

THE ROLE OF POPULATION CENSUS IN NATION BUILDING: THE NIGERIAN EXPERIENCE

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Abstract

Population census helps nation-states to conduct accurate head counts for effective national planning, proper allocation of national resources, grants, delimitation of constituencies and for international prestige purposes. This paper x-rays the role of population census to nation-building. It analyses how the Nigerian state can use population to enhance overall social and economic development. The paper examines problems of population census or head-count and consequences of population growth in Nigeria. Finally, the paper suggests measures that can be taken to ensure the conduct of accurate and reliable head-count in Nigeria during the post-independence era. To achieve the set objectives of the paper, the researchers adopted descriptive, thematic and interdisciplinary research methodologies. The paper also relied mainly on secondary sources of data collection.

Keywords: *Development, Head count, Population Census, Nation-Building, Nigeria*

Introduction

Economic Historians, Development Economists and Social Scientists have always stressed the utilitarian values of population census to national development and nation building. Hence, nation states across the world need population census exercise as the surest means of procuring data which are needed as veritable tools for social and economic development. Nigeria as a developing country need accurate demographic data of its citizens as a sustainable tool for national planning in area of budgeting for education, agriculture, health, housing welfare, technology and industrial advancement (Adamu, 1989).

Nigeria in the post-independence era has recorded monumental growth in human resources with attendant pressure on land resources, housing facilities, food security, social amenities, such as electricity, good road network, quality hospitals, schools, etc. These litany of social and economic problems justifies the need for a reliable demographic data the can guide different tiers of government in Nigeria – Local, State and Federal Government to effectively plan for welfare services needed by her teeming population. Thus, the expansion of human population across the globe alongside human civilization with its associated societal needs/problems has increased the importance of population census that provides every nation state essential cardinal information such as tribe, gender, age, religion, place of birth, educational status, marital status, residential status, employment status etc. (Idike & Eme, 2015).

Critically, population census is an indispensable tool to nation-building because it helps in effective planning and utilization of a state's abundant human and material resources for the provision of social services like education, health facilities, electricity, pipe-borne water, good road networks, adequate security of lives and property, industrialization, job and wealth creation, as well as improvement in the agricultural sector. Population census, serves as a pivot for the actualization of the objectives of nation building. Nation building itself involves the creation of impressive elements of organization (political, social and economic) that characterize a modern state, good roads, water supply, education and health, efficient communication, opportunities for employment and so on, that would make the citizens develop love for their country (Nwabughuogu, 2004).

Evidently, the quest for a reliable demographic data is a basic ingredient needed by any vision filled government to speed up the process of social and economic development. This paper seeks to analyze the historical perspectives of population census as a tool for building a prosperous Nigerian state. The researchers hope to spotlight the prospects and problems of population census in the Nigerian state. Efforts will be made to appraise wholesome achievements made by the Nigerian government towards using population census to build a stable state. Finally, this paper would recommend strategies that can be adopted by successive Nigerian governments towards ensuring accurate and reliable head count in Nigeria in the post-independence era.

Conceptual clarifications

Population Census

The population of a place entails the number of people in the area or geographical location at a given period of time. Social Scientists perceive population as the number, age distribution, sex distribution, occupational distribution of a people in a particular geographical area or region. Population figures of many communities enjoy some measure of flexibility since certain communities can be densely populated while other communities are sparsely populated (Uchegbu, 2008.115).

Population census is "the enumeration of people living in a particular place (community, state, country, continent) within any given period of time such as a year. Census figures are the figures generated in a census which includes (a) size or numbers of persons living in a place at any given time (b) births and deaths (c) migration (d) marriages and divorce (e) education and literacy etc. (Ezegbe & Ebebe, 2016, 47-48). Similarly, Idike and Eme (2015) view census as "the process of retrieving, assembling and publishing demographic, social and economic data concerning all persons in a given geographical area at a particular time".

Nation Building

Nation-building involves a mutual understanding between the people and the leadership wherein the leadership strives to improve the material wellbeing of the led in terms of health, security and enhancement of the socio-economic, cultural and political structures for the collective interest of the led. Equally, the led should face up to their own responsibilities for national upliftment, development and prosperity (Onyeocha, June, 2011, 6-7). Both the leadership and the led desire a statistical information or population data that can help any

reigning government to formulate populist-oriented policies that can engender robust national economy.

