

Legal and Regulatory Framework Project of E-Census for Population, Residences & Establishments 2020

E-Census Documents
Series 2020

02



His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik

- may Allah protect him-

endorses E-Census 2020 results of Population, Residences and Establishments as of 12 December 2020. His Majesty the Sultan expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of this major project which was implemented as scheduled. His Majesty the Sultan underscored the significance of data and indicators provided by the Census in enhancing Oman Vision 2040, as well as the Census's important implications to developmental planning in all sectors of the Sultanate.

14 December 2020

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Introduction

Nearly all countries in the world conduct a comprehensive Census of Population, Residences and Establishments every ten years; with the aim to achieve the process of setting plans, drawing policies and making decisions. This promotes planning for national development processes in various economic and social fields, by giving planners and decision makers accurate information derived from reality and providing the factual picture and detailed data about the country's population. Their distribution according to their places of residence, their social and economic characteristics, such as the educational level, qualifications they obtained, the economic status of individuals, their professions, the type of sector they belong to, and the economic activities in which the various establishments operate.

The implementation of E-Census for Population, Residences and Establishments comes under the Royal Decree No. (15/2015) promulgated on 17 Rajab 1436 AH corresponding to 6 May 2015. It is concerned with building an integrated statistical information system on Population, Residences and Establishments, based on national records and connected to each other in an E-Format that can be persistently updated. This system discloses statistical indicators and reports in accordance with international frameworks and standards to serve the comprehensive development goals in the Sultanate.

E-Census 2020 is the fourth Census implemented by the Sultanate since the beginning of the blessed Renaissance. Noting that the preceding occurrences of Census were based on field enumeration approach, the previous was in 2010.

The Sultanate presents a pioneering model in the experience of moving from a field (traditional) Census to an electronic (registered) Census. Despite the magnitude of this work, it was completed in an appropriate period of time and with less human and financial resources compared to previous Censuses. The human cadre working decreased from (6600) male and female employees in 2010 Census to (72) male and female employees, and the financial cost lowered by a very large percentage.

Legislation and laws are considered the most important processes to achieve the main objectives of E-Census project in the Sultanate. Many laws and legislations have been issued, a number of committees and work teams have been formed, and many decisions approved to secure the success of E-Census 2020.

This publication appears to document the legal and regulatory framework for E-Census of Population, Residences and Establishments for the year 2020. It tackles with the Royal Decrees, organizational decisions, formed committees and the most significant decisions during the preparation and implementation process from the beginning up till the approval of the results by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, may Allah protect him.

1 | Formed Committees:

The Census is deemed as a public mobilization for the Sultanate. Consequently, its implementation requires the creation of a legal framework that includes an exception from many of the applicable administrative and financial regulations in the Sultanate. It is in order to facilitate the tasks of project workers and to overcome obstacles that may appear in the project stages. Thus, numerous of Royal Decrees and decisions regulating this process have been issued. Those regulations contribute to accelerate the implementation of the project, improving data quality, amending some legislations with the concerned authorities, enforcing recommendations to improve data quality and linking between authorities.

The regulatory and legislative aspects can be classified according to the following:

- Formation of various committees for E-Census project 2020
- Regulations and laws organizing the work of committees and project management.
- Decisions and procedures issued by various committees.

1.1 The Royal Decree to Conduct the Census and Form the Higher Committee

The Royal Decree No. (15/2015) is regarded as the legal basis for the E-Census project for Population, Residences and Establishments for the year 2020, which included the provisions of the project, defined the legal framework, and administrative and financial organization for the Census project. This decree represents the legislative source for implementing the E-Census project for Population, Residences and Establishments 2020. Therefore, a Higher National Committee for the Census has been formed under the chairmanship of the Minister of Heritage and Culture in its first term. The committee was subsequently reorganized in accordance with the Royal Decree No. (33/2020) issued on 28 Rajab1441 AH corresponding to 23 March 2020 to amend some provisions for conducting an E-Census of Population, Residences and Establishments for the year 2020 attached to the Royal Decree No. (15/2015), under the chairmanship of the Minister of Interior and in accordance with the changes that have occurred in the State's Administrative Apparatus.

