



2010 CENSUS



His Excellency Mr. Rupiah Bwezani Banda
President of the Republic of Zambia

Speech by His Excellency Mr. Rupiah Bwezani Banda, President of the Republic of Zambia, on the launch of the 2010 Census of Population and Housing on 15th October 2010, State House, Lusaka

Fellow country men and women

The time for the 2010 national census of population and housing has now arrived. Since our independence in 1964, Zambia has successfully conducted four (4) censuses. The 2010 census will be the fifth national census being conducted in Zambia.

The first census was conducted in 1969 and thereafter, subsequent censuses were held in 1980, 1990 and 2000. Over this period, Zambia has undergone major political, social, economic and demographic transformations. In response to these changes, technical preparations for the 2010 census started in 2006.

Fellow country men and women

A census of population and housing is a major statistical undertaking which involves considerable investment of the country's public resources. The success of every census undertaking requires the involvement and collaboration of all government ministries and institutions, non-government organisations, development agencies, co-operating partners and the entire citizenry of the country.

A national census requires a broad-based national planning and management structure such as the one we have put in place.

Fellow country men and women

Cabinet at its June 2010 sitting accepted recommendations by the ministry of finance and national planning that the 2010 national census of population and housing be conducted in October 2010 through the central statistical office.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The 2010 census will focus on providing the following information:

1. Essential data for political representation and decision-making;
2. Vital data for socio-economic planning, and monitoring and evaluation;
3. Critical data on the size, distribution, socio-economic status and composition of our current population;
4. Updated national, provincial, district, constituency and ward level information on the population size, composition, structure and other demographic and socio-economic characteristics;
5. Information for enhancement of national development planning and resource allocation;
6. Information for identification of eligible voters for the 2011 general elections;
7. Information for the delimitation and demarcations of constituencies, wards and boundaries for new districts;
8. An accurate sampling frame and sample weights for future inter-censal surveys; and finally,
9. Maintenance of the system of the decennial census programming in line with international standards for conducting national censuses.

Country men and women

In one way or another, every one of us is a user of the end product of a national census. Whether we are policy makers, planners or members of the general public, we all use census data in many different ways in the course of our professional or personal lives.

The policy maker may, for example, use the information on population patterns to make decisions as to where to locate a hospital, school or police station so as to best serve the public.

A businessman may use the same information to decide as to where to locate a factory or shopping mall, and so on.

And of course the final beneficiary of all this information through the improved planning processes is the individual.

Fellow country men and women

To make all the information accurate, reliable and therefore useful, it is important that each of you cooperates with the census staff when they call on you and your household. It is critical that the head of the household be available to provide authentic information on the household. In the absence of the head of the household, the spouse, or a senior member of the household who is ordinarily resident in that house must be available to speak to the enumerators when they call.

Fellow country men and women

For the next three weeks or so, you will see a lot of young people wearing clearly marked and easily identifiable government census attire moving around in your neighbourhoods and requesting to sit down with you to ask you a number of very important and relevant questions. This will be happening under a phase which is called the census count or enumeration. Please cooperate fully with them as they are executing an important national assignment on your behalf.

I must emphasize that these young men and women who shall be calling on you are ordinary young Zambians who are working with the government through the central statistical office. They are not political agents. They are also not sales agents and neither will they come to evangelize or convert you to any other religion or political grouping. They are merely helping the government to establish where our people are so that we can bring roads, schools, clinics, police stations, business facilities, and other public services to where they are really needed.

I must also mention here that even I as president and my household will be counted and asked the same questions everybody else will be asked.

After the enumeration exercise or census count, all this information will be analysed for the use of government in the manner I have described.

Fellow country men and women

After the information collected has been analysed, my government shall use it to make important decisions for taking development to the people. For instance, in the education sector we hope to establish the number of school-going children who are likely now and in the future to require additional school places at the various levels in the educational system. As a government we need to know where to build new schools and how many teachers to train, and when.

The government also urgently needs to address the acute shortage of housing in the country. Only then can we eliminate the overcrowding that is experienced in the many compounds in and around our cities. To do this we must have an accurate understanding of where the housing needs are and the quality of the existing housing stock.

Fellow country men and women

By accurately understanding the size of our population, the age and sex of our people and where they live, we can better plan for their health needs.

In order to develop agriculture, it is essential for government to know the number of people involved in agricultural activities, their gender, age, education level and where they are located and what agricultural activities they are engaged in. The 2010 census will facilitate this.

Industry plays a vital role in any country's economy. It is the wish of government to improve and expand the facilities for promotion of small, medium and large enterprises. The population size forms a market for industrial products and a source of its labour. The 2010 census will facilitate this.

It is important for the government to know at what rate our population is growing.

Fellow country men and women

For our country to effectively reduce poverty and provide sufficient social and economic resources, we have to relate population growth to economic growth.

The amount in resources (human, material and financial) required to conduct a successful census always poses a challenge to resource-constrained countries like Zambia. While the cost of conducting a successful census is high, the cost of not conducting one would even be higher. Lack of information for planning would lead to poor decisions and mis-allocation of the already meagre resources.