Historical Perspectives of Census in Nigeria

Nigeria as a nation had witnessed the conduct of several population censuses dating back to the period of colonial rule with the ceding of the colony of Lagos to the British government on 30th July 1861 by Dosumu the king of Lagos thereby causing Lagos to become a British protected territory. In 1866, the British Administration in Lagos organized the first census or head count for the people of Lagos. Thus, the 1866 census was organized or conducted for administrative purpose primarily to help the British colonial government to effectively plan how to administer the Colony and Protectorate of Lagos. This head count took cognizance of the population data of entire households and families within the Lagos colony (Ezegbe and Ebebe, 2016:52).

The 1866 head count had in quick succession other census exercises conducted between 1868, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901 and 1911 respectively. The censuses conducted between 1868 to 1911 were limited in scope as they covered only the Colony and Protectorate of Lagos. It was after the amalgamation of the Northern and Southern Protectorates which signalized the birth of modern Nigeria by Lord Fredrick Lugard in 1914, that the British colonial government as a matter of government policy felt the need to embark on a population census exercise that covered the entire colonial territory of Nigeria (Ezegbe and Ebebe, 2016:52-53).

The post-amalgamation era witnessed the conduct of the first unified census in modern Nigeria in the year 1921 while other censuses that followed were those of 1931 and 1952/53 (Agbiogwu, 2010:92). The history of census figures in Nigeria since 1960 confirmed the British handiwork in the country. The British in the 1950s, through a controversial census exercise empowered the north and produced a figure, which gave them the numerical strength they wield today. The 1962 Nigerian census, which the north rejected, was re-conducted in 1963 and the North now accepted because it favoured them while other regions rejected it (Madubuko, 2008:61).

Consequently, post-civil war census figures include; 1973 with population data totaling 71:30 million; 1983 data of 91:30 million and 1988 data of 103.30 million (Agbara, 1990:18). Similarly, the 1991 census which was declared in 1992, but was rejected until 1997 was still marred by massive irregularities, produced rigged census figures. The next head-count in Nigeria took place in 2006 while the census result published in 2009 in spite of its controversial nature placed the population of the Nigeria Federation at 140,003,542 (Official Gazette (FGP 71/52007/2,500 (OL24))).

However, the announcement of the 2006 census data evoked a lot of controversial reactions as reflected in many Nigerian Dailies. For instance, Onyeka-Ben (2007) affirmed that “the 2006 census was tinted with political permutations. Similarly, Adim, (2007) asserted that the delay in release gave room for unwarranted manipulation of figures. Equally, Adele (2009), reiterated that the head count of 2006 was a ridiculous exercise, hence the former Lagos Governor and current President and Commander-in-Chief of Nigerian Armed Forces, Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu expressed his displeasure at an epic book presentation ceremony entitled, “Errors, Miscalculations and omissions: The Falsification of the Lagos census figures” by stating that; We (i.e the Federal Government of Nigeria) have enough support and funding from the United

Nations and European Union that can midwife a hitch free national head count thereby suggesting the need for a more reliable head count (Tinubu, 2007).

Similarly, Ayodele (2007) cited in Adele (2009) asserts thus;

... if you take in to consideration that between Kano and Jigawa that make up the old Kano whose population is about the same as that of Lagos in 1991 now has a population of 13,732,331 against Lagos, 9,013,534. It would be seen that the result of the 2006 census leaves so much issues begging answers.

In spite of the controversies that characterized the 2006 head count, certain innovations were incorporated. Hence, the 2006 census employed the use of Geographical Positioning System (GPS) and satellite imageries to carve out geo-referenced enumeration Area maps (Adele, 2007). Again, OMR/ICR/OCR machine readable forms to record information, Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) to read fingerprints thereby detecting multiple counting as well as Geographic Information System (GIS). Used to store the 2006 census result (Obasanjo, 2006).