The Higher National Committee for Census was reconstituted under the chairmanship of the Minister of Interior and the membership of:

Minster of Health	Member
Minister of Education	Member
Minister of State and Governor of Muscat	Member
Inspector General of Police and Customs	Member
Minister of Information	Member
Minister of State and Governor of Dhofar	Member
Minister of State and Governor of Musandam	Member
Minister of Housing and Urban Planning	Member
Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology	Member
Minister of Economy	Member
Minister of Social Development	Member
Minister of Labour	Member
CEO of the National Center for Statistics and Information	Member
Director General of the Census Project	Secretary

The Higher National Committee for Census is specialized in the following:

- Adopt the essential methodology to enforce the Census, study the consequent procedures of the competent government entities, and take the necessary measures to put those procedures into effect.
- Adopt a plan for human and material requirements mobilization that is essential to conduct the Census, and take the necessary measures to put them into practice.
- Determining the information to be gathered during the Census in light of the needs of various government authorities.
- Offering an opinion on the topics presented by the general supervisor of the Census.
- The Higher Committee held several meetings during the course of the project. Those meetings resulted in (74) decisions.

2 | Formation of Technical Committee:

The Technical Committee of Census was formed in accordance with Article (6) of the Royal Decree 15/2015 presided by the CEO of the National Center for Statistics and Information, and the membership of the Director Generals of the concerned authorities and the executive management of the project. Resolution No. (352/2017) was issued to form the members of the committee and its specializations.

According to the changes that occurred in the State's Administrative Apparatus, the technical committee for E-Census 2020 was reconstituted under the chairmanship of the CEO of the National Center for Statistics and Information and the membership of:

- Director General of E-Census 2020
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Education
- Royal Oman Police
- Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion
- Ministry of Labor
- Ministry of Social Development
- Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning
- The Council of Administrative Affairs for the Judiciary
- National Center for Statistics and Information
- Nama Group

The Technical Committee is generally studying the project methodology, the plans emanating from it, and the timing of their implementation. In addition to providing technical support and human requirements for the implementation of the project, which are submitted to it by the Census Director General, and specialized in the following:

- Means of providing the approved data for the project.
- Creating teams for target databases.
- Reviewing the plans, phases of the Census and their timing.
- Providing the necessary support and contribute to the audit of the target data.
- Any other technical tasks inquired by the Census Administration.

3 | Formation of Media Committee:

Based on the decision No. (13/1/2018) issued by the Higher Committee to form Media Committee for E-Census project 2020, and to the decision No. (69/2019) issued by the CEO of Statistics and Information in charge of the General Supervisor of the Census to form the Media Committee for the Census, the Media Committee was presided by the Undersecretary of Ministry of Information and the membership of the concerned authorities:

- Director General of E-Census 2020
- Royal Oman Police
- Oman News Agency
- General Secretariat for the Council of Ministers
- Public Authority for Radio and Television

The media committee is generally specialized in developing a media plan, promoting and marketing the E-Census project 2020, whether among community members or various institutions that will be a tributary of the Census project data:

- Studying the project of media plan for the Census that is prepared by the Census Administration.
- Supervising the implementation of the Census media plan after its approval, and ensuring its progress in accordance with the specific method and schedule.

4 | Formation of Executive Management:

The Executive Management of the E-Census 2020 was formed under the chairmanship of the Director General of the Census to manage the stages of the statistical and technical work of the project through administrative divisions and specialized work teams. The Executive Management supervises the project's work directly through meetings, events and discussion between specialists and following-up the specialized work teams on a daily basis. The project's executive team consists of 24 technical and administrative personnel, and they are responsible for the general supervision of the project and the implementation of administrative and media tasks.

