



CENSUS UPDATE

New Census Manager appointed

Recently the Vanuatu National Statistics Office through the Public Service Commission duly appointed Mr Benuel Lenge a Statistician from the VNSO as Census Manger to head up the organisation and supervise the taking of the Population and Housing Census throughout the nation in the run up to census night 15 November 2009.

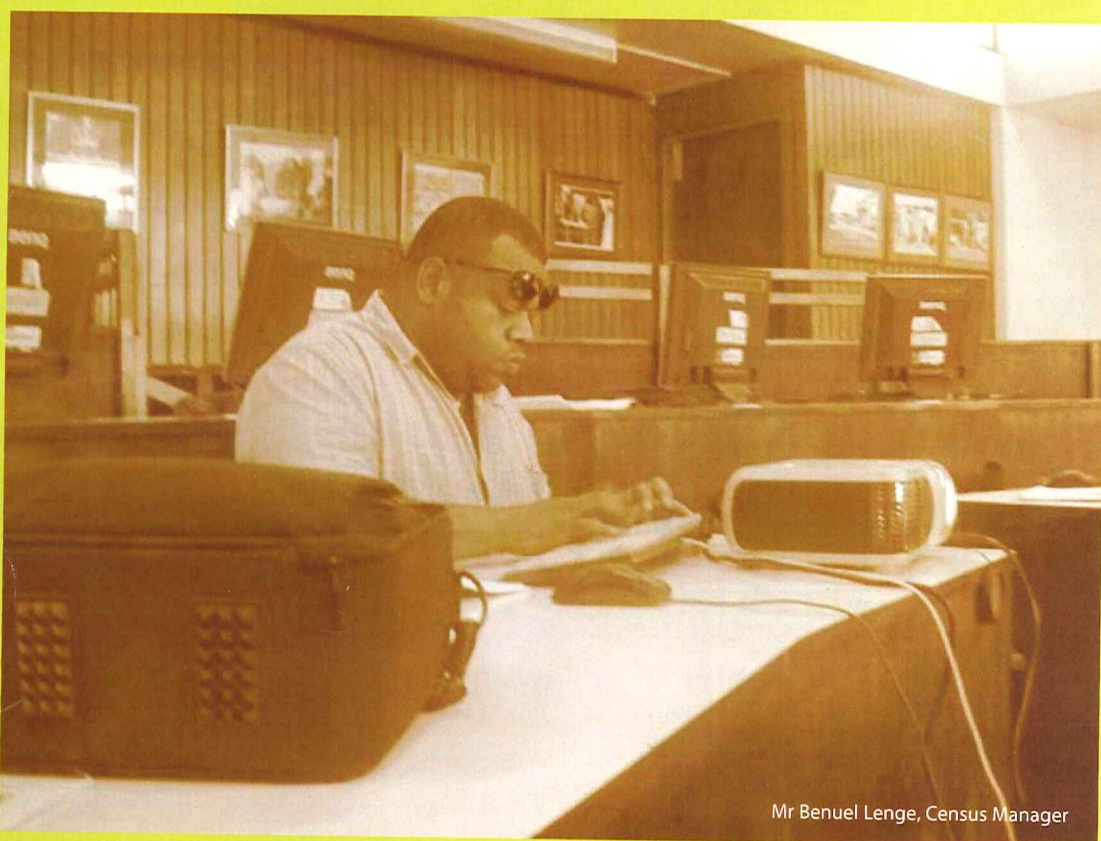
The last Population and Housing Census in Vanuatu was held in 1999. Next year will be the third census in the country since Vanuatu gained independence in 1980.

Benuel Lenge (pictured opposite), aged 30 is Vanuatu's youngest ever census commisioner and was appointed to the post in July this year. Mr Lenge who holds a Masters Degree in Population Studies from Australian National University says "Census is a snapshot of the number and characteristics of people in Vanuatu on census night. Its results help the Vanuatu Government plan and fund our public services - health, education, transport - based on what we need".

In another development the first census project steering committee meeting was held on 2nd of October 2008. The meeting was chaired by the Director General of the Ministry of Finance, Mr George Maniuri. The committee is expected to meet every two months to report on progress or any difficulties. For instance in the first meeting in October with stakeholder representatives from line ministries discussed design and content of the census questionnaire, and an overall budget and timeline was agreed upon.