Nigeria's provisional population as at March 2006 stood at 140,003,542. This statistical data was presented to President Obasanjo by the Chairman of the National Population Commission (NPC), Alhaji Samaila Makama. The statistical report of the 2006 census figures of the 36 states of the Nigerian federation and Federal Capital territory are shown below:

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA 2006 Population Census

S/No	State	Males	Females	Total
1.	Abia	1,434,193	1,399,806	2,833,999
2.	Adamawa	1,606,123	1,561,978	3,168,101
3.	Akwa-ibom	2,044,510	1,875,698	3,920,208
4.	Anambra	2,174,841	2,007,391	4,182,032
5.	Bauchi	2,426,215	2,250,250	4,676,485
6.	Bayelsa	902,648	800,710	1,703,358
7.	Benue	2,164,058	2,055,186	4,219,244
8.	Borno	2,161,157	1,990,036	4,151,193
9.	Cross River	1,492,465	1,396,501	2,888,966
10.	Delta	2,074,306	2,024,085	4,098,391
11.	Ebonyi	1,040,984	1,132,617	2,173,501
12.	Edo	1,640,461	1,577,871	3,218,332
13.	Ekiti	1,212,609	1,171,603	2,384,212
14.	Enugu	1,624,202	1,633,096	3,257,298
15.	Gombe	1,230,722	1,123,157	2,353,879
16.	Imo	2,032,286	1,902,613	3,934,899
17.	Jigawa	2,215,907	2,132,742	4,348,649
18.	Kaduna	3,112,028	2,964,534	6,066,662
19.	Kano	4,844,128	4,539,554	9,383,682
20.	Katsina	2,976,682	2,813,896	5,792,578
21.	Kebbi	1,617,498	1,621,130	3,236,628
22.	Kogi	1,691,737	1,586,750	3,278,487
23.	Kwara	1,220,581	1,160,508	2,371,089
24.	Lagos	4,678,020	4,335,514	9,013,634
25.	Nasarawa	945,556	917,719	1,863,275

26.	Niger	2,032,725	1,917,624	3,950,249
27.	Ogun	1,847,243	1,880,855	3,728,098
28.	Ondo	1,761,263	1,679,571	3,441,024
29.	Osun	1,740,619	1,682,916	3,423,535
30.	Oyo	2,809,840	2,781,749	5,591,589
31.	Plateau	1,593,033	1,585,679	3,178,712
32.	Rivers	2,710,685	2,474,735	5,185,400
33.	Sokoto	1,872,069	1,824,930	3,696,999
34.	Taraba	1,199,849	1,100,887	2,300,735
35.	Yobe	1,205,003	1,115,588	2,321,591
36.	Zamfara	1,630,344	1,629,502	3,259,845
37.	FCT	740,489	664,712	1,405,201
	Total	71,709,859	68,293,683	140,003,542

Source: OFFICIAL GAZETTE (FGP 71/52007/2,500 (OL24): Legal Notice on Publication of the Details of the Breakdown of the National and State Provisional Totals, 2006 Census Nigeria.

The Nigerian federation has witnessed serious disconnect or disarticulation between population census and nation building as states, ethnic groups and local communities manipulate census figures for selfish purposes due to the fact that data from census provide statistical tools for certain pecuniary interests such as distribution of natural wealth, creation of new local governments and electoral wards as well as entitlements to increased federal electoral wards. Equally, the corrupt Nigerian social milieu and unhealthy competition among major ethnic groups in Nigeria, namely Hausa-Fulani, Igbo, Yoruba, force their political gladiators to inflate census figures thereby obstructing wholesome development plans in the fields of education, health and housing facilities. Till date, the Northern hegemons and ruling elite use coercive government apparatus to rig census figures without caring a hoot on the negative effects of the political gamble on the social, economic and political development of the Nigerian state. A rigged census data can only give undue advantage to its perpetrators but may not promote national unity that is needed for overall national development. Similarly, a feudalized entity like the Hausa-Fulani geo-political unit may not benefit so much from a rigged census because the “Talakawa’s in the North due to the “feudal stereotype” have been placed at the receiving end of abject poverty by their inglorious corrupt political and religious leaders who are in possession of great variety of conveniences and luxuries.

