

**Workshop by Statistics Mauritius**  
**Dissemination of 2022 Housing and Population Census results in Rodrigues**  
**24th November 2022**

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

All protocols observed

It's such a beautiful day to be together and celebrate the launch of this census results dissemination.

Statistics are not just numbers, they tell stories, human stories - those of people's health and well-being, of socio-economic circumstances, of prospects and opportunities, of challenges and shortcomings. As we launch the 2022 Population and Housing Census results, let's take a step back and appreciate where we are today. Oftentimes, we get caught up with our daily lives and priorities, so engrossed in trying to solve problems and hands and to battle challenges that we forget to appreciate the progress we've made. In Rodrigues, we note a slight population increase, and where many others are struggling with a rapidly ageing population, here in Rodrigues, now, today, you can still make provisions to address the issue. Access to the internet has spread throughout the island, and the census reveals major improvements in the living conditions of Rodriguans.

We are pleased to have accompanied Statistics Mauritius in this latest population and housing census - which as we will get a glimpse of today - has generated a wealth of data critical for good governance, policy formulation, development planning, crisis prevention, social welfare programmes, business market analyses and providing the framework for designing other research studies.

Accurate data will help to better formulate and re-adapt programmes and policies as we address key concerns of the moment such as low fertility rates, an ageing population and other development priorities, within a human rights-based approach.

The results of the census can help develop demographic resilience by proactively anticipating and planning for demographic change and investing, for example, in education, health, gender equality and access to decent work across generations. Statistical analysis can change the way decisions are made. To locate and reach those furthest behind, we need to be able to collect and use timely, high-quality, disaggregated population and development data.

We must be able to trust that statistics tell the truth and we applaud the steps taken to ensure that data are consistent and complete. We commend Statistics Mauritius on its use of technological solutions to successfully and professionally complete this round of the Housing and Population Census, despite all the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and we specially applaud the Statistic Unit and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for their consistent and thorough effort and contribution to this 2022 Population and Housing Census. Let's give the team in Rodrigues a big round of applause.

This is a pivotal moment, and together with statisticians, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, and those leading data innovation, let us be ambitious and bold in how we use data. Whether it be in the green or the digital economies, social welfare or healthcare, the data ecosystem is evolving with new data users, producers and sources. May we all, today, build on the sharing of data to generate knowledge and step into a world of possibilities and opportunities where behind every number, there is a human story.

Thank you