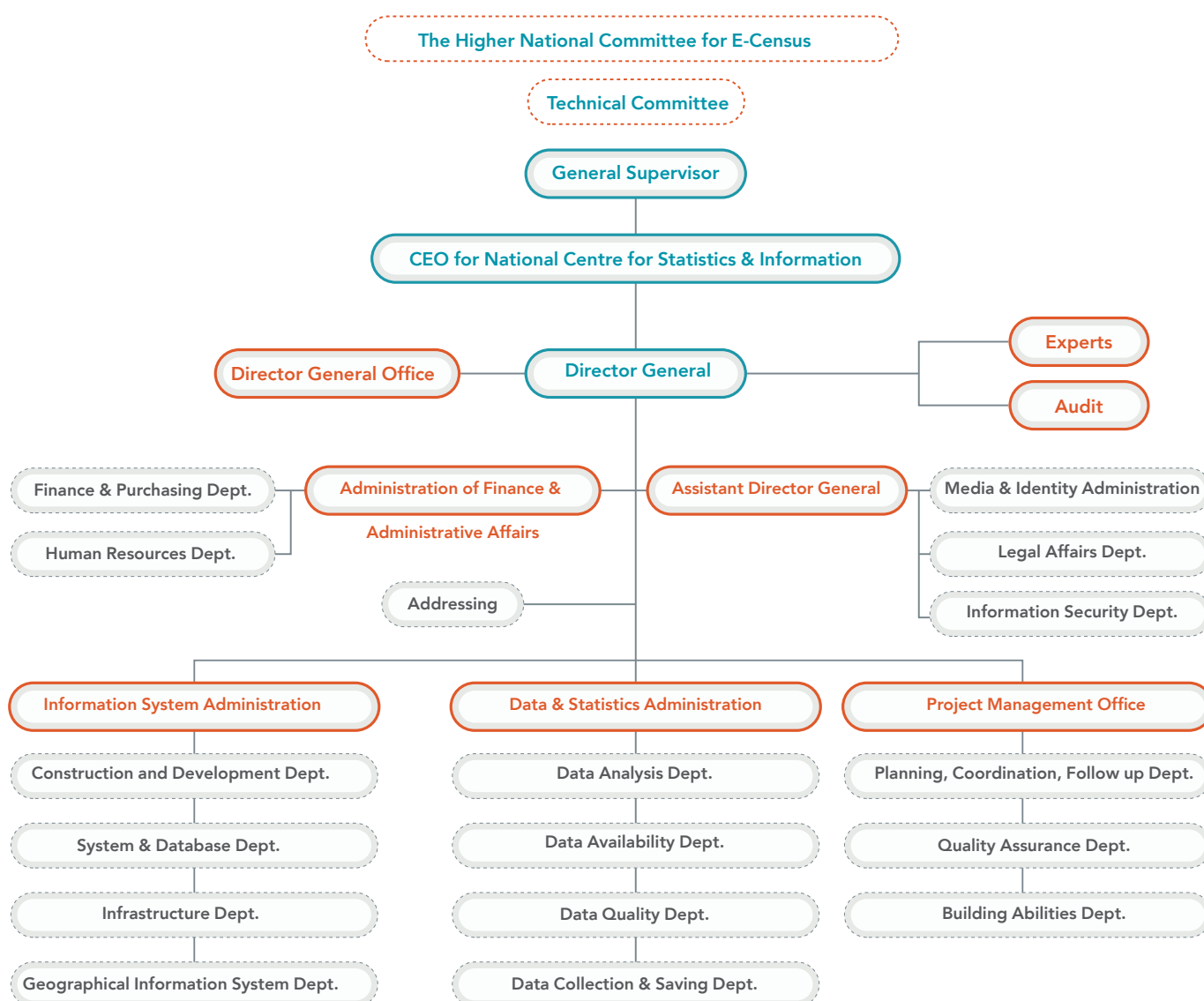
The Technical Committee has also issued Resolution No. (4/2017) to form work teams to manage the approved databases in the project:

- Executive Management
- Director General of E-Census 2020
- Project Management Office
- Experts
- Data and Statistics
- Information Systems
- Media and Identity
- Specialized Work Teams
- Population Database Team (Civil Status Registry of the Royal Oman Police)
- Education Database Team (Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation / Ministry of Education)
- Manpower Database Team (Ministry of Labour)
- Births, Deaths and Marital Status Database Team (Ministry of Health)
- Addressing Database Team (National Center for Statistics and Information)
- Disability Database Team (Ministry of Social Development)
- Enterprises Database Team (Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion)

The tasks of each working group are summarized in the following points:

- Provide logistical support to the consulting office assigned to study the project.
- Represent a correlation between the Census administration and the database of the organizations they act for.
- Ensure the accuracy of data and information in terms of comprehensiveness and content.
- Facilitate the tasks of Census management in the organizations to which they belong.
- Establish a timetable for the completion of the team's work tasks prior the end of 2018.
- Submit a quarterly report to the Census Administration on the team's completed tasks.
- Any other tasks assigned to the team by the Chairman of the Technical Committee

Organizational Structure



5 | Regulations and Laws Organizing the Work of Committees and Project Management:

5.1 Administrative and Financial Regulation of the Project

The administrative and financial regulation of the E-Census project was issued pursuant to Resolution No. 2/2017 issued by the CEO of the National Center for Statistics and Information, pursuant to Article (7) of the Royal Decree on 9 January 2017. 72 technical and administrative employees participated in the implementation of the E-Census of Population, Residences and Establishments. Before that, there were about (6600) six thousand six hundred male and female employees in the 2010 Census. 42 employees were appointed on temporary work contracts, 16 employees were delegated from different government authorities and 14 employees were assigned, as the working conditions required to complete the Census according to what is planned to form Technical teams within each governmental and private entity concerned with providing the necessary support to the Census project team.

5.2 Organizational Structure of E-Census 2020

Resolution No. 199/2018 was issued regarding the adoption of the organizational structure of the E-Census of Population, Residences and Establishments to organize the supervisory and administrative functions and their competencies and keep pace with the requirements of the E-Census of jobs, human and financial resources. The next figure shows the organizational structure of the E-Census 2020.

5.3 The Participating Authorities in E-Census 2020

Conducting a general Census of Population, Residences and Establishments requires public mobilization for the Sultanate, concerted efforts of government, community and multiple sectors and a very close cooperation between government authorities, the participant work teams and specialized laboratories to benefit from the total available data in various fields and sectors, whether by providing clear maps and models for the available data in each sector, production and service, or the potential expectations for its development in the coming years and the needs that are required to achieve sustainable development and national goals and priorities. It is the target of the Higher National Committee for the E-Census of Population, Residencies and Establishments 2020 to achieve on time by the end of 2020.

Some of the most significant parties involved in the E-Census project are the following:

Ministry of Interior

The Ministry of Education

Royal Oman Police

Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation

Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology

Ministry of Health

Ministry of Labor

Ministry of Social Development

Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning

The Council of Administrative Affairs for the Judiciary

National Center for Statistics and Information

Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion

Nama Group

6 | Decisions and Procedures Issued by Various Committees:

Based on various observations on the progress of the Census process which were submitted by the work teams and the executive management of the Census project concerning the most important obstacles confronting the project's workflow, and in order to improve the quality and comprehensiveness of the data supplied to the E-Census project 2020, the Higher Committee and Technical Committee have issued a set of decisions, actions and initiatives to attain those goals.

The most important decisions based on the various databases can be outlined as follows:

6.1 Civil Registry

- Adding and activating electricity calculation field and the type of housing within the address data in the civil registry.
- Request the electricity account number in the Civil Status Register of the Royal Oman Police to confirm the current residence of Omanis and expatriates by launching a gateway on the Royal Oman Police website to facilitate the procedures for linking the current address to the electricity account number.
- Determining criteria for calculating the Gulf population residing in the Sultanate, adding them in the population statistics that the National Center for Statistics and Information publishes periodically.
- Amending Civil Status Law by obligating the issuance of an identity card for those who have reached the age of (10) years for both genders.
- Issuing a civil number for a live newborn immediately after receiving the birth notification from the Ministry of Health, and the death notification to be directly reflected on the population's civil status data at the Royal Oman Police.
- All government and private institutions read the identification data electronically from the civil registry system of the Royal Oman Police.
- Connecting all parental and marital relations for expatriates and make them compulsory.