Evidently, the poorer of the poor in the North in spite of census manipulations by Northern elites will continue to suffer from ‘pressure of want’ and ‘inferior status’ which alienate them from culture of innovation. Experts in the field of demographic studies affirm that the principle of increase in population perpetually urges individuals to new effort of skill and economy due to the fact that high demographic data generally subordinate to increase of food which can keep invention on the stretch, rendering the demands for fresh inventions and discoveries as great at one time as at another (McCulloch, March, 2012, 159-160). McCulloch’s postulations that population growth stimulates invention appears quite impracticable in Northern Nigeria because in Nigeria, Northern political elites allegedly rig population data while her feudalized status and mass poverty dwarf impulse to industry and invention since *want* and *ambition* are

powerful springs that give the first impulse to industry and invention and which continually prompt new undertakings (McCulloch, March, 2012:160).

Role of Population Census in Nation Building

The utilitarian values of population census to nation building are many and varied. These values are analyzed below;

- **Economic:** Population census/data helps the federal government to determine and prioritize its budgetary allocation to different tiers of government in the federal, state and local governments. It also assists these tiers of government in the distribution of government revenue to relevant government agencies as well as ministries and parastatals. Critically, census figures serve as pivot for sustainable economic growth in the Nigerian state since it helps immensely in the establishment of industries. Economies that are anchored on industrialization speed up the process of national economic growth through the provision of employment opportunities for its teeming population. By creating jobs for employable youths, census data-driven industrial hubs help immensely to reduce the counter-culture of savagery and nihilistic vision of the world. Lack of a population census driven economy as witnessed in Nigeria create room for the monster of idle youths who act irresponsibly and have grossly abandoned the labours of our heroes by taking to such vices as armed robbery, ritual killings, kidnapping exercises, and gangsterism (Nkwocha, 2012:22)
- **Social:** Population census data equips any visionary government to package adequate social-welfare programmes for her citizenry. These social welfare packages include, provision of basic facilities as well ensuring the provision of adequate food supplies in order to reduce high cost of living and mass poverty. Population census-driven economy also provides poverty alleviation programmes through issuance of soft loans to its citizens as a way of empowering them economically. Population census has always played crucial roles in the areas of helping government in power to know the manpower needs of any state thereby helping the Ministry of National Planning to know High, medium and low-level manpower that will be needed in governmental cum bureaucratic institutions.
- **Educational:** Population census provides vital information needed by any government for the provision of quality education for the citizenry especially in the area of funding. Any investment in the educational sector whether at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels can only succeed through accurate population data. We are well aware that the vicious cycle of corruption currently ravaging the Nigerian state and the high rate of rigged census exercises in post-independent Nigerian state have impeded and crippled robust and purposeful educational polices. For instance, the 6-3-3-4 system of education has been a victim of corrupt and kleptocratic regimes who embezzle budgetary allocations meant for the full implementation of laudable educational programmes.

Evidently, successive Nigerian governments have never invested much of her national budgetary allocations to the education sector. This worrisome development appears worsened by lack of adequate census data that are highly need in the sphere of educational planning. Thus, poor budgetary allocation to the education sector and

absence of accurate census data had resulted in poor investments in human and material resources. It is a known fact throughout the world that qualitative education can never be achieved without investments in human and material resources. The physical environment in Nigerian institutions of learning since the post-independence era has deteriorated to the point of stinking decay. The buildings are dilapidated, the roads leading to school premises are full of pot-hole, classroom have no windows and doors and often chairs and desk that are meant to serve 30 people are shared by thrice or four times that number. There are no furniture in the offices and the libraries are empty (Emenyonu, 1994: viii). The preponderance of infrastructural decay currently hitting the education sector can only be stopped when the managers of the education sector work with an accurate census data that can guarantee adequate funding for the expensive education industry.

- **Political:** Population census plays major roles in the determination of elected representatives in National Assembly, State Assemblies as well as representatives in local governments. Data provided by accurate census can help nation states to determine and delineate the number of electoral wards to be created for National Assembly, State Assemblies and Local Government Representatives/Councillors. The inability of successive governments and political gladiators in Nigeria to conduct a hitch free population census since the attainment of independence has midwived series of electoral malpractice acts that help political brigands to rig themselves into power. Most times, flawed census data incubate electoral fraud and violence that enables election riggers to fix themselves into different political positions with the tacit support of their villainous godfathers in the nation's political space.