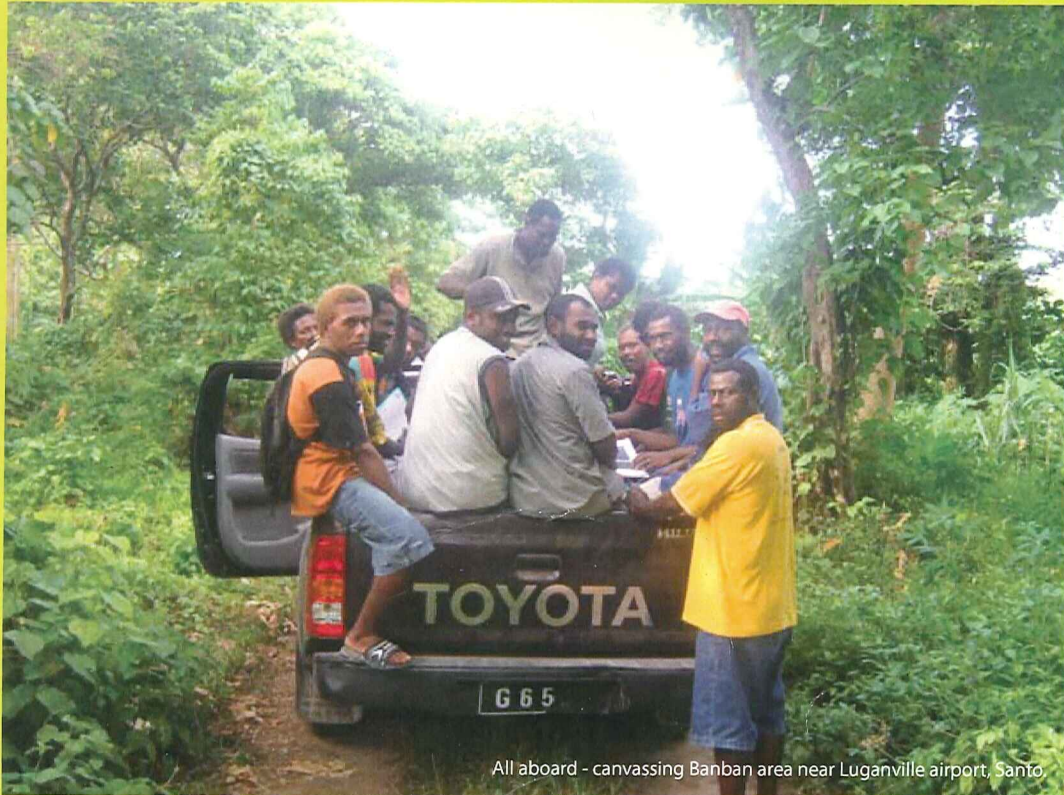
Census project 2009 officially launched

The 3rd Census of Population and Housing in Vanuatu was officially launched at the Le Meridian hotel on Friday 14 November to coincide with the presentation of the Agriculture Census final report and winding up of the project. Present for the launch was the Acting Government Statistician Mr Simil Johnson and First Political Advisor Mr Augustine Garae within the Ministry of Finance. The theme for 2009 is 'Vanuatu hemi kaontem yu'.



Mr Benuel Lenge, Census Manager





All aboard - canvassing Banban area near Luganville airport, Santo



Enumeration teams canvass areas for pilot census

In preparation for Census 2009, the VNSO conducted a Pilot Census on 15th November 2008. The purpose of the pilot was primarily to test questions in the questionnaire and trial new technologies such as GPS capture of HH locations and the use of scanning of the census forms.

Four main areas throughout Vanuatu were selected for the November Pilot Census to cover approximately 1,200 households. Enumeration Area (EA) boundaries were designed (geospatially) to represent small areas of equal population size of approximately 60 HHs so that one enumerator can cover an EA. EAs were also designed to take into consideration land area and ease of travel.

For the Pilot Census 5 Enumeration Areas located in the peri-urban area of Blacksands in Port Vila were chosen, 5 more enumeration areas of Port Vila town including SeasideTongoa-Futuna, Vila East (2), Ex British Prison, Vila Central Hospital were also selected as established urban areas in Port Vila to be tested. 5 EAs from the rural area of Banban, Santo (near Luganville urban centre) in the Sanma Province. While 5 remaining enumeration areas for the pilot include the remote Islands of Mota-Lava and Rah from the northern Torba Province.



