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**CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA 1999
(CAP 24 LFN)**

**LEGAL NOTICE ON PUBLICATION OF THE 2006
CENSUS REPORT**

WHEREAS the National Population Commission conducted national population and housing census between the 21st and the 27th days of March, 2006 followed by a post enumeration survey in June 2006 ;

AND WHEREAS the National Population Commission has as required by the Constitution of Nigeria 1999, delivered to me the report of the said population and housing census 2006 ;

AND WHEREAS the Council of State has advised me to accept the said report.;

AND WHEREAS the report of the population and housing census has been laid on the table of each House of the National Assembly ;

NOW THEREFORE in exercise of the power conferred upon me by virtue of section 213 (4) of the Constitution of Nigeria, 1999 and all other powers enabling me in that behalf, I, OLUSEGUN OBASANJO, President, Federal Republic of Nigeria do hereby publish for information REPORT ON CENSUS 2006 PROVISIONAL RESULTS as appearing in the Schedule to this Legal Notice:

SCHEDULE

DETAILED REPORT ON THE CENSUS 2006 AND PROVISIONAL RESULTS

The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria mandates the National Population Commission (NPC) to carry out a population census in the country and provide accurate and reliable census results. The primary objective of the census results is to assist the country in knowing as accurately and reliably as is possible within the constraints the population size, its composition and distribution. The population figures and characteristics arising out of census help the country to meet its developmental, administrative and political needs and provide inputs while planning for improving the quality of life of our countrymen. Accordingly the population and housing census 2006 was carried out during 21st -27th March, 2006, followed with the post enumeration survey (PES) in June 2006.

All the UN member nations are expected to carry out a reliable and accurate population and housing census, preferably every ten years. It is also expected that while carrying out the census exercise scientific and modern concepts are used and international standards met. The previous census was carried out in November 1991 and therefore the Census 2006 was conducted after a gap of 15 years for various reasons and not 10 years as mandated. Since in developing countries there is much population dynamics involved, if censuses are not carried out with regularity, vital data gap occurs not allowing the country to plan properly for its people based on sound demographic data. With carrying out the Census 2006, this vital gap now seems to have been covered and catered for.

The Nigerian census history is replete with controversies over the population count and the earlier efforts to provide the country with accurate and reliable figures ended up most of the time in controversies leading to the cancellation of the exercise or non-acceptability of the census results, with the exception of the 1991 census. This was mostly due to over politicization of the census process, failure to meet the international standards and lack of transparency in the methodology and processes adopted. Varying degrees of over-enumeration of population was rampant throughout the country coupled with omission of certain settlements in the earlier census exercises and this possibly contributed much to the unacceptability of the census results. To overcome these deficiencies the present Commission adopted the use of the modern and internationally accepted standards and concepts of census taking with total transparency being practiced to allow both for national and international monitoring of the processes and methodologies used in Census 2006. As per the UN guidelines it takes about 36 months advance preparation for any country to conduct the population and housing census. This is because it is commonly understood that census is the biggest peacetime activity in any country for mobilizing men and material for a single and simultaneous operation through out the country. The preparations for this census truly began in the later half of 2004 with the international development partners, EU, UNFPA, UNDP, DFID and USAID agreeing to support the census activity of the Federal Government by providing financial and technical assistance. NPC acknowledges the total support of the Federal Government and the Developmental Partners which assisted it in conducting this census exercise. The Commission also acknowledges the support provided in this exercise at various stages by the National Assembly, state and local governments, CSOS, Faith Based Organizations, NGOs, traditional rulers and several other stakeholders. The media, both print and electronic, national and regional, need to be commended for their commitment to reach the census messages to the people of Nigeria in every nook and corner of the country however remote.

An accurate and reliable census usually implies that the coverage and content of the census are fairly satisfactory. While no census exercise any where in the world is perfect in terms of coverage or content, the critical question is the quality of the efforts and methodology used. To ensure that the entire country is covered during the census operations, the Commission embarked *de novo* on carrying out the enumeration area demarcation exercise to cover all settlements however small and remote and carve out enumeration areas for proper assignment of the work load to enumerators. Satellite imageries were also used where permissible. To ensure full involvement of the people, a massive public awareness campaign was launched throughout the country with special attention to rural and remote populations. This effort led to full support and participation of the people during the enumeration and it is estimated that the coverage was more than satisfactory. To estimate the coverage error, the PES was conducted as per international practice, in June 2006 and the results from the PES when available are expected to be used for validating this assertion on area coverage.