Census figures have influenced successive governments in Nigeria to put in place populist driven policies to enable its teeming population enjoy the dividends of good governance. These census driven policies include: General Obasanjo's flamboyant programme known as Operation feed the nation (OPN) of 1976, Alhaji Shehu Shagari's Green Revolution (Jan.31,1980), General Babangida's Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) launched on June 27, 1986 and Olusegun Obasanjo's National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS) that was launched on 29th May, 2004. These census driven economic programmes to an extent gave serious lifeline to Nigeria's ailing economy.

Problem/Challenges of Population Census in the Nigerian State

.... "No census in Nigeria had been credible even the ones conducted in 2006 is not credible. I have the records and evidence produced by Scholars and Professors of repute. This is not my report. If the current (Nigerian Constitutional) laws are not amended, the planned 2016 census will not succeed" (Bamgbose, 2009).

The Nigerian state and the National population commission (NPC) have failed to conduct credible and reliable head counts since the post-independence era. Constant manipulation of census figures and procedural delays in the release of census results from various part of the country have created room for mutual suspicion and unhealthy rivalry among Nigeria's divergent groups. The implications of rigging census figures on national development have evoked the compelling need to appraise certain constraints to population census exercises in

Nigeria. There is a consensus among demographic experts that faulty and unreliable population data can lead to the obvious monster of overpopulation or under population with its attendant economic, social environmental consequences. For instance, unrestrained population increase pose serious threat to human kind today since it is regarded as the principal cause of poverty, low level of living, malnutrition, ill health, environmental degradation and a wide array of other social problems. Value-laden and incendiary terms such as “population bomb” and “population explosion” are tossed around in the Nigerian state. Indeed, dire predictions of world food catastrophes and ecological disaster are often attributed almost entirely to the growth in population number (Todaro & Smith, 2011).

Certain Challenges of Population Census in the Nigerian State are Outlined Below;

- **Economic:** A cursory analysis of cost-implication of reliable head-count is always high and needs huge budgetary allocation that suffocates the ailing economics of many third world countries like Nigeria. The huge capital expenditure needed for the conduct of an accurate head count poses serious impediment towards the pursuit of logistics needed for the conduct of any head count. This particular challenge gives room for census rigging and rejection of census figures in countries that are highly populated such as Nigeria. Similarly, poor countries that suffer from severe economic hardship may not have the fiscal resources needed for the hiring of adequate manpower like demographers, statisticians and trained enumerators. The absence of requisite manpower leads to unreliable census results. Again, the measure of a successful head-count lies squarely on the availability of competent hands that rest on huge capital outlay which can only be afforded by rich countries.
- **Social:** The multi-ethnic nature of the Nigeria state and mutual distrust amongst ethnic nationalities in Nigeria encourages the inflation of census figures by powerful tribal groups in order to enjoy some modicum of social, economic and political gains. Since census figures are used as a determinant factor for the allocation of funds to state and local government. Some dominant ethnic groups who control the central government out of their parochial interests constantly rig census figures in order to perpetuate their stay in power. Equally, the quest to get more allocated seats at the federal, state and local government electoral constituencies force tribal chieftains across different geo-political zones to manipulate census figures for political and economic dominance.

Similarly, Nigeria has fallen easy victim to inaccurate census figures due to the doctrinal approaches of various religious groups: in the predominantly Muslim North, married woman who are secluded in homes called ‘Purdah’ don’t put up physical appearances during enumeration exercises. The situation where Muslim wives engage in enumeration exercises by proxy can encourage malpractice acts that falsify census data.

- **Educational:** Lack of formal education in many Nigeria states affect various stages of the demographic exercise thereby creating room for inaccurate data. Many educated Nigerians feel albeit erroneously that census exercises are ploys used by government to compulsively impose taxes on them or their agricultural products. These caliber of people refuse to be enumerated thereby creating room for inaccurate data.

- **Cultural:** Traditional values of some tribal groups are averse to Head counts and enumeration exercises. Some tribal groups cultivate certain superstitious beliefs that population census is an abominable act and most times prevent members of their families from being counted. Equally, language barriers pose serious threat to head counts as people who don't speak English language may not participate in enumeration exercise except through interpreters.
- **Geographical:** Enumeration exercises have been marred by too many geographical challenges. Ecological problems and absence of nucleated settlements as well as huge transportation cost on hill terrains and marshy areas make enumeration exercises extremely difficult. Critically, communities that are not easily accessible risks being omitted during enumeration exercises.