6.2 Employment

- The Ministry of Labour has built a unified database for the manpower including all Omanis and expatriates working in both government and private sectors, whether they are on permanent or temporary contracts, job seekers, and retirees.
- Building a comprehensive database of manpower for all Omani and expatriate residents working in all sectors in the Census laboratory (permanent and temporary contracts), including all economically active (working in all formal and informal sectors (Farmers, fishermen, craftsmen, utility drivers), the active job seekers, as well as the economically inactive (retirees, and inactive job seekers).
- Registering the specializations of expatriates is mandatory for those who obtain a university diploma or higher in the system of the Ministry of Labour and the Royal Oman Police.
- Attestation and equivalency of academic certificates, submitted by expatriates working in the Sultanate, is mandatory at the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation in cooperation with the Royal Oman Police and the Ministry of Labour, taking into account the speed of procedures for certification.
- Attestation of professional certificates by the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation.
- Registration of private and community schools' employees in the National Center for Employment (at that time).
- Linking establishments and employees in the Ministry of Manpower (at that time) with the activity place code with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and inclusion of the main branch number in the manpower data.
- Encouraging the establishment of labour cities to ensure a better management of expatriate workers' residence who are not connected with a family. This is to reduce the spread of expatriates' random gatherings phenomenon, taking into account security, economic and social aspects. A working team was formed under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning and the membership of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Labour, Royal Oman Police, and Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones. The team will study the subject in all its aspects and provides the necessary controls and procedures to achieve it through a timetable and a clear work plan.

6.3 Education

- Coverage of Omani graduates from educational institutions in the Sultanate based on the statistics of graduates. 300,000 Omani graduates have been added to ASAS database.
- Monitoring the population in the database of Royal Oman Police who are of school age and are not registered in the educational portal data, in the following cases: (students outside the Sultanate/ disability/ death).
- All educational institutions must link their students' data and graduates with ASAS database. Ensure that they are periodically synchronized. It was agreed with the Ministry of Higher Education that higher education institutions must read the identification data electronically from KHATM System of Royal Oman Police; to ensure data quality.
- Launching a gateway in the e-portal for those who are studying abroad. The registration of pupils who are studying abroad in basic school education shall be compulsory in the e-portal.
- Launching a database for international schools (communities), and obligating community schools to send students' data to the Ministry of Education.
- Adding and activating electricity calculation field within the databases of the Ministry of Education.
- Launching a unified base for Omanis and expatriates that reflects all educational characteristics, whether for school or higher education, as well as illiterates and those who can read and write without educational qualification.
- The Ministry of Education and The Ministry of Social Development are working to find an implementation mechanism for what is stated in Article (36) of Chapter Five (Educational Rights) of the Child Law, issued by the Royal Decree No. (22/2014).

6.4 Births and Deaths – Health

- Issuing a civil number for a live newborn immediately upon receipt of the Civil Registry at the Royal Oman Police from the Ministry of Health.
- Study and complete the shortfall in coverage of births and deaths for Omanis and expatriates to ensure that there are no differences between the Civil Status Register of the Royal Oman Police and the Ministry of Health.
- Complete linking all governmental and private institutions to the database of the Ministry of Health, which feeds the civil registry with the facts of death and birth in a timely and periodic manner.

- Forming a working team consisting of Ministry of Health, Royal Oman Police and Municipalities to study the development of a regulation to organize the work of cemeteries and burial procedures in the Sultanate.
- Reconciling and correcting the data of Ministry of Health with their identification data in the Civil Status Register of the Royal Oman Police.

6.5 Disability

- Those who are registered with Ministry of Social Development should renew their social security card every (3) years, and the disability card every (5) years.
- Linking medical reports included in disability classifications between Ministry of Health and Ministry of Social Development.
- Launching a special base for disability from various data sources for Omanis in the Census laboratories.

6.6 Marital Status

- Building a special database for social status from various data sources for Omanis and expatriates.

6.7 Institutions and Establishments

- Inclusion of a commercial registration number and place of activity code for law firms, consultation firms, craft professions and non-profit establishments such as (sport clubs, charities, community schools, and government institutions).
- Electronic connectivity between Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources, Dhofar Municipality and Sohar Municipality, in order to link the municipal permit to the activity place code and use the national classification of economic activities automatically.
- Requiring municipalities to build databases for the permit of expatriate workers' residence (permanent and temporary) to include location, electricity account, and names of residents.
- Unifying municipal procedures through the formation of a working team under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Interior and the membership of representatives from the Governorate of Muscat, the Office of the Minister of State and Governor of Dhofar, and the

Office of the Minister of State and Governor of Musandam, to work on completing the unification of municipal procedures for all the governorates of the Sultanate and to consider a study linking municipal databases with the electricity companies of Nama Group.

- Adding and inserting electricity account number as a mandatory field in the data and contracts of residential and commercial leases in the municipalities.
- Linking non-profit establishment to electricity account number.
- The number of rooms field has been added as a compulsory requirement in the building completion certificate service in the new system regarding to certificates of completion certificates of new buildings, while the number of rooms in the existing buildings will be excluded at the moment.

6.8 Buildings and Units

- Obligating land purchaser with a residential or non-residential building to transfer the electricity account in the name of the new owner before receiving the ownership document. From October 15, 2020, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning instructed all the directorates of the governorates in all real estate registry departments to first document the contracts of legal actions transferring ownership in the existing buildings before the legal notary and to pay the legally prescribed fees and to provide him with a letter to the competent electricity company according to which the new buyer attends before receiving the ownership document as an official document stating that the account of the electricity meter has been transferred in his name.
- Requiring all entities to have population centers approved by the Ministry of Interior, Muscat Governorate, and the offices of the State Ministers, and Governors of Dhofar and Musandam.
- Obligating electricity companies not to issue a commercial or industrial tariff without the presence of the name and commercial number of the establishment.
- Correcting nearly 900,000 electricity accounts in terms of the civil numbers of the owners of these electricity accounts.
- Geographically linking nearly half a million electricity accounts to data on buildings and plots of land.

Conclusion:

The Royal Decrees and regulating laws represent the legislative source for the implementation of the Census project. They are deemed as the regulatory framework for conducting the Census. In the Sultanate's keenness to give legitimacy and legal status to the implementation of the E-Census 2020, a number of Royal Decrees was issued, which came as a legal and regulatory framework for the Census project.

The organizational and legislative process had an important role in the success of E-Census project 2020. These regulations and procedures represent the main lines of the Census project's progress in the correct form. This document came to clarify the importance of the organizational and legislative aspect added to the Census project, which in its integration had a role in many decisions and measures taken in many institutions and government authorities related to data, which eventually led to improving the quality, comprehensiveness and coverage of data.

The book further dealt with the organizational structure of the project, in addition to the administrative and financial system, in which the number of the administrative staff was greatly reduced, and the financial cost was also lowered by a very large percentage.

Annexes:

Royal Decree 15/ 2015

Conducting the Electronic Census of the Population, Residences, & Establishments for 2020

We, Qaboos bin Said, Sultan of Oman

After perusal of the Basic Statute of the State promulgated by Royal Decree 101/96, The Statistic Law promulgated by Royal Decree 29/2001,

Royal Decree 30/2012 Establishing the Supreme Council for Planning and Promulgating Its System, Royal Decree 31/2012 Establishing the National Centre for Statistics and Information, The System of the National Centre for Statistics and Information promulgated by Royal Decree 40/2014, and in pursuance of public interest,

have decreed as follows

Article I

Conducting the Electronic Census for the population, residences, and establishments for 2020 attached to the in accordance with the provision of the annex

Article 2

This decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into force on the next date of its issuance.

