



## **2011 PILOT CENSUS**

In 2010, Statistics Mauritius decided to make use of scanning technology for the 2011 Housing & Population Census data capture. Given that the office had no experience in scanning and also taking into consideration the adverse repercussions if no proper planning is carried out, a Pilot Census was carried out.

The main objectives of the Pilot Census were to test and evaluate all aspects of the census operations, in particular the use of scanning technology. The Pilot Census was a 'dry run' for the main census but on a limited scale.

The 2010 Pilot Census was conducted in the Island of Mauritius from 3 to 12 September 2010 from a sample of 100 households. A field force of around 30 officers was selected to carry out the pilot test on field. The method of data collection by direct interviews was used. The response rate for this pilot census was 99%.

Scanning and recognition of the completed questionnaires using appropriate hardware and software was done. The scanning speed as well as the recognition rate for OMR and ICR was adequate, and the data was successfully captured.

The Pilot Census proved to be a valuable exercise. It helped to identify problems and bottlenecks in all processes so that appropriate action could be taken during the conduct of the 2011 Housing and Population Census.