

## Northern Province surveys

# NO GO FOR BOGUS CENSUS

### Surveys conducted by dept. on par with international norms

### Attempt to conduct alternate survey illegal, unacceptable

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Census and Statistics Department Director General D.C.A. Gunawardena yesterday said that no organization other than the Department of Census and Statistics is authorized to carry out surveys or a census of persons, in the Northern Province.

Gunawardena's comments came in the wake of the Tamil National Alliance's (TNAs) announcement that 'an alternate survey on human and property damage in the Northern Province during the 30 year conflict' will be conducted by their representatives.

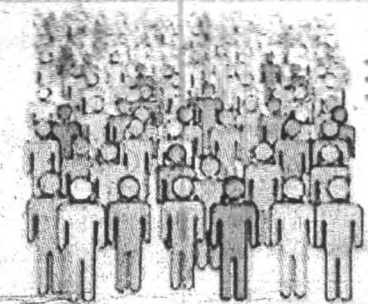
He said that his department is empow-

ered by law to conduct surveys on any subject in the country, including the North as and when necessary, and that the surveys by non-state actors are illegal and will not be acceptable.

"Various persons and entities are trying to conduct surveys contrary to accepted norms and practices", he said,

adding that the surveys conducted by his department are strictly as per international norms and practices.

He added that special permission has to be sought from the Presidential Task Force on Northern Development, if an organization intends to conduct a survey in the Northern Province. To page 08



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The Department has started an islandwide census to assess the human and property damage caused during nearly three-decades of conflict.

The nationwide survey is a key recommendation of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Com-

mission (LLRC). Meanwhile, Public Administration Ministry Secretary P.B. Abeykoon said his ministry has mobilized Grama Niladharis and other government officials at village level to conduct this survey efficiently and accurately. The first legal sanction in

Sri Lanka provided under the Census Ordinance was granted in 1968 on the lines of the English law for the conduct of the first Census in 1871.

This was amended in 1880 and repealed in 1900. A new Ordinance was drafted thereafter on

the lines of the Indian Census Act and was passed by the Legislature. The Census

Ordinance of 1900 substantially remained the basis for census taking in Sri Lanka throughout the years, with minor amendments in 1945, 1955, 1980 and 2000.



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