Issued on: 17 Rajab 1436

Corresponding to: 6 May 2015

Qaboos bin Said
Sultan of Oman

Provisions for Conducting the Electronic Census for the Population, Residences, and Establishments for 2020

Article (1)

A comprehensive electronic census of population, residences and establishments shall be conducted, its procedures will be completed during the year 2020.

Article (2)

A Higher national committee for the census is hereby formed under the chairmanship of the Minister of Heritage and Culture and with the following members:

- Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Planning as deputy chairman
- Minister of Interior as member
- Minister of Housing as member
- Minister of Manpower as member
- Minister of Health as member
- Minister of Education as member
- Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Information Technology Authority
- Minister of State and Governor of Muscat as member
- Minister of Social Development as member
- Inspector General of Police and Customs as member
- Minister of State and Governor of Dhofar as member
- Minister of Information as member
- Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning as member
- Chief Executive Officer of the National Centre for Statistics and Information as member
- Director General of the Census Project as secretary

Article (3)

The Higher National Committee for Census is responsible for the following:

- Adopting the necessary methodology to implement the census, studying the consequent procedures with the competent government authorities, and taking the necessary measures to implement those procedures.
- Adopt a plan to mobilize human and material requirements that is necessary to conduct the census, and take the necessary measures to put it into practice.
- Determining the information to be collected during the census in light of the needs of the various government authorities.
- Expressing an opinion on the topics presented to it by the general supervisor of the census.

Article (4)

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Center for Statistics and Information shall be the general supervisor of the census.

Article (5)

The general supervisor of the census must take all necessary measures to conduct the census during the year 2020

Article (6)

The CEO of the National Center for Statistics and Information issues a decision naming a general manager of the census project, forming a technical committee for the project, defining its terms of reference, and approving the project's organizational structure.

Article (7)

The census project shall be excluded from all applicable procedures, laws, regulations and circulars in the Sultanate. The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Center for Statistics and Information shall establish an administrative and financial system for the project, which shall be applied after approval by the Council of Ministers.

Royal Decree 33/ 2020

**Amending Some Provisions concerning Conducting the
Electronic Census of the Population, Residences, and
Establishments for 2020 Attached to Royal Decree 15/2015**

We, Haitham bin Tarik, Sultan of Oman

after perusal of the Basic Statute of the State promulgated by Royal Decree 101/96, the Statistic Law promulgated by Royal Decree 29/2001, Royal Decree 30/2012 Establishing the Supreme Council for Planning and Promulgating Its System, Royal Decree 31/2012 Establishing the National Centre for Statistics and Information, the System of the National Centre for Statistics and Information promulgated by Royal Decree 40/2014, and Royal Decree 15/2015 Conducting the Electronic Census of the Population, Residences, and Establishments for 2020, and in pursuance of public interest,

have decreed as follows

Article I

The text of article 2 of the provisions concerning conducting the electronic census for the population, residences, and establishments for 2020 attached to the aforementioned Royal Decree 15/2015 is hereby replaced with the following text:

Article 2

A higher national committee for the census is hereby formed under the chairmanship of the Minister of Interior and with the following members:

- Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Planning as deputy chairman Minister of Housing as member
- Minister of Manpower as member Minister of Health as member Minister of Education as member
- Minister of State and Governor of Muscat as member
- Minister of Social Development as member
- Inspector General of Police and Customs as member Minister of State and Governor of Dhofar as member Minister of Information as member
- Minister of Technology and Communications as member Minister of State and Governor of Musandam as member
- Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning as member
- Chief Executive Officer of the National Centre for Statistics and Information as member Director General of the Census Project as secretary

Article 2

All that is contrary to this decree is hereby repealed.

Article 3

This decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into force on the date of its issuance.

Issued on: 28 Rajab 1441

Corresponding to: 23 March 2020

Haitham bin Tarik
Sultan of Oman

E-Census Documents Series 2020

