

Government of Pakistan  
Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives  
**Pakistan Bureau of Statistics**  
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Subject:- **FIFTH MEETING OF CENSUS MONITORING COMMITTEE FOR CONDUCT OF 7<sup>TH</sup> POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS.**

**WORKING PAPER**

Council of Common Interest (CCI) in its 49<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 approved the conduct of 7<sup>th</sup> Population & Housing Census ‘digitally’, along with approval of Census Work Plan, Census Questionnaire and Census Monitoring Committee (CMC) with mandate to oversee / monitor census activities to ensure an expeditious transparent and credible census operation. *The fourth meeting of Census Monitoring Committee was held on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2022.*

2. Fifth meeting of Census Monitoring Committee has been scheduled on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 at 02:00 P.M in National Census Coordination Center (N3C), Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Headquarter Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Minister for PD&SI/ Deputy Chairman Planning Commission.

3. **Agenda of the Meeting**

*Agenda Item-I: Progress on the ongoing census activities.*

*Agenda Item-II: Overlapping national events with the census timelines.*

*Agenda Item-III: Decision on methodology of Census field operation in the snowbound areas.*

**Agenda Item-I: Progress on the ongoing census activities.**

As per the revised timelines submitted to Council of Common Interest (CCI) on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 for approval, the training of 7<sup>th</sup> Population and Housing Census-2022 is being imparted in three tiers: Training of Master Trainers at Islamabad; Training of Trainers (TOTs) at Divisional Level; and Training of Enumerators (TOEs) at Census District Level. The Training of Master Trainers and Training of Trainers have successfully been concluded on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 and 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2022, respectively; whereas, *Training of Enumerators is in progress since 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 all over the country to be completed by 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2023.*

The training of Enumerators at Tehsil level is being imparted in three batches; training of the Batch-I has already been completed on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2023; training for Batch-II has started from 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2023, whereas training of Batch-III will start w.e.f. 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2023. After the training of Enumerators at Tehsil level, field operation of the main Census will start from 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2023.

It is to highlight here that during the training of Enumerators of Batch-I&II, the attendance of the nominated staff remained significantly low, as 4000-5000 (9-10%) nominated enumerators remained absent in both the Batches and didn't attend the training. This is a matter of great concern as the overall accuracy and authenticity of the census results depends on how much effectively and extensively the enumerators have been trained on all aspects of the census, that is from clarity of the census concepts to the full understanding of functionality and working environment of the census applications. The absence in such large numbers will badly affect the Census field operation and may become impediment in the smooth rollout.

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Moreover, NADRA has delivered all the census hardware/ tablet devices, however, as per the new tentative dates conveyed by NADRA, the provision of main census software and dashboards will be completed till 20<sup>th</sup> January and 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2023, respectively. The full solution from NADRA after the requisite security checking by NITSB will be provided till 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2023. This means that PBS will be able to start the main census field operation from mid of February, 2023.

As per the contract, the National Telecom Corporation was required to provide Oracle Exadata, which they could not, and therefore they were asked to provide the alternate solution after consultation with Oracle and NADRA. The MD NTC will brief regarding the provision of Exadata and the alternate solution proposed.

**Agenda Item-II: Overlapping national events with the census timelines.**

Military Operations Directorate has informed that certain other national events as under, requiring deployment of Law Enforcement Agencies / Civil Armed Forces / Armed Forces for security, have also been planned concurrently during the conduct of Census; their rescheduling in synchronization with concerned Ministries is warranted to make available required security troops for conduct of the main census:

- i. **Polio Campaign:** NEOC through Provincial EOCs have scheduled Polio Campaign (Phase-2) in **North Waziristan, South Waziristan, Dera Ismail Khan, Tank, Bannu and Lakki Marwat** Districts from **6-10 February, 2023**, where security has been catered for by pooling up police individuals from adjacent / other districts of KP province.
- ii. **PSL:** PCB has scheduled various PSL matches in **Karachi, Multan, Lahore and Quetta** during the month of **February and March**, where extensive deployment of Police and Rangers / Frontier Corps troops besides Pakistan Army is being envisaged.

Furthermore, after Dissolution of Punjab Assembly, the general elections are expected within 90 days in Punjab (March and April, 2023), which will require deployment in large number of Law Enforcement Agencies / Civil Armed Forces / Armed Forces for security and staff from provincial departments for other related duties. Similarly, exams in schools will also start during February-March, which will require engagement of teaching staff thus making it difficult to spare them for Census duties.

The Armed Forces and provincial departments, therefore, need to ensure provision of Law Enforcement Agencies / Civil Armed Forces / Armed Forces for security and census staff/enumerators for the main census field operation.

**Agenda Item-III: Census field operation in the snowbound areas.**

Approximately 2955 snowbound (inaccessible) areas/ blocks have been identified by the committee constituted for the purpose with the help of provincial administration of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, AJK and GB. It is proposed that census field operation in these blocks may be postponed and rescheduled at a later suitable date of May 2023.

*Any other item with the approval of the Chair.*

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