

January 08, 2012

Junior Observer

03

## Population census in March

The Population census which was postponed due to a delay in the preparation of documentation work will be held on March 20 with the assistance of Grama Niladaris and other authorised officers, according to the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) sources.

The period from February 27 to of March 19 will be allocated for gathering of information and the Department of Census and Statistics stated that Grama officials will be visiting houses and other buildings during this period islandwide to obtain necessary details for the population census.

Census taking in Sri Lanka dates back to the late 19th century. Prior to 1871, estimates of population had been made from time to time on the basis of returns made by village headmen. The first scientific census in Sri Lanka was conducted on March 27, 1871 by the then Registrar General's Office. In fact Sri Lanka has the longest history of Census takings among SAARC countries and

Sri Lanka has been conducting census every ten years since 1871.

The DCS, with the intention of improving completeness, quality, and timeliness of the data, information gathered in the forth coming census is planning to adopt various new and emerging technologies in the whole census process. According to the the Census and Statistics Department, This year's census, which is to be conducted using latest technology.

The census would give valuable information on demographic and other related characteristics, useful to planners, policy makers, administrators, researchers, and other data users, The Department said.

The government requests the general public to assist the Department of Census and Statistics by allowing the Grama Niladari or any other authorised personnel to affix labels either on the frame of the front door or in any other prominent place near the front door and not remove it until the end of the year.

- RJ



4-2  
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