This census should not, therefore, be viewed as an expense but as a strategic investment necessary for national development.

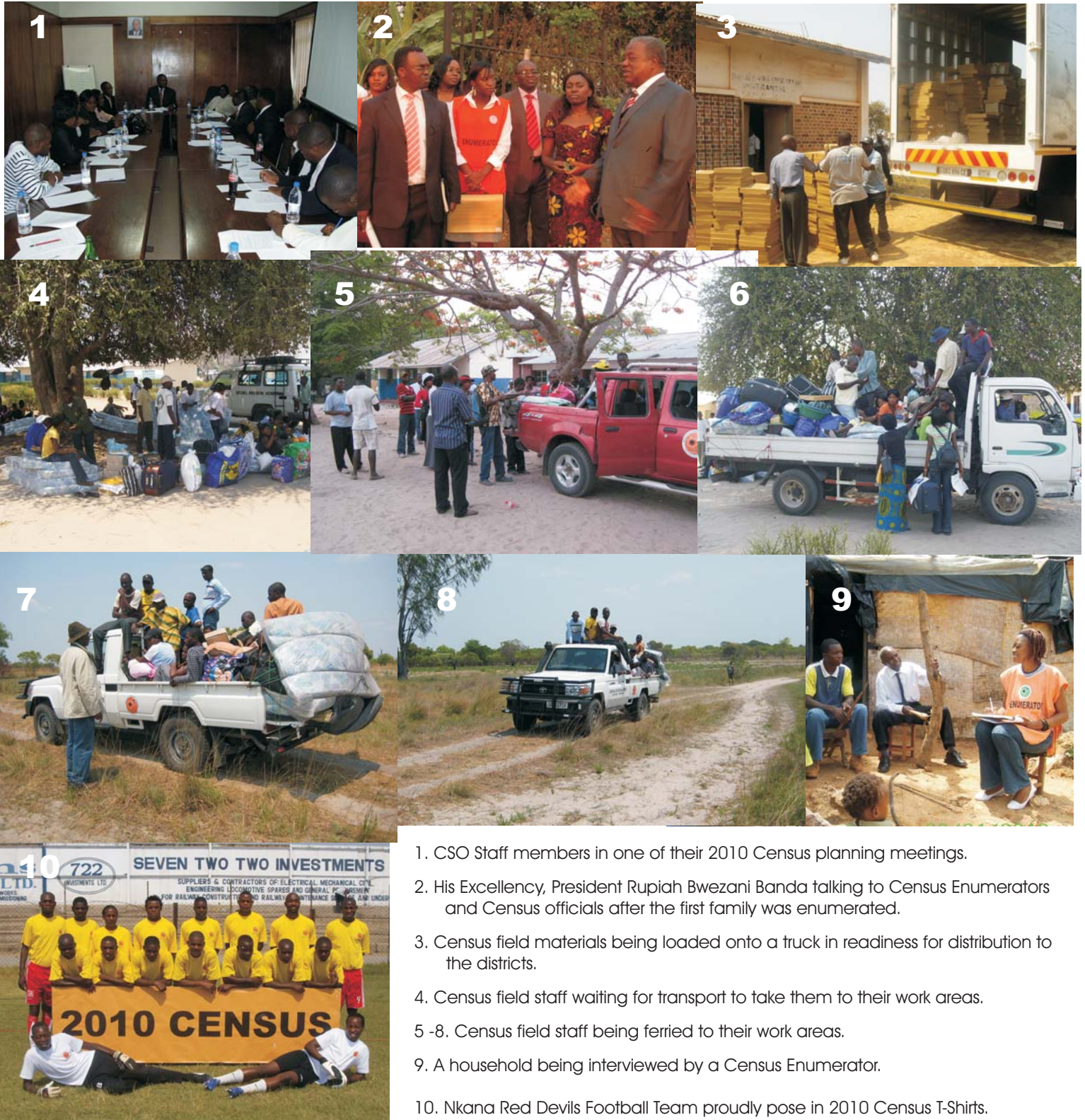
Fellow country men and women

Remember that no government can plan for you if it does not know how many you are, where you are and what you need.

Let me end by quoting the theme for the 2010 census: "**HELP THE CENSUS HELP YOU, BE COUNTED**". THANK YOU.

2010 Census in Pictures

The 2010 Census of Population and Housing was launched by His Excellency Mr. Rupiah Bwezani Banda, President of the Republic of Zambia on the 15th October, 2010 and is expected to last for almost Four (4) weeks.



1. CSO Staff members in one of their 2010 Census planning meetings.
2. His Excellency, President Rupiah Bwezani Banda talking to Census Enumerators and Census officials after the first family was enumerated.
3. Census field materials being loaded onto a truck in readiness for distribution to the districts.
4. Census field staff waiting for transport to take them to their work areas.
- 5-8. Census field staff being ferried to their work areas.
9. A household being interviewed by a Census Enumerator.
10. Nkana Red Devils Football Team proudly pose in 2010 Census T-Shirts.