

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR MUKESH DAWOONAUTH  
AG. DIRECTOR OF STATISTICS,**

**24 NOVEMBER 2022**

**Les Cocotiers Hotel,  
Anse aux Anglais, Rodrigues**

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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,

I wish you a very good morning and warm welcome to our workshop.

As you are aware, the purpose of this workshop is to disseminate the main results of the 2022 Housing and Population Census which was conducted in Rodrigues this year. Last week, on the occasion of the African Statistics Day, the main results for the 2022 Housing & Population Census for the Republic were released in Mauritius. Today we are moving ahead with the sharing of the first results of 2022 Census data with our co-citizens of Rodrigues.

Rodrigues is an integral part of the Republic of Mauritius. Hence, up to date and reliable data about Rodrigues is crucial for the Government, both at the Central and Regional levels to formulate, implement and monitor relevant policies to sustain the socio-economic development of the Island.

The Housing and Population Census is the most important exercise for collecting information on the demographic, social and economic characteristics of the population and households in the Republic of Mauritius. It is a crucial statistical exercise from which such key statistics is sourced. The ninth round of the Housing and Population Census was thus undertaken in Rodrigues this year from May to August using digital technology for the data collection exercise. As you may be aware, for the first time, Statistics Mauritius adopted digital technology, in the form of Computer Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI) technology using tablets for the data collection exercise of the Housing and Population Census.

Such a major exercise has necessitated much in terms of resources and logistics. The collaboration of the Rodrigues Administration, the Rodrigues Statistics Unit and particularly, that of the Rodriguan people were elemental in making this Census a success.

All these efforts were put in to achieve the objectives of the Census which are to measure the number and key characteristics of people in the Republic of Mauritius and their housing conditions. I am happy to say that we have achieved the objectives of the Census which is, as you are all aware, the biggest statistical exercise that a country can do. I hereby seize this opportunity to thank my parent Ministry, all my staff of the census team and in particular, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for making this happen. It was indeed a big challenge and with the help of everyone, we have been able to reach this milestone.

After this major exercise, the main findings of the 2022 Housing and Population Census in Rodrigues is now ready for dissemination.

We would therefore request for your active participation during this workshop. We would also welcome your feedback as to whether our census products are relevant to your needs and to what extent they should be shaped to suit your specific requirements.

On this note, I wish to, again, express my appreciation to the Rodriguan people for their exemplary cooperation in the census. Our thanks also go to the field staff,

the Rodrigues Statistics Unit and to the Rodrigues administration for their constant collaboration.

**Statistics Mauritius**  
**24 November 2022**