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ILITHA LABANTU REPORT



REPORT ON FAITH-BASED ORGANISATIONS AND CENSUS SUMMIT

**HELD AT O R TAMBO GARDEN COURT,
JOHANNESBURG**

18 SEPTEMBER 2011

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Pre-amble

Government is in agreement that Civil Society formations and groups be viewed as important participants and partners in census processes. The Faith-based Organisations (FBOs) are of particular reference in this paper.

South Africa is believed to be 99% Christian. Therefore it is within this premise that the significant role of FBOs in Census, who are believed that they would be instrumental in empowering their respective congregants about the importance of Census, cannot be overemphasised. To realise reaching the broader society, STATSSA planned national training sessions country-wide.

The Johannesburg summit was born out of a resolution that was taken in Cape Town that a feed-back summit be organised as soon as possible.

Introduction

With the realization that counting of citizens and non-citizens in a country is a mammoth task, sharing of experiences of inter-relationship between Census and Faith, extensive consultation with, and creation of partnerships between Government and the Civil Society, is viewed in a serious light, hence co-ownership of the processes between STATSSA and Ilitha Labantu.

As part of a series of the Census programmes, Ilitha Labantu spearheaded the mobilization of key figures from Government, Civil Society and various religious faiths including Christians, Hindus, Muslims, Jewish and Traditional.

Opening

Meeting was opened with a prayer and a short sermon by Pastors representing Christian and Muslim Faiths.

Opening Remarks by the Programme director; Ms Ntuthu Mtwana

In her opening remarks, Ms. Mtwana made reference to a Cape Town National Summit, pointing out that it was a beginning of a process about which the gathering was about. This process is noted an era of long-term partnership. She urged that we collectively need to bring our minds together on how we can bring this process to fruition. She further stated that “the good word says that in October, let us all be shepherds in order for all to be in the kraal and all to be counted.”

It is noted with sadness that there are those that are resistant to the counting process. She prompted the pastors to pray for them and advised them that they were going to work on processes started in Cape Town. It is important that we create a united front and build a very strong wall.

She then welcomed everyone, the Statistician General and Ms Mandisa Monakali, the Executive Director of Ilitha Labantu.

The Background and purpose of Meeting: Mr Pali Lehohla

On behalf of STATSSA Mr Lehohla welcomed everyone and thanked them for honouring the invitation to the meeting. He mentioned that the Faith Based organizations feed people’s spirit and raise their thoughts and make them content in difficult times. He attributed accolades to the pastors stating that they make people see the future even when it is dark and difficult.

He advised that participants were going to talk about matters of counting. He compared the Census period to a time of collecting stones thus time to count everyone in the country. The meeting is about counting of people that is scheduled and Provincial prayers for the census to be successful.

In consultation we came up with different ideas, we have opened ourselves to a situation which needs co-operation. It was highlighted at the meeting that although there are 22 days left before the Census takes place, consultation is never late and that if structures are united the census can be a success.

He mentioned that there are two instruments that would be discussed during the meeting:

- The census itself and that faith based are needed in order to count everybody in the country.

In 1991 some people were not counted because of lack of consultation and proper planning. This time it is about those that have no faith that we need to bring to count. In 2001, it was 1 in 6 that was not counted. All the sheep need to be in the kraal.

- The other matter is violence against women.

99% of South Africa is branded as religious, and yet the crime rate is alarming. It is agreed that Statssa will in 2012 conduct a survey on victims and quantity of crime. It is noted that while it is very late for census, it is early for victims. Therefore, religious leaders are needed to give guidance on this matter.

Mr Lehohla stated that not all things that can be counted, count in life and one of those is the moral fibre, yet it counts so much. He said a message has to be sent out because everyone has to be counted and his team was already working on the final logistics for counting. There is training of about 5000 people in every province and the Pastors were there to bless the activities, in turn, the census will be blessed and hope that the partnership will grow from strength to strength.