Following the census field work, the data processing of the census data collected by the enumerators on the census form began in 7 Data Processing Centers (DPCs) where the census forms collected from the field were duly archived. Modern and reliable processes of scanning and editing the census forms were used with additional safety margins built in during census form printing and designing of introducing state code on every form. This helped in ensuring that census forms of one state did not and could not be used during the field exercise or mixed up during data processing with another state. In addition any forms torn apart or that could not be scanned for any reason were examined by a special group and manually data entered. Thus total and complete integrity was attempted and maintained of the data during its processing. The transmission of the data from the Data Processing Centers to the headquarters was kept fully secured with the use of passwords.

Next stage in data processing is data extraction, concatenation, validation and moderation of the data if it does not meet the demographic patterns. Extreme care was observed during these processes and this activity was restricted to a select expert and technically competent group with close monitoring by international experts. Due cognizance was undertaken of the past history of the previous census validation efforts and critical observations made by the EU monitoring group in their report following the census. To quote from the EU monitoring report, Chapter 5 Recommendations 'Recommendation 1 : Clean the data carefully.' Again to quote from the Executive Summary of the same report, 'Conclusion 2 : The accuracy of the raw data coming from the field is partly unsatisfactory and the data needs careful cleaning at the DPCs.' Cleaning and improving of data does not imply manipulating it. It means using conventional and non-conventional (country specific) demographic and statistical techniques for examining the data quality and evolving and adopting suitable methodology for this purpose. If on examination, it is observed that the quality of the data collected is not up to the mark and it is not improved upon and presented as such, the adulterated data will result in garbage in and garbage out, making a mockery of the census results technically and demographically. This obviously will lead to the unacceptability of the census results both nationally and internationally leading to a serious waste of national resources international aid while making a serious dent of the reputation and pride of the country in international and diplomatic spheres for its inability to know 'HOW MANY ARE WE'? The methodology used therefore also factored in such instances where no or partial enumeration was reported during the census. Efforts will be made to carry out detailed and intense verification in the coming months to fully determine and adjudicate technically all such and similar cases and use of the PES will also be made to fine tune the results particularly at the lowest administrative level such as LGA and locality. This is another good reason that the current report covers the national and state population figures only.

While every effort possible has been made to ensure the integrity and credibility of the census results, it is humanly impossible to meet the expectations of all the people in the country. This is particularly so, if there is already a mind set or a pre-conceived notion of a particular population figure in somebody's perception. During my advocacy visits to several states I had observed and noted that even several months prior to the conduct of the census important, responsible and highly placed

individuals, organizations and even academicians had determined to the decimal point the population of a particular area or region. There is a feeling in some quarters that their cities or states have already reached a particular population level while others feel that they cannot lose their past demographic advantage or growth rates. Population dynamics cannot and do not remain stationary or constant over long intervals and in developing countries need to be underscored here.

Almost all these wild guesstimates apparently were based on their perception mostly out of ignorance or possibly ulterior motives to suit their agenda. Most of these assertions fail to pass the known demographic patterns and therefore need to be dealt with appropriately and immediately at the highest level if these surface again following the declaration of the census results, particularly if these statements are inflammatory and detrimental to the unity of the country and its people. There it would be advisable to brief the political, social and religious leaders and individuals who command respect in the society and in exalted positions to exercise caution and discretion while commenting on census results and help in assuaging the feelings of the people. Media management therefore will be a top priority activity to attend to unreasonable and unscientific criticism of the census results. It is also proposed to convene a meeting of the Development Partners as soon as possible and if Mr President accepts the census results. This will help in making the census results acceptable internationally also.

The next phase will involve the processing, collation, validation and tabulation of the final population totals and characteristics. This will include most importantly for the first time the data on housing stock, amenities and assets available to the household. Results on fertility and mortality as also age, literacy, educational levels, migration, marital status, occupation, etc. will also be processed. The demographic, social and economic characteristics of the population will be used for better allocation of resources, as intervention instruments and for improving the overall quality of life of our countrymen. All this work along with a very powerful campaign for disseminating the data at several levels from the national to the local level has been planned for in the coming years.

MAIN FINDINGS OF CENSUS 2006 PROVISIONAL RESULTS

1. The total provisional population of Nigeria is 140,003,542 comprising of 71,709,859 males and 68,293,683 females (Annexure A). This translates in an annual growth rate of 3.2 per cent over the 1991 census figures (Annexure B). It may be remembered that the provisional population totals for Census 2006 do not take into consideration any territorial regions, which have been ceded to another country since the census taking. Also the state totals at this point of time do not take into account any inter state or international boundary disputed areas. These areas will be dealt with appropriately while finalizing the census results.

2. The sex ratio of the population is 105 and shows slight preponderance of males over females at the national level.

3. The state population totals indicate an annual growth rate between 2.8 to 3.5 per cent (except Abuja FCT) with most of the state growth rates hovering between 2.9 to 3.3 per cent (Annexure B).

4. The population size of the states indicates that their relative position has by and large remained stable with the first 6 states retaining their position as it is while most of the other states observe minor shifts (Annexure A and C).

5. Abuja FCT area has grown at a phenomenal annual growth rate of 9.3 per cent (Annexure B). This is almost 3 times the national growth rate inspite of the fact that much demolition and therefore possibly forced population out migration took place just before the census. It may also be remembered that Abuja FCT population does not include the satellite towns in neighbouring states of Niger and Nasarawa.

6. As regards regional population distribution the states comprising northern Nigeria constitute about 53.6 per cent while the states in southern Nigeria constitute about 46.4 per cent of the country's population.

7. The national and state provisional population totals appear to be accurate, credible and demographically and technically plausible. These figures are in broad agreement with the scientifically worked out population projections and other demographic data available and therefore in my view should be accepted.

CHIEF SAMU'ILA DANKO MAKAMA
(Ubandoman Pyem)
Chairman, National Population Commission
29th December, 2006, Abuja, Nigeria

ANNEXURE (A)

<i>State</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Sex Ratio</i>
ABIA	2,833,999	1,434,193	1,399,806	102.5
ABUJA	1,405,201	740,489	664,712	111.4
ADAMAWA	3,168,101	1,606,123	1,561,978	102.8
AKWA-IBOM	3,920,208	2,044,510	1,875,698	109.0
ANAMBRA	4,182,032	2,174,641	2,007,391	108.3
BAUCHI	4,676,465	2,426,215	2,250,250	107.8
BAYELSA	1,703,358	902,648	800,710	112.7
BENUE	4,219,244	2,164,058	2,055,186	105.3
BORNO	4,151,193	2,161,157	1,990,036	108.6
CROSS-RIVER	2,888,966	1,492,465	1,396,501	106.9
DELTA	4,098,391	2,074,306	2,024,085	102.5
EBONYI	2,173,501	1,040,984	1,132,517	91.9
EDO	3,218,332	1,640,461	1,577,871	104.0
EKITI	2,384,212	1,212,609	1,171,603	103.5
ENUGU	3,257,298	1,624,202	1,633,096	99.5
KEBBI	3,238,628	1,617,498	1,621,130	99.8
IMO	3,934,899	2,032,286	1,902,613	106.8
GOMBE	2,353,879	1,230,722	1,123,157	109.6
JIGAWA	4,348,649	2,215,907	2,132,742	103.9
KADUNA	6,066,562	3,112,028	2,954,534	105.3
KANO	9,383,682	4,844,128	4,539,554	106.7
KATSINA	5,792,578	2,978,682	2,813,896	105.9
KOGI	3,278,487	1,691,737	1,586,750	106.6
KWARA	2,371,089	1,220,581	1,150,508	106.1
LAGOS	9,013,534	4,678,020	4,335,514	107.9
NASARAWA	1,863,275	945,556	917,719	103.0
NIGER	3,950,249	2,032,725	1,917,524	106.0
ONDO	3,441,024	1,761,263	1,679,761	104.9
OGUN	3,728,098	1,847,243	1,880,855	98.2
PLATEAU	3,178,712	1,593,033	1,585,679	100.5
SOKOTO	3,696,999	1,872,069	1,824,930	102.6
TARABA	2,300,736	1,199,849	1,100,887	109.0
YOBE	2,321,591	1,206,003	1,115,588	108.1
ZAMFARA	3,259,846	1,630,344	1,629,502	100.1
OSUN	3,423,536	1,740,619	1,682,917	103.4
OYO	5,591,589	2,809,840	2,781,749	101.0
RIVERS	5,185,400	2,710,665	2,474,735	109.5
NIGERIA	140,003,542	71,709,859	68,293,683	105.0

ANNEXURE (B)

<i>State</i>	<i>Annual Exponential Growth Rate</i>
ABIA	2.7
ADAMAWA	2.9
AKWA-IBOM	3.4
ANAMBRA	2.8
BAUCHI	3.4
BAYELSA	2.9
BENUE	3.0
BORNO	3.4
CROSS-RIVER	2.9
DELTA	3.2
EBONYI	2.8
EDO	2.7
EKITI	3.1
ENUGU	3.0
FCT ABUJA	9.3
GOMBE	3.2
IMO	3.2
JIGAWA	2.9
KADUNA	3.0
KANO	3.3
KATSINA	3.0
KEBBI	3.1
KOGI	3.0
KWARA	3.0
LAGOS	3.2
NASARAWA	3.0
NIGER	3.4
OGUN	3.3
ONDO	3.0
OSUN	3.2
OYO	3.4
PLATEAU	2.7
RIVERS	3.4
SOKOTO	3.0
TARABA	2.9
YOBE	3.5
ZAMFARA	3.2
NIGERIA	3.2

ISSUED under my hand this 18th Day of January, 2007.

OLUSEGUN OBASANJO
President, Federal Republic of Nigeria