Selected Pilot census areas: Islands of Mota Lava and Rah (behind) in Northern Province of Torba



GPS Field exercise in Banban, Santo



Enumeration area map of Mota Lava and Rah

Train the trainers

As part of the preparation for the pilot census a training of trainers programme was given to principal trainers/supervisors in Port Vila to enable them to transfer skills and knowledge on to 3 enumerator teams of 5 employed for the pilot census in November.

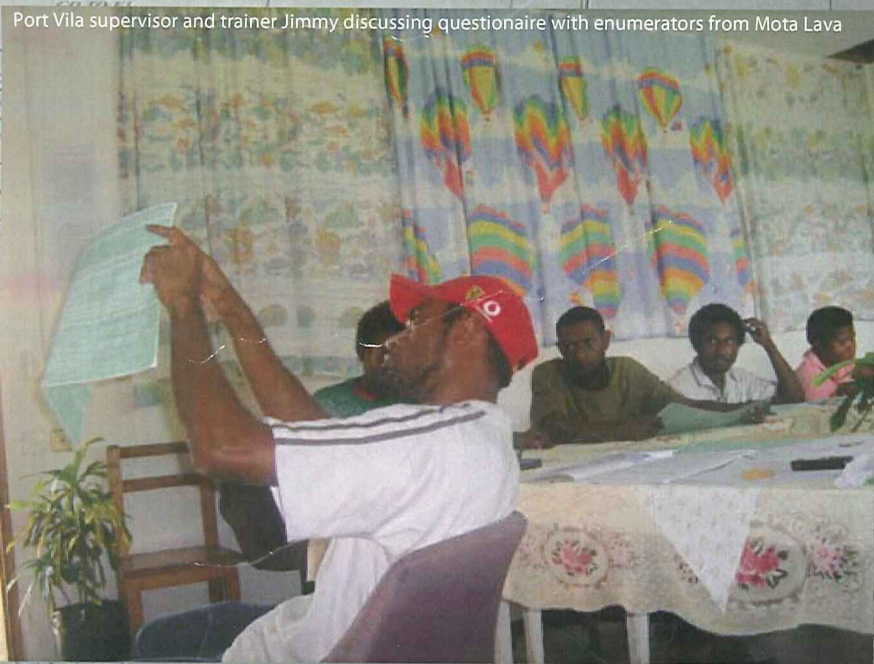
Tools such as the use of digital satellite imagery and GPS for census taking have a distinct advantage in allowing the linking of census questionnaires to a physical location. Enumerators involved in the pilot census and staff from the VNSO were given training in the use of small hand-held GPS units and map orientation and interpretation training including practical exercises out in the field. The objective of the training was to give staff the skills to take GPS locations and download them so that they can be used to update census EA maps. The exercise also showed how to read maps that included high resolution satellite imagery that show the distribution of household/dwellings and other features, particularly well in urban areas.

The use of other new technologies such as scanning of questionnaires using Optical Mark and Character Recognition is also being tested during the Pilot to speed. It is expected that scanning will speed up the processing of census forms using software to read and interpret each response automatically (rather than using manual data key entry) by scanning; interpreting and correcting the letters, numbers and marks from each question.

The pilot census questionnaire or interview schedule has been developed as a double sided A3 form (shown as background image). Enumerators were trained in the correct way to fill in the forms so that the scanner can recognise the responses correctly. It is hoped that this will significantly improve the timely release of data.