Mandisa Monakali; Executive Director Ilitha Labantu

Ms Monakali stated that she believes everyone at the meeting is a leader and that violence happens in every set up, including churches. She mentioned that there is a tendency to divorce violence against women from crime and was therefore grateful that Statssa mentioned issues of domestic violence against women and children.

She mentioned that 2011 Census is a historical event because it was all-inclusive. Census will influence the future for the whole country and counting everyone is a huge task and faith based is critical to raise awareness and to encourage people to be counted. The faith based efforts will assist to achieve appropriate and correct counting. People need to understand why they have to be counted. Census participation gives everyone a voice and power to be heard.

Statisticians are said to come up with numbers and people, with issues. Religious leaders are regarded as having influence in societies because people approach them for support and information. During xenophobic attacks, people went to the faith based for support and the Elderly look up to them for provision of trustworthy information. One of the functions of Statistics SA as provided in the Statistics Act 6 of 1999 is to collect, produce and disseminate data regarding all spheres of society for knowledge and education.

During the plenary session in Cape Town, participants were divided into Provinces to come up with challenges and problems in their provinces and to come up with their own unique provincial agenda.

Ms Monakali asked where the women Pastors were and said that the voice of the ordinary women is crucial and need to be heard in order to implement effective and efficient

programs and strategies that will provide the necessary development. If women are excluded, we will not be doing justice as they are the ones who are holding homes. A strong partnership between Government and civil society needs to make things happen.

It was agreed at the summit that there is a need of a prayer service before the 10th of October 2011 for peaceful census. Participants also agreed that the sharing of common values of all faiths can help promote cultural understanding and that these commonalities need to be realised.

She made mention of the fact that religion has always been an agent of social control and that it has the potential to be radical. Religious men and women leaders have an important role in defining and shaping the future of the country and thanked everyone for their commitment.

Resolutions in Cape Town

A number of issues were noted including that there is now a greater understanding of the importance of census, religious women leaders have a significant part to play in the upcoming census and it was recommended that:

Training

- Training is crucial in all provinces,
- provinces to get training material and prepare for census,
- develop tools to support the training on census and to report accurately on faith issues particularly when they concern women of faith
- convene a seminar to consider enhancing co-operation and understanding between faith communities and census,
- promotion of upcoming census before, during and after

Public Awareness

- Raise awareness and mobilise congregants on the upcoming census
- Building on information gathered to forward to various congregations
- Highlighting the importance of the census
- Educating various sectors on the manner in which to conduct census
- Hold provincial meeting in order for them to prepare for provincial prayers

Outcomes

- Provinces to report to their fraternal so that they could be trained about census
- Strategy for Ilitha Labantu and Stassa and other bodies to engage with faith issues, to form part of the presidential priorities.
- Hold provincial meetings in order for them to prepare for provincial prayers
- In addition, the issue of census data and analysis for emergency funding in terms of promoting the religious sector.

Looking forward

- Strategy for Ilitha Labantu and Stassa and other bodies to engage with faith issues to form part of the presidential priorities
- Ilitha Labantu would do well to consider placing a greater focus on issues of identity, in particular the multi layered identities of faith, as part of its culture and diversity programme, when formulating its 2011-2014 strategy.

Four Priorities

- Organized and facilitate nine provincial prayer services.
- Special analysis related to faith based organizations.
- More in particular, the application of census analysis to issues on child headed families and unemployment
- Population projections, particularly at national level and for sectorial population segments from the source, to save time for the sector planning activities.

Ms Ntuthu Mtwana

Ms Mtwana told the participants that when she was working on some projects, some funders would ask her on what statistics was she basing on her argument. She would be confused because she never mixed statistics and infrastructure. She explained that when people talk about census, it means counting everything that matters, people, assets and resources and this is for accountability reasons. People need to know where funding is going to and analyse statistics. People need to account so as to achieve fairness and enjoy the fruits of our struggle.

She also reminded the participants of the struggle about when people were running away from police vans, they would run into church buildings where police would not go into. This meant that one is safe. Today churches are being evicted by Municipality yet people need places to kneel down and pray.

