

**PRESS RELEASE**

**THE NIGHT OF TODAY IS CENSUS NIGHT**

Statistics Sierra Leone (Stats SL) wishes to inform the general public that the **night of today, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021 is the Census Night**, as proclaimed by HE the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone Dr Julius Maada Bio.

The main enumeration starts tomorrow, **10<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and will last for 14 days until 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021**. There will always be possibility for mopping up activities after the official 2-week period, as it has been done for previous censuses.

To get to where we are today, **marking the night of the first digital census in Sierra Leone**, we have had to enjoy the technical and financial support from several development partners, including the World Bank, UNFPA, UNECA, UNICEF, MRU, Chinese Embassy, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, Malawi National Statistics Office and Ghana Statistical Service among others. We wish to thank all those who have supported the process thus far.

The significance of the **Census Night celebration** is for the public to remember this Night as a reference point for enumeration. All enumerators will be asking questions on the census to get the data they need and will refer to where you slept tonight.

This symbolic day will be marked by float parades, loudhailers, and other social activities for remembrance of today. Stats SL also kindly requests households to undertake specific activities on their own including photos to remember those who will sleep in their houses tonight and any other activity that will make them remember this history making event.

Stats SL therefore encourages all persons to cooperate with our field staff who will subsequently be at their doorsteps starting tomorrow **10<sup>th</sup> December 2021** to collect relevant socioeconomic and demographic data for our national development as a country.

***Act wise by taking part and put your country Sierra Leone among countries that have embraced the digital census.***

**9 December 2021**