

**Enquiries:** Census 2011 Call Centre

**Reference:** Census 2011 Facts

**Telephone:** 0800 110 248

## RESPONSE TO MISLEADING COMMUNIQUE ON CENSUS 2011

Since early August, a company called SMC (Security Management Consultants) has been circulating a communiqué giving information on what to expect from census officials. This communiqué is based on a document relating to the 2010 Census conducted by the US Census Bureau, and contains a number of misleading facts, which in no way relates to the census being conducted in South Africa. The company concerned has since retracted this document; however, as it is still in circulation, Stats SA would hereby like to inform the public what they should expect.

Stats SA, as a government department, is the only agency mandated to conduct the census, under the auspices of the Statistics Act (Act no 6 of 1999). Stats SA fieldworkers will be in your area from 10 - 31 October 2011, going door-to-door to conduct interviews.

Census officials can be identified as follows:

- 1) A yellow satchel with the Census and Stats SA logos
- 2) An A3-size book with a map of the area on the first page
- 3) A yellow bib with the Census and Stats SA logo
- 4) A black cap with the Stats SA logo
- 5) An ID card with a hologram of the Census 2011 logo (SA map with the words "You Count" below it).

These persons can be verified by calling 0800 110 248 or 080 236 787 2, which is toll-free from a landline.

The census questionnaire asks questions on demographics (sