

**ADVERTORIAL
NATIONAL POPULATION COMMISSION
LAGOS STATE CLAIM ON THE PROVISIONAL RESULT OF THE 2006
CENSUS IS UNFOUNDED**

The attention of the National Population Commission has been drawn to a publication titled- *The Falsification of Lagos Census Figures* – produced by the Lagos State Government and presented to the general public on Monday, 5th February 2007.

The Commission is carefully studying the publication and notes that what has been presented is a bundle of fallacies and distortion supported by an assemblage of unrelated and unverifiable facts.

Worldwide, the basic tool for the determination of the population figures of any country or its defined territorial part is population census, which is the enumeration of all persons living in such a country or part at a set time. Any other data either from school enrolment, vehicular density, immunization records, and issuance of national identity cards or personal identification slips during the census has never been a substitute to a census anywhere in the world.

In respect of the provisional figure of 9,013,534 released for Lagos in the 2006 Census, the Commission wishes to restate that this was based on the number of persons physically seen and enumerated in the state during the census. The figure was not ‘allocated’ and Lagos was never undercounted during the census. The Commission is confident that all the localities / communities were visited using Enumeration Area maps that are complete and available for future statistical studies.

The claim of Lagos state to have conducted a ‘parallel census’ has no constitutional basis as the only body charged with the responsibility of

conducting a census for Nigeria is the National Population Commission. There could not have been a ‘parallel census’ along with the national census and the result of such an unconstitutional act could not have been tenable. Also, a census is not a ‘touch and go’ affair because a lot of preparations would have to be made before the exercise is conducted. There is no evidence that Lagos state made such preparations for its purported census.

The Commission dissociates itself from the administration of Social Security Forms and issuance of personal identification slips to persons, which the Lagos State Government claimed to have carried out during the census period. The process was not in anyway verified by officials of the Commission. The result of such a predetermined act could therefore not be used to invalidate the 2006 census figures.

The Commission wishes to affirm that the provisional result released for Lagos and other states of the federation and the FCT are accurate and reliable. The population figure of Lagos state is 9,013,534, and not 17,553,924 or any other guess estimates. It therefore urges the general public to be wary of the publication and regard it as a self seeking politically motivated attempt to stain a genuine national effort.

A comprehensive response to all the issues raised in the publication will be released in due course.

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For Chairman
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