



## **Consultative Meeting with Government of Balochistan held at Quetta on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021:**

1. Third Provincial consultative meeting was held in Quetta, Balochistan on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021 under the chair of Dr. Muhammad Akbar, Senior Member Board of Revenue, at Chief Secretary Office. The meeting was attended by secretaries and representatives of all relevant departments.

2. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, team lead of PBS and focal person on Digital Census delivered a comprehensive presentation, covering all aspects from design to process of first ever digital census. It was informed that CCI while approving the results of Census 2017, also decided that next Census should be conducted as soon as possible by using modern technologies, therefore, government has planned to conduct the 7<sup>th</sup> Population & Housing Census in the year 2022. Accordingly, in light of the decision of the Government, the Census Advisory Committee finalized the recommendations which are based on thorough study of world best practices and lesson learnt from the previous census. He emphasizes that involvement of provinces and confidence building of stakeholders is important for smooth execution of reliable census process. He then presented the broader recommendations of the committee, which include universality, i.e. count each and every person living in the country irrespective of the status, conduct of census in shortest possible time with short and relevant questionnaire for quality data and avoid over counting, conduct of pilot & Post enumeration survey to test the tools and to check the quality & coverage, use of de-jure method of enumeration, Involvement of stakeholders especially provinces in whole census process for transparency and ownership (i.e. from planning to finalization of results), involvement of law enforcement agencies only for provision of security, delinking of data collection with CNIC verification, use of effective communication strategy and last but not the least conduct of Census Digitally through tablets linked with GIS for real time monitoring . It was also informed that for effective coordination and informed decision, National Census Coordination Center (N3C) will be established with representation of all Provinces and Law enforcement agencies, the center will be equipped with customized dashboards for real time monitoring, further for 24/7 support to enumerators, census support center at census district level will also be established to avoid delays and any complications in data collection and synchronization.

He further added that provinces have the central role for the successful conduct of Census as all the field staff and logistic arrangements have to made by provinces along with the monitoring of field work.

3. The chair and participants took keen interest in census process and share their reservations and questions in open forum.

- Mr. Kadima Hussian, Secretary, Local Council, Election Cell, Balochistan requested to share the questionnaire and was of view that for accurate data collection for planning purposes, data collection may be linked with CNIC, otherwise there will be no means of verification. It was informed that objective of the census is to count people and verification of data or cross checking with any other source is against the UN principles and was one of main reason on objections on last census, therefore the committee has strongly recommended not to use it. It was further added that questionnaire will be shared for input from provinces.
- Mr. Ahmad Raza, Secretary Local Government, Balochistan inquired about the role of census support center and how they will be established. It was informed that Census support center will be headed by Census distrust officer (Deputy commissioner/ Assistant commissioner), place will be provided by the administration, while for support services outsourcing will be done for provision of technical support staff and facilities for timely provision of services for smooth data collection.

- Mr. Zafar Iqbal, Director Statistics, Home Department Balochistan was of view that there are many areas in Balochistan where there is no internet connectivity, therefore an alternate mechanism may be devised for data collection. It was clarified that application will be designed in both offline and online mode, therefore connectivity will only be required for data synchronization. Further consultations with PTA are in progress to provide bundles on the enumerators mobile phones for provision of connectivity at nearby places for data synchronization.
4. In the end the chair appreciated the work done for improving the quality of the upcoming census and assured for their full support in terms of provision of field staff and administrative arrangements for successful conduct of census.

- **Picture Gallery**

**Third Provincial Meeting held at Quetta, Baluchistan on 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2021**



