

Release of census marks Statistics Day celebrations

By Noimot Olayiwola
Staff Reporter

Qatar yesterday observed the World Statistics Day alongside other countries in the world under the theme: "Celebrating the Many Contributions and Achievement of official Statistics".

The day was observed in line with the United Nations general assembly resolution number 64/267, which calls on all nations to mark the day.

A message from the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon commending the dedication that many statistical experts have brought to their reports and publications was read during the event.

Qatar marked the day with the release of 2010 census results for the country's population, housing and establishments as well as honouring of a number of ministries, government departments, private sector establishments and a number of individuals for their contributions to the success of the census.

Speaking on the occasion attended by the HE the Minister of Culture Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kuwari, the Qatar Statistics Authority (QSA) president Sheikh Hamad bin Jabor bin Jassim al-Thani said the day marked the

important role of official statistics in the collection, dissemination and analysis of data related to economic, social, demographic and environmental sectors.

"We are happy to celebrate this day, which is marking our achievements of creating a database being presented to users in the form of numbers, indicators, and indexes (charts, maps), to be used by researchers, businesses and government in framing national and sectorial strategy, in decision making and shaping Qatar's future," he said.

He stressed that QSA was keen on meeting face-to-face with users and producers to emphasise the importance of data providers in the process of data collection and to understand to which extent QSA was fulfilling their needs.

He mentioned that part of the objectives of celebrating the international statistics day was to promote QSA as the main source of official statistics and the leader of the National Statistical System entrusted with the production of data required for the National Development Strategy 2011-2016 for policy development and monitoring purposes.

"QSA's role is to harmonise and standardise the statistical concepts, definitions and the sound methodologies by data producers in Qatar," he said.



Sheikh Hamad al-Thani speaks at the event yesterday while HE al-Kuwari looks on.

Sheikh Hamad al-Thani stated that the recognition of the day will affirm that QSA was serving development in many specific areas of the economy, the demography, social, health and education matters as well as the environment by providing basic data for sectorial planning and monitoring purposes.

"We will like to inform the public that we are following the internationally adopted methodology in order to collect quality and reliable statistics for users and researchers, and the QSA is adopting the UN fundamental principles of official statistics and sustaining the confidentiality of information and exclusively using it for statis-

tical purposes only," he said.

QSA will today hold an open house reception between 9am-12 noon at its premises creating a platform for users and producers of statistical information from different sectors to meet and get acquainted with QSA's roles and achievements.

Population in Qatar rose 128% since 2004

By Noimot Olayiwola
Staff Reporter

The total population of the country since 2004 has recorded a 128% increase, reaching above 1.6mn, the results of the 2010 Census Population Housing and Establishments released yesterday by the Qatar Statistics Authority revealed.

According to the QSA, Qatar's overall population rose from 744,029 in 2004 to 1,699,435 in 2010, comprising 76% males and 24% females.

The results of the general census, conducted on April 20 through the use of advanced technology - a first of its kind in the country and Arab region - were announced within three months after the completion of field operations, much faster than before.

In the latest results, the country's gross domestic products (GDP) growth at current prices from 2004 to 2009 is 210% while total government expenditures increased by 316% from 2004 to 2009.

The number of people in the age group 15-64 has increased from 567,368 in 2004 to 1,453,034 in 2010 due to labour influx for economic development.

Although, there was an increase in number of children aged 0-14 years from 167,618 in 2004 to 232,584 in 2010, there was a percentage drop from 22.5% in 2004 to 13.7% in 2010.

While almost half of the total population live in Doha at 3,394 persons per square kilometre, some 74% of the total population lives in Doha and Al Rayyan and the overall density of population is 146 persons per square kilometre.

A highest total population of 796,947 reside in Doha, followed by Al Rayyan (455,623), Al Khor (193,983), Al Wakra (141,222), Umm Salal (60,509), Al Daayen (43,176) and Al Shamal (7,975).

The illiteracy rate among Qataris, which stood at 9% in 2004 has reduced by half (4.4%) in 2010 due to an increased in educational attainment of both secondary and post secondary education.



The census results also showed that 55% of most Qataris aged above 15 years are married, whereas some 39% have never married and an overwhelming majority of Qatari divorced (2%) and widowed (4%) are female.