Suggestions for a Sustainable Data Based Population Census in the Nigerian State

Since accurate population census is a *conditio-sine-qua-non* for a prospective Nigerian economy, certain measures must be taken to ensure an efficient and a data-based population census for sustainable national development. These measures are outlined below;

- **Economic:** The strategic impact of population census on the national economy suggests a compelling need for different tiers of government in the Nigerian federation – federal, state and local government councils to partner with responsive traditional institutions and political leaders to sensitize different ethnic groups on the need to put national economic interests first whenever the federal government set out to conduct population census throughout the federation. There is no gain saying the fact if Nigeria's diverse ethnic groups eschew retrogressive tribal and primordial sentiments/interests and pursue cherished national goal during the conduct of census exercises, there is a greater tendency for the actualization of a reliable and accurate population data nationwide. When tribal groups desire not to rig census figures in their geo-political zones, the population data at the national level will be reliable thus aiding governments at different levels to coordinate a viable and sustainable prosperous national economy that will improve the living standard of the Nigerian populace.
- **Social:** The Nigerian state can improve immensely in the conduct of population census by ensuring adequate use of mass and print media to mobilize and re-orientate Nigerian citizen to uphold cherished values of honesty, hard-work and integrity. These wholesome virtues can drastically reduce the lustful desire to rig census figures which is anti-thetical to national development. For a reliable census data, different tiers of government should work collaboratively with relevant agencies and organizations such as churches, mosques, national and state Orientation Agencies to educate the Nigerian populace about the ills and devastating effects of census rigging on the social and economic development of the state.
- **Technological:** The Nigerian state should invest more in the area of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as well as the procurement of modern scientific equipment, gadgets and computer-based data processing techniques that make the enumeration exercises less cumbersome. A combination of ICT devices and artificial – intelligence/Robotic Engineering can specially upload accurate census figures in the

internet thereby reducing the spate of rigging during the conduct of head counts in the Nigerian federation.

- **Political:** The Nigerian state can achieve credible national head-count by ensuring that the central government at Abuja superintends equitable sharing and distribution of the national income. When political actors across different ethnic groups uncover that ruling governments observe the principle of fairness and equity in the sharing of national wealth, the evil desire to manipulate census figures for tribal gains will fizzle away. Similarly, successive governments should strive at ensuring that electoral constituencies are evenly distributed in order to deter tribal bigots who always feel that rigging census data will confer undue social and economic benefits to their tribal groups.

The federal government can help the National Population Commission (NPC) to conduct credible and reliable National Population census by periodically reviewing population census – related laws that can empower the National Population Commission to conduct credible census exercises according to the dictates of the Nigerian constitution while approved law enforcement Agencies and the courts should punish of census-related laws.

The federal government should provide necessary logistics that will help the National Population Commission conduct census exercise in Nigeria within the stipulated 10-year interval. Such logistics should include periodic recruitment of experts in demographic studies who have the capacity to curb the activities of census figure manipulations in order to achieve maximum results.

Finally, the National Population Commission (NPC) should constantly collate important demographic data as it appertains to birth, death and migrations etc. as a way of enhancing a credible data-based population census exercise in the Nigerian state.

Conclusion

This research work has done a critical appraisal of the role of population census in nation building in the Nigerian state. From our analyses, one can assert that a reliable demographic data is indisputably a basic ingredient by any vision-filled government to speed up the process of social and economic development. The paper affirms that the Nigerian state has witnessed serious disconnect or disarticulation between population census and nation building since states, ethnic group and local communities manipulate census figures for selfish purposes thereby denying the country of basic statistical data that would aid sustainable social and economic development.

The paper vividly highlighted crucial economic, social, educational and political roles of population census to nation building within the context of the Nigerian state. It also bemoaned the inability of successive governments in Nigeria and the National Population Commission (NPC) to conduct credible and reliable head count since the post-independence era.

Finally, the researchers of the paper feel that the monster of census rigging can be combated through adequate sensitization of Nigerian citizens and corrupt ethnic bigots by different tiers of government and patriotic traditional institutions to stop the nefarious act of rigging census figures in their pursuit of ethnic-based goals. This measure if taken can give room for the actualization of a credible data-based population census which serves as a veritable tool for a viable and sustainable prosperous national economy.

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