

Workshop in Rodrigues
Dissemination of 2022 Housing and Population Census Results for
Rodrigues
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Speech by J.E Charles Cartier
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Mr Johnson Roussety, GOSK, Chief Commissioner of Rodrigues

Mr Joseph Christian Leopold, Chairperson of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly

Commissioners of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly

Members of Rodrigues Regional assembly

Mr Jean Claude Pierre Louis, OSK, Island Chief Executive

Ms Priscilla Li Ying, UNFPA Head of Office for Mauritius and Seychelles

Mr Mukesh Dawoonauth, Ag Director of Statistics

Members of Press

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the Chairman of the Statistics Board, I have the pleasure and privilege to address you today during this workshop.

As stated by the Ag. Director of Statistics Mauritius, this special day, will be marked with the dissemination of the 2022 Housing and Population Census results for Rodrigues, which are of notable importance to all of us.

Before delving on these specific areas, allow me to share with you my appreciation of the headway made by Mauritius in reforming its overall national statistical system. Indeed, backed by a reinforced legal and institutional framework, Statistics Mauritius has made due progress in improving the collection, dissemination and analysis of official statistics.

Yet, our nation has unreserved ambitions to contrive even further growth and socio-economic development as means of engineering continuous enhancements in the quality of our living standards. Thus, it is highly auspicious that these key statistics amongst others, are the objects of our attention for today's workshop.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You will recall that the national Housing and Population Census was initially planned to be taken in year 2021 but had to be postponed due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Statistics Mauritius took the challenge to undertake the Housing and Population Census this year, and I would like to congratulate the Ag. Director and his team for making this happen. The 2022 Census was taken in parallel in all the islands of the Republic. Similar to past censuses and other dedicated surveys, Island of Rodrigues was covered with the unflinching support of all Rodriguans, in particular the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. I understand that this was not an easy task but with the collaboration and support of every stakeholder, today we are all going to have a feel of the first results of this big exercise.

Now, let me briefly touch upon the dissemination of the census results, which are highly important, if not primordial, in spearheading the design and implementation of major socio-economic reforms in any given country. Overall, the census provides basic facts to the Government and Regional Assemblies for policy-making, economic and social planning as well as general administration purposes. In particular, relevant data assists in scrutinising various trends and patterns related, for example, to urbanisation and the geographical distribution of the population as per variables such as occupation and education, as well as the socio-economic characteristics of the labour force. Apart from the Government, a census derives its importance from its utilisation as a key tool by private sector enterprises, business organisations and programme agencies, amongst others.

Moving on, I would like to commend Statistics Mauritius for taking a relatively shorter period of time for releasing the census results this time, that is eight months shorter than the time taken during the previous census exercise. This is largely attributable to the successful utilisation of Computer-Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI) technology for census data capture.

Ladies and gentlemen, the methodology used for the 2022 Census is already a commendable improvement and still, we need to innovate. Thus, I would request Statistics Mauritius to make thoughtful use of the latest available technologies as well as other resources in order to be better predisposed to produce timelier and more cost-effective outputs. In this vein, I believe that it would be highly desirable to consider the

holding of an e-census or even the setting up of a statistical population register as is being done in other countries in lieu of a traditional census.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before ending, may I stress that statistics must not only be intelligently assembled, but they must also be accessible to the widest spectrum of end-users. In this line of thought, this workshop is but the first in a series of activities planned to enhance the visibility of Statistics Mauritius amidst the stakeholders, including Rodrigues, and the public in general, alongside raising awareness on the importance of statistics in all spheres of life. Rodrigues has, is and will always remain a key player and partner to shoulder Statistics Mauritius in fulfilling its vision to be the key provider of world class statistics.

On this note, I wish you all a fruitful workshop.