As the total population of economically active Qataris is 74,087 of which almost 94% work as employees and some 2.5% are entrepreneurs (employers), there are 1,201,884 economically active non-Qataris out of which 99.6% work as employees.

However, almost 42% of non-economically active Qataris are students, almost 37% are homemakers, about 12% are retired while some 5% are unable to work.

Of this category, some 3,300 (4.6%) were actually not seeking employment and the number of Qatari female, who are not working is almost twice as large the number of males not working.

On the technology front, the census results showed that almost 76% of Qataris aged four and above use a computer and another 73% use the Internet.

Under the housing units by type and municipality, as at April 2010, apartment buildings account for 36% of the housing units with some 80% in Doha and the villas account for 24% of which 42% and 37% are in Al Rayyan and Doha respectively.

Doha and Rayyan account for 77% of all buildings in the country.

Motorist gets jail in hit-and-run road crash case

By Nour Abuzant
Staff Reporter

An Asian motorist was sentenced to three months' imprisonment and QR5,000 fine for knocking down a local motorcyclist and severely injuring him under the influence of alcohol.

The court exempted the insurance company from payment of compensation. The judges marked that the victim failed to produce documents showing the percentage of the injury he sustained and ruled that he can claim compensation from a civil court.

According to the traffic report, the hit-and-run accident took place in the Oum al-Amad area on January 8 this year around 2.45am.

The Doha court of first instance heard that the impact was so strong that the bumper and the registration plate number of the car fell off at the accident spot, and that led to the 43-year-old suspect.

cheques after filing the complaint.

The two had divorced at a later stage and the wife soon filed an alimony case to support her and their children.

The acquitted woman claimed that she took the cheques from the plaintiff when she was his wife.

Explaining the acquittal, the court ruled that the suspect intended to use the cheques for legal purposes to support her civil case.

The Doha court of first instance ruled that according to the Islamic law, if the wife takes something from her husband's properties "that would not be considered as theft, as long as she is his wife on that moment."

The court described taking the cheques as "misbehaviour that did not come to the level of a criminal act for the lack of criminal intention."

Expats get jail for drunken behaviour

Two Pakistani expatriates were acquitted of the charges of impersonating as cops for theft purposes, but they were sentenced in absentia to a month in jail for disturbing the public under the influence of alcohol.

According to the charge sheet, the two suspects entered a house and claimed that they were cops and took the purse of the house owner.

The alleged incident took place on May 22, 2009. The suspect said that they went to the house to use the internet.

The court did not agree with the plaintiff's version that the two stole his purse due to the lack of witnesses.

Woman acquitted of theft charge

A Qatari woman (44) was acquitted of the charges of stealing 29 cheques from her ex-husband's office to prove that he was able to pay alimony after their divorce.

The husband filed a police case against his divorcee in August 2008 saying that she "stole" the cheques, each for QR20,000, which were dated from August 2005 to December 2007.

The court examined documents proving that the husband encashed the

QU holds cancer awareness forum

A cancer awareness forum with the theme 'Cancer can be beaten,' was held by Qatar University's Department of Health Sciences at the College of Arts & Sciences (CAS) on Tuesday.

The event was part of a series of events held at the organisation to mark International Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Forum participants were QU faculty and students, representatives from Hamad Medical Corporation, the Supreme Council of Health, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, and researchers interested in cancer control and prevention issues.

The Garba and Dandia programme in progress at Al Khor Community.

Al Khor Indians stage traditional dances

Al Khor-based Indian expatriate cultural organisation, Bharathi, and Gujarati Samaj Qatar, jointly organised a Garba and Dandia programme.

About 1,000 Indians

dressed in colourful traditional attire, attended this two-day event.

Swirling, clapping and clattering sticks, they danced non-stop for hours.

Various forms of dances, including Dandia, Garba

and Sanedo were performed and the event concluded with everyone dancing to popular Bollywood music.

To add an air of festivity to the occasion, a video of traditional dances by professional dancers

was played on one screen, while another projected a live coverage of the ongoing Garba and Dandia Programme. Community director Nabil Daod Makarem was the chief guest.

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