

A: Yes, respondents will be able to complete the Census 2022 questionnaire in the official language of their choice.

Q: What information will be collected during Census 2022?

A: Respondents will be requested to answer questions on various questionnaire variables, and these include demographics, migration, education, employment status, living conditions of the household, etc.

Q: How do I verify the authenticity of the fieldworker visiting my household?

A: Stats SA fieldworkers can be identified through the official; Stats SA Identification Card displaying the Stats SA logo, the photograph of the Fieldworker, and unique number of the Fieldworker. Respondents can also contact the Census toll-free number (**0800 110 248**) to verify the authenticity of fieldworkers visiting their homes. Respondents who select to be interviewed telephonically will be supplied with the details of the interviewers assigned to

their respective areas, prior to the date of the interview. The interviewer's identity is also available on the Field Staff Page on the Stats SA website. Visit: http://www.statssa.gov.za/Fieldworkerverification/home.php

Q: Can I complete the questionnaire from any web browser?

A: No, the questionnaires are only compatible with the following browsers: Firefox, Chrome

Q: Can I use any gadget, e.g. my cellphone to complete the questionnaire?

A: The following gadgets can be used: laptop, PC/desktop, cellphone or tablet.

Q: How much data would I use if I choose to complete the questionnaire online?

A: The online platform will not require any data use – it is a data-free platform.

Q: What is the POPI Act?

A: The Protection of Personal Information Act, 04 of 2013, popularly known as the POPI Act or POPIA, is South Africa's data privacy law, and its purpose is to give effect to the right to privacy afforded to us by section 6 of the Constitution of South Africa by protecting personal information of individuals from misuse.

Q: Can I rely on the POPI Act and refuse to provide any of my required information to Stats SA?

A: No, Section 3 of the POPI Act provides that it must be interpreted in a manner that does not prevent any public or private body from exercising its powers and duties in terms of the law in so far as those powers relate to the processing of personal information. In the case of Stats SA that law is the Statistics Act.

This means a data subject cannot, in the course of a legitimate and lawful collection of personal information, rely on the right to privacy as protected by POPIA for refusal to provide that information if such refusal impedes the functioning of that responsible party. Refusals relying on the POPIA will be dealt with in the same manner as refusals in terms of Section 16 of the Stats Act.

Q: How will the Census 2022 information be collected from different focus areas?

A: The information will be collected in the following manner:

- All collective living institutions such as hotels, B & Bs, guest houses, hospitals and prisons within selected areas are expected to provide Stats SA with information on

persons who were present in their establishments on reference night, the night of 2 February 2022. The information can be provided through uploading the records/files or completing the online questionnaire/schedule by any responsible authority in the SDI or telephonically through the Call Centre personnel. Alternatively, a Stats SA fieldworker will collect the person/s information on site on census night or the following morning as per arrangement with the establishment.

- SDIs will be requested to provide Stats SA with information on persons who spent the reference night in their establishments through email or by telephone.
- The homeless population will be enumerated only on reference night, from parks, streets, door-ways, in front of shops, pavements, under bridges, riverbanks, dumping sites, abandoned buildings and vehicles.
- The transient population will be enumerated only on the reference night. This will take place at border posts, harbours, airports, overnight truck stops and bus stops, etc.
- The Dwelling Unit population will be visited by a Stats SA Fieldworkers to administer digital questionnaires to all households. The main method of data collection for households in Dwelling Units, is the Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) or through Self-Enumeration using the Computer-Assisted Web Interview (CAWI).

Q: What is the Geo Frame update?

A: It is a process of identifying all settlements types in order to gather data on the number of dwelling units for enumeration during the upcoming Census 2022. Stats SA updates the list of settlements in the country through the Geo- Frame update project

Q: **When is the Geo-Frame Update conducted?**

A: It is conducted usually prior to the commencement of the actual fieldwork, however, wherever this is not conducted or in instances where there are changes with regards to the structures on the ground, the Fieldworker will conduct this process during the Census 2022 data collection period.

Q: What is Post-enumeration Survey (PES)?

A: As part of quality assessment of the Census, Stats SA conducts an independent survey called the Post-enumeration Survey (PES).

Q: Where will the PES be conducted?

A: The PES will be conducted in selected areas throughout the country

Q: When will the PES take place?

A: The PES 2022 will be conducted from 24 March 2022 – 18 April 2022, which is immediately after the completion of Census 2022 data collection.

Q: Why is PES conducted?

A: PES is used to measure the accuracy and coverage of the Census.

Q: Do foreign nationals get counted in the PES 2022?

A: Yes, everyone within the sampled/selected areas is counted, irrespective of their nationality.

Q: How does the PES measure the accuracy and reach of the Census?

A: It identifies how many households and persons were erroneously included, missed or double counted in the Census.

Q: **Where do I go to apply to be a contract worker for Census 2022?**

A: Applications must be done online. Visit www.statssa.gov.za/hr. Applications can be done on a tablet, smartphone or computer which has internet access. Please note: if you are unable to access the system or have problems logging in, please try a different internet browser (e.g. Google Chrome or Firefox)

Q: **I am already on the database. Do I need to reapply?**

A: No. Just make sure your details, particularly your address and cellphone number, are updated and correct.

Q: **I do not have access to the internet. How do I apply?**

A: You would need to get someone with a computer which has internet access or smartphone or tablet to register on your behalf. However, you will still be liable for the correctness of the information captured. Alternatively you can walk-in to any of your nearest Statistics South Africa's offices for assistance in applying.

Q: **I do not have money to travel to a district office/buy airtime. How do I apply?**

A: You may request that someone who has the means to walk-in to any of the nearest Stats SA offices, or who has data, apply on your behalf. However, you will still be liable for the correctness of the information captured.

Q: Why are you only accepting online applications?

A: It is the strategic direction that the organization is taking since the kind of work to be done will be electronic.

Q: How often do I need to register?

A: You only have to register once when the system is open for registration, otherwise the system will not allow you to register again. Once the system closes, you will not be able to update your information, but you would need to call HR in your nearest Stats SA office to assist with updating your information.

Q: Will I get a reference number once my application has been uploaded?

A: No, your ID number will serve as your reference number.

Q: How will I know that my application has been successfully uploaded?

A: At the end of the registration process, the system will give you a message that confirms that you have been successfully registered. A text message (SMS) will also be sent to your mobile number to confirm the receipt of your registration.

Q: I have been on the Stats SA database for years but have never been employed. Will I be employed this time?

A: This is a new database; please register even if you have previously been on the database. As and when there is a need to employ contract workers, all candidates will still have to go through the relevant selection process.

Q: I am having trouble completing my registration. Who can I contact?

A: You can contact the Stats SA Call Centre on 0800 110 248. The call center agents will assist. The call center is open on Monday to Friday from 07h30 to 19h00; on Saturday from 09h00 to 17h00; and on Sunday from 09h00 to 15h30.