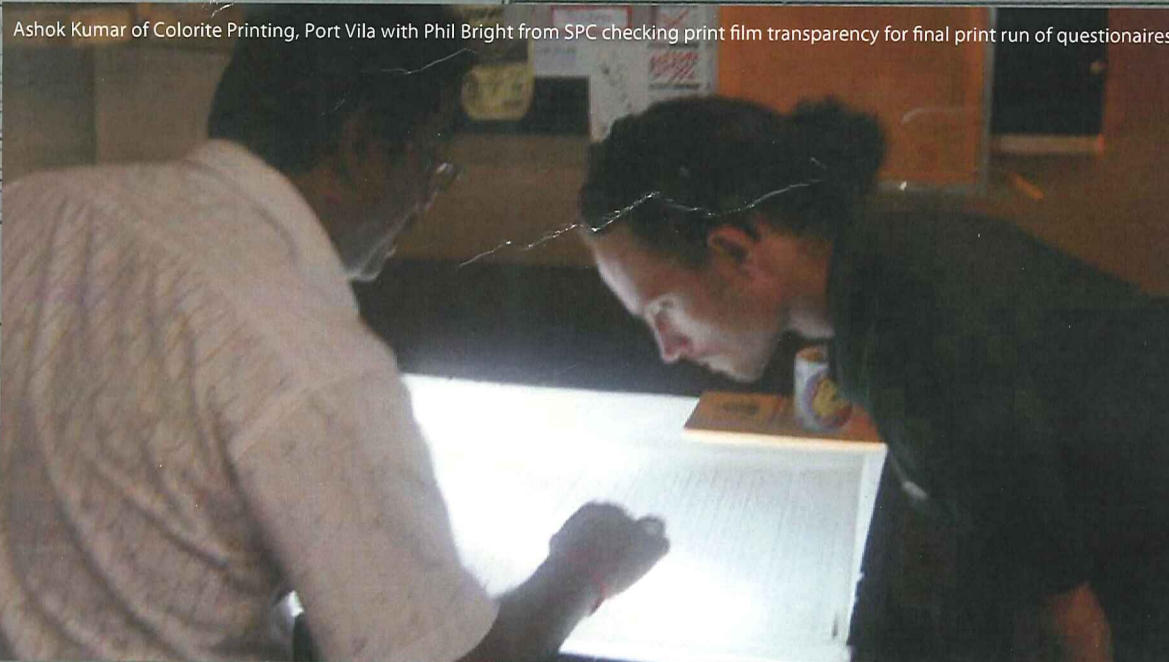
Enumerator team interpreting satellite image of Port Vila



Port Vila supervisor and trainer Jimmy discussing questionnaire with enumerators from Mota Lava



Banban supervisor and trainer Peter Komie, and enumerators in the field, Santo



Ashok Kumar of Colorite Printing, Port Vila with Phil Bright from SPC checking print film transparency for final print run of questionnaires

1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No
1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No
M I T M	M I T M	M I T M
d d m m	d d m m	d d m m
1 <input type="checkbox"/> Male 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Female	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Male 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Female	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Male 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Female
1 - shared 2 - shared improved pit latrine 3 - shared 4 - shared	1 - shared 2 - shared improved pit latrine 3 - shared 4 - shared	1 - shared 2 - shared improved pit latrine 3 - shared 4 - shared
6 <input type="checkbox"/> Lodging house	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Govt waste collection 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Take to central disp. site 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Lagoon/ocean 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Burn 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Bury 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Composting 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Other	H17. Does this household have any livestock or 1. Cattle 2. Pigs 3. Goats 4. Sheep 5. Chickens 6. Dogs
1 <input type="checkbox"/> Grass 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Torch 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Wood/Cocunut 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Other	H18. Which of the following cash crops are grown? 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Cocoa 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Kava 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Coconut 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Other	H19. Is this household involved in fishing? 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Subsistence only 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Sale only 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Both
1 <input type="checkbox"/> Copy with informal arrangements 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Persons enumerated in this HH Total Pop Males Females Total	Interview Completed Forms checked Interviewer's name Date of interview Enumerator's name

Ready for the field

In the November Pilot Census this year 25 field workers from Vanuatu National Statistics Office fanned out over 3 areas of the country to collect information on approximately 1200-1500 households as part of testing procedures in the run up to next years 'main event' the Population and Housing Census throughout the entire nation kicking off on Census night 15 November 2009.

For VNSO this is one of the largest data collections ever undertaken in Vanuatu. With the exercise only occurring once every ten years therefore quality field work is essential to the success of the pilot.

During field work, a canvassing method of enumeration will be used where the enumerator will conduct an interview with the respondent while simultaneously completing the questionnaire.



Port Vila enumeration teams about to take to the field.

Following 5 five days of training focussing on content of the pilot questionnaire, enumeration procedures quality assurance and map reading skills fieldwork begun. Enumerators have to be prepared for possible complex situations they may face while gathering information. But enumerators are not on their own. For the pilot census, management of field work involves two levels: a central team based in VNSO head office in Port Vila and 3 enumerator supervisors covering each pilot area. A period of one to two weeks has been assigned for data collection and supervisors are encouraged to follow up on incidents where enumerators were not able to make contact with a household.



Enumerator Dickie Napinmal gathering information from a head of household respondent, Blacksands, Port Vila