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## Countrywide census enters crucial stage

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The final stage of the first nationwide census in over 30 years commenced yesterday from the country's First House.

The 14th Census of Population and Housing conducted by the Department of Census and Statistics of the Ministry of Finance and Planning was inaugurated yesterday (27) at the President's House with the participation of President Mahinda Rajapaksa. Director General of the Department of Census and Statistics, Mrs. Suranjana Vidyaratne collected information from the President.

Director General Mrs. Vidyaratne said that the gathering of information on persons and their residences will be carried out during the three week period from February 27 to March 19 followed by a revision round on March 20 and 21. During the revision round houses would be revisited and the population information collected during the first round would be revised taking into account the births and deaths that occurred in between, she said.

Mrs Vidyaratne said that the enumeration of homeless people would be carried out on the 19th of March and a group of special



officials had been deployed for the purpose. A revision round of enumeration was also planned to be conducted among them as well.

The census would be conducted under the supervision of the District Secretaries and the Divisional Secretaries. Nearly 100,000 supervisors and 80,000 enumerators would take part in the census, she said.

The Director General added that all citizens were legally bound to provide accurate information and allow enumerators access to their homes.

The Department has allocated 1.7 billion rupees for the census that covers the entire island for the first time since 1981 when the last nationwide census in Sri Lanka was conducted.