

**THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA**  
**SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF POPULATION STUDIES**  
**2020/2021 ACADEMIC YEAR**

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**COMPUTER#:** 2019054507

**COURSE CODE:** DEM 2110

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**TASK:** ASSIGNMENT TWO

**TUTORIAL DAY & TIME:** TUESDAY 11-12HRS

**DUE DATE:** MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2021

1. Zambia Statistics Agency has the mandate to produce and disseminate official statistics in Zambia.

a) Under what legislation is this mandate?

The Zambia Statistics Agency operates under the Statistics Act No. 13 of 2018 which became operational on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2019.

b) What is the defined periodicity for conducting the population and housing census in Zambia?

Defined Periodicity implies that censuses should be taken at regular intervals so that comparable information is made available in a fixed sequence. In Zambia, the defined periodicity for conducting the population and housing census is **10 years**. However, such factors as funding, the gassing scandal, and now the global pandemic made it hard for this requirement to be attained last year 2020 (when the next census was supposed to be undertaken).

c) Since gaining independence, how many population censuses has Zambia had?

Since independence in 1964, Zambia has successfully conducted five censuses.

i) State the year when each of these censuses was conducted.

The first census was conducted in 1969 and thereafter, subsequent censuses were held in 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010. Ideally, Zambia was supposed to conduct the sixth census last year (2020) but because of such factors as the gassing, funding and the covid-19 pandemic, the activity was postponed to be undertaken this year (2021).

2. The Department of National Registration, Passport and Citizenship (DNRPC) has the mandate of Civil Registration in Zambia.

a) Under what ministry does this institution fall?

Ministry of Home Affairs

b) Under what legislation is birth and death registration in Zambia?

Birth and Death Registration Act, Cap. 51 of the Laws of Zambia.

- i) State the year when this legislation came into effect

The legislation came into effect on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 1973.

3. The Government of the Republic of Zambia has decentralized the issuance of birth and death certificates.

- a) What statutory instrument was issued to enable this decentralization?

The government of the Republic of Zambia through the Ministry of Home Affairs issued the birth and death general amendment rules of Statutory Instrument No. 44 to decentralize the issuance of birth and death certificates.

- b) What does this decentralization of the issuance of birth and death certificates mean?

By “decentralization” we mean the transfer of control of an activity or organization to several local authorities rather than a single one. Therefore, the decentralization of the issuance of birth and death certificates means to extend the service delivery such that the provincial and district registrars are given powers to control and issue birth and death certificates. For example, if there was only one facility at provincial level, and now the issuance has been extended to be done even at district and constituency level.

4. With the use of relevant examples, explain the definition of sample survey.

Survey Sampling describes the process in which part of the population is selected from a target population after which observations are made or data are collected and then inferences are made to the entire population. Sample surveys can broadly be grouped into probability and non-probability sampling methods. Probability-based sampling allows design-based inference about the target population while non-probability sampling often fail to represent the people in the target population.

Information collected from sample surveys, more especially government agencies, has a huge influence upon the ways our lives are regulated. An example is the Labour Force Survey (LFS) which is conducted to monitor the extent of unemployment and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) among other key indicators. Another example of a sample survey is the Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS) which provides an

opportunity to inform policy and provide data for planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of national health programmes.

5. Define population census according to the United Nations.

According to the United Nations, a population census is defined as, “the total process of collecting, compiling, evaluating, analysing and publishing or otherwise disseminating demographic, economic and social data pertaining, at a specified time, to all persons in a country or in a well-delimited part of the country.”

a) With the use of relevant practical examples, explain what this definition means.

A population census collects information on basic population characteristics such as age, sex, marital status, household composition, family characteristics, and household size. Information is also collected on economic measures such as labour force participation, occupation, place of work, employment-related industry, and educational attributes such as school attendance, educational attainment, and literacy. The population census also captures information about geographic and migration. Questions on place of birth, place of residence allow planners to examine population movements.

The definition of a population census states that information on demographic, economic and social characteristics of all the individuals in a country or a well-delimited part of it is collected, compiled, evaluated, analysed, and published or otherwise disseminated. This implies that the information is collected by means of enumeration. Enumeration of individuals requires that each individual and each set of living quarters is enumerated separately and that the characteristics thereof are separately recorded. This can be done by using self-administered questionnaires or face-to-face enumeration.

The information collected by the enumerators who were sent in the field or otherwise the distributed questionnaires are then collected and the information is brought together or in other words compiled and entered into computers. The evaluation of census results is frequently cited as a requirement of a good census. Evaluation is a measure of census error and identification of the sources of error. Its purpose is to provide users with an

acceptable level of accuracy and confidence when utilizing the data, and to explain errors in the census result.

There are errors in the census data which may be due to the shortcomings in data collection during enumeration, like failure to count all people. For example, the homeless people are the hardest people to record during census counts. Another data quality problem is the failure of respondents to provide correct information.

Errors can also take place when census data are compiled and entered into computers. Human errors can emerge during stages of data processing, analysis and compilation. Because of such errors in the census data, the information must be evaluated and most statistical offices conduct a post-enumeration survey to check on the quality of information. Also prior to the census, strategies are identified on how to reach the homeless.

Analysis is the comprehensive examination of census data by government authorities, researchers, and other relevant authorities through analytical studies. This may be descriptive summaries, policy oriented, detailed analyses, detailed analytical studies of one or more demographic or social aspect. In these studies, the data of the current census should be examined not only by themselves but also as complemented by relevant data from earlier censuses and from other sources. This enables to obtain a broader context, improve the estimates and establish trends.

Dissemination of results to potential users is what makes a census complete. Dissemination of results may be in the form of printed reports, electronic such as CD-ROM and other high-capacity media, and also the Internet. The dissemination phase should be regarded as an ongoing process that will service the needs of users over a long period of time. Management of the quality in census dissemination is driven by concerns to deliver relevant products and services while maintaining accuracy of the data, and timeliness and predictability of data release within agreed cost constraints.