



The census of population and housing, to be implemented by the Department of Census and Statistics of the Finance and Planning Ministry, was inaugurated at President's House with the participation of President Mahinda Rajapaksa. Census and Statistics Department Director General Suranjana Vidyaratne was also present. Picture by Sudath Silva

Population and housing census Data collection begins from President's House

The collection of data for Sri Lanka's 14th population and housing census was launched from President's House, Colombo yesterday morning by obtaining the data from President Mahinda Rajapaksa and members of his family.

A press release issued by the President's Media Division said at the outset, Census and Statistics Department director general D P B Suranjana Vidyaratne explained the census procedure to the President.

Thereafter, statistics officer, Nilika Munasinghe started the census count

by entering the national identity card number of the President in the relevant schedule.

The Census and Statistics Department will use new IT techniques to computerize the data collected during the census this year.

A batch of 16,000 public servants including grama niladharies will act as supervising officers during this year's census while 80,000 enumerators temporarily recruited from all divisional secretariat divisions who have been given special training, will be deployed as enumerating officers.

For the first time in the census history, people's IT literacy and IT equipment and internet facilities available in housing units will be counted during the census.

The President was also presented a copy of the report *Enumeration of vital events - 2011, Northern Province Sri Lanka* by the Census and Statistics Department director general.

Census and Statistics Department directors H R Gunasekera, G Y L Fernando and Dr A J Satarasinghe were also present.



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