She said the participants should remember that they are the bulldozers in a positive sense; they need to remove rocks in order to plant. They will not know the size of garden if people are not counted. As faith based they need to get their hands dirty by bulldozing the land and planting the seeds. They have been chosen to water, nurture the seeds and level the playground for people to be able to claim happiness.

Questions & Comments

The religious leaders came up with questions and comments as follows:

“I want to add that we have to be realistic and some of us are not privileged to attend such events. We also need incentives.” *Pastor Rich of Assemblies of God, Cape Town*

“Can’t we get what the speakers have said on hard copy, we want to spread the message through the media and radio in our communities” *Pastor Musa from the Vaal*

“We need to build strong partnerships with Stats Provincial offices so as to implement the resolutions because at the moment it is not easy to talk to Provincial office for assistance in terms of prayer service. Stats need to speak to Provincial offices” *Rev Zanoxolo Xhashane, Eastern Cape.*

“The Municipalities need to recognise us as leaders of people in society to make working together easy especially in terms of building churches” *Rev Zuma*

“Thank you Statssa for looking into the issue of crime, we wish you success” *Muslim Leader*

“Thank you Statssa and Ilitha Labantu but why do we have such meetings on a Sunday yet the Pastors are supposed to attend churches?”

“Thank you for the recognition of faith based organizations but we need a follow up meeting after census. There is a lot of potential but the Government is not using us”

“How can we mobilise and involve the prisons?”

“I want to humbly request the document delivered by Ms Mandisa so that we can monitor what we agreed on” *Rev Mtini.*

“We would like to know if there are any job opportunities for our people in the communities.”

“How are we going to identify census people? We also do not have a place to build our churches; we want to see South Africa being healed” *Rev Benni from Rustenburg*

“We are worried about violence and nowadays even men are abused”

“Are there Pastors who are not here today, how are they going to be informed of what we have discussed today?” *Rev Mangele from KwaZulu Natal*

“Are the Pastors here today been sensitized to send back messages to their communities?”

“Leaders must take initiative and responsibility and thank you Ilitha Labantu for being our voice, as for incentives, I think we have been assisted enough with free flights and accommodation” *KZN.*

Response to questions by Ms Mandisa Monakali

She apologised for having the meeting on a Sunday but requested the participants to be sensitive and accommodative to others because not everyone goes to church on a Sunday and that this census is historical and it has to give a true reflection of what is happening with our people.

In respect of employment, she advised that there have been advertisements for people to apply. She even printed out application forms and distributed them. She also apologised for not inviting the Provincial heads to the meeting.

She also gave a brief background of the census in that it is not a South African thing but comes from the UN since South Africa is a signatory and because UN puts faith based organizations under civil society, people need to find a way to accommodate that.

After the meeting, each province should know what to do, where to get training and awareness material and how things are going to be done. Instead of complaining people should ask themselves what they can do and that we need to come back after census and look at the report.

Statistics General Response to questions

The Statistics General advised the participants that within the 22 days we are going to build partnerships to make census a success. We need to feed ourselves with the spiritual food. In terms of employment of census people, he advised that there was a gap in the suburbs and they will need people to fill in the gaps.

Training on Questionnaire: by Nthabiseng, Statssa Provincial Manager KZN

Ms Nthabiseng took the participants through the census questionnaire. She explained how the UN approaches the census and the processes that were taken to do the questionnaire like looking at questions that deal with geographical, economic, education and disability.

She looked at the measurement from data and expected policy outcome from Census results which include:

- Assessment of programme on Gender Equity and population structure
- Assessment on ageing population, infant, children and productive groups
- Planning, monitoring and implementation of educational skills
- Planning and evaluation of resources
- Offer an important perspective

She also explained the process of questionnaire design which includes stakeholder's consultation, identification of key stakeholders, workshops and bilateral discussions, etc. She talked about the construction of a household questionnaire which looked at useful questions, viewing questions through respondent's eyes and other relevant issues.

She also explained to the participants how the counting will be conducted in that individuals will be counted from where they spent the census night and that all questions are important and necessary.

Demographics: Mosidi Nhlapo, Stats SA

She took the participants through the various topics in the questionnaire and explaining why certain questions will be asked, for example, the general health and functioning topic where she advised that the purpose is to collect information about disability and assist in devices and medication

- Parental survival and income; to measure orphan hood
- Education; collect information regarding knowledge and skills capacity in the country, school attendance, literacy and others
- Employment; to measure employment rate and ask those not employed if they are available to work
- Fertility; female aged between 12 and 50 will be ask if they have ever given birth, how many kids they have and other related questions
- Type of living quarters, description of the main dwelling, access to piped water, source of water, reliability of source of water, alternative source of water and refuse disposal
- Child mortality in the last 12 months, and
- Death in the last 12 months.

Participants were given copies of questionnaires.

Questions arising from the questionnaire by Participants

Some participants were concerned about questioning a twelve year of giving birth and asked if the deployed people have been trained to ask such sensitive questions. Ms Nhlapo advised that the trainees have been trained on how to ask sensitive questions and how to deal with people who break down when dealing with issues of death.

Some participants cautioned that the deployed should not leave questionnaire with people to complete on their own like what has happened before because people fill in the wrong information.

Someone asked how the street children and adults will be counted and the Statistics General advised that the deployed will go under bridges and other places to count them.

Some people asked if there are any “whites” who are being trained to count especially in their areas because if other races go there they might not be welcomed. The Statistician General said they do not have any whites but are looking for volunteers.

Group discussions – Provinces

After lunch participants were grouped according to their provinces and were given the following questions to discuss and report back:

1. What are the problems / challenges facing your province now?

2. How can you overcome these challenges?
3. What are you going to do, how and by when do you propose to embark on the proposed activity?

Provinces Group Report back

Ms Monakali assured the participants that as from the 20th September 2011, all the provinces will be contacted with regards to training that will be done in all provinces. Report-back from all represented provinces is tabled and attached.

Please see ANNEXTURE A

Closing Remarks and Way forward; Statistics General

Mr Lehohla advised the participants that Statssa will talk to Provincial offices to welcome and assist them in preparing for census. He thanked Ilitha Labantu for organizing the meeting when he thought it was impossible. He said he was a bit sceptical when Ms Monakali came up with the suggestion to partner with the FBO's as part of consultation with the broader community. He pointed out that after the meeting, obviously a lot can be done and achieved because with previous census Statssa did not consult and things did not go well.

He categorically stated that he believes that 2011 census will be a success. He advised that they have wisdom now that they involved other structures.

Mr Lehohla also advised that they will provide the necessary resources to make sure the prayer meetings on the 9th October happen. He stressed that by bringing Government departments together a lot can be achieved and that census material will be delivered to provinces as from the 20th September 2011.

Ms Mtwana officially closed the meeting by asking people to be united as we approach the census, work together, hold each other's hand and not let the spirit of doom hamper our plans.

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PROVINCE	CHALLENGES	SOLUTIONS	ACTIVITY	DATE
Northern Cape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vastness of the province, • Human Capital, • Resources in terms of transport and finances, • Venues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have close working relations with Provincial office(Accreditation and Recognition), • Organise prayer meetings and training, • To speak to different fraternal to organise prayer meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Provincial manager for planning and logistics • Contact person: O C Mocwaledi Modisaotsile on 0739867426 / 0736666838 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next week
North West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources availability • Diverse cultural differences • Resistance from some structures • Census does not deal with Religion • Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend a separate survey to deal with religion in census • Have interviews on media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise and prepare for interfaith prayer on the 9th October 2011 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9th October 2011
Limpopo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Porous borders causing influx and over population • Illegal immigrants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to disseminate information through churches and local authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to the Municipality about transport • Send out letters to local councils 	Immediate effect until the 9 th

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor road infrastructure • Lack of translation of census material (adverts) into local language • Lack of access to information • Vastness of the area • Networking and building relationships with other stakeholders • High level of illiteracy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve local tribal structures and clinics • Improve security control to eliminate the problem of illegal immigrants so as to reduce pressure on government resources • Engage with Public works to improve road network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch provincial Prayer • They need letters of recommendation from Statsa to take to Provincial office • Visit Provincial office to collect necessary material for awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 2011
Mpumalanga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vastness of the area • Lack of resources • Transport to • Access people in farms • Venue; for information and training • Lack of information about census and its importance • Child headed households 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speak to Public works in respect of road network • Speak to provincial advisory committee and farmer's union 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Municipalities and geographical committees • Convene a meeting with the landlords to distribute information brochures • Plan to have aggressive information dissemination programme on census and its importance • Strengthen working relations with Provincial Office • Will have regional build ups before the provincial prayer meeting • Coordinate resources • Bring different religions together and involve the provincial office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with provincial office on 21 September 2011; • 9th October 2011; prayer meeting
Free State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vastness of the province especially the farms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SACC at Provincial level to take responsibility in notifying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspire, motivate and encourage congregations and communities to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate effect

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church representation • Lack of resources 	<p>the entire province</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structures and systems continue to be imperative for the success of census 2011 and beyond • There should be a liaising body person between FBO's and Census at Provincial level 	<p>be welcoming to census people</p>	
Gauteng	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office to operate from • Communication lines not clear • Province is small but overpopulated • Political parties use Census 2011 for their own political gain • Lack of funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They plan to include Pretoria and Metsweding areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They will have a meeting on the 23rd September 2011 to discuss how to meet with all denominations, different FBOs and municipalities • Reported that Sedibeng District, Ekurhuleni Metro and Soweto had started preparations from the 19th – 22nd September 2011 • Census prayer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9th October 2011; prayer meeting
Eastern Cape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vastness of the province • Communication between Statssa and FBOs • Exclusion of traditional leaders • Lack of resources • Some councillors use census for their own gain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage media for awareness • Statssa must communicate and consult with FBOs before census • SG should also consult Salga 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They will make sure that census is spoken about at fraternal so that it trickles down to all congregations • They have divided the province into four regions with four co-ordinators as follows; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utenhage – Pastor Masekwana • Alice – Reverend Ngumbela P E – Rev Matyityi East London – Rev Maqashane 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting on 22 September 2011
Western Cape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of crime especially 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FBOs need to work together 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They will avail their support and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22nd

	<p>in schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some areas that have rejected census and no go areas • Omission of religion on census documents 	<p>and respect one another regardless of denomination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet regularly and be proactive regarding social issues in communities • Work closely with Ilitha Labantu and Statssa to ensure an effective and successful census 2011 • Need to strengthen partnership between FBOs and Statssa • FBOs need to be engaged and involved from the start • They would like to be involved in Victim of Crime Survey 2012 	<p>resources when needed to streamline the process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting on 22September 2011 and 02 October 2011 to discuss wayforward • Organise and prepare for prayer meeting at Mew Way in Khayelitsha 	<p>September 2011 at 2 o'clock in Mowbray</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd October 2011; prayer meeting in Elsies River • 9th October 2011; prayer meeting in Khayelitsha
KwaZulu Natal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of awareness regarding the vibe and motivation of census • Lack of cohesion • Time frame • Lack of resources; finance and information in Zulu language • Tribal barriers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Provincial Stats SA with issues relating to Secretariat for upcoming activations • Need to create awareness and coalition • Need to reach all our community townships and rural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial Summit: To inform religious sectors as part of the build-up towards National Prayer Day. They are going to use community radio station to spread message • Engage Provincial Government and all FBOs. • Work closely with Provincial Stats • They need a letter of recommendation stating that they have been trained for census • Contact person for co-ordination: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 Sept. 2011 • 9 Oct. 2011 National Prayer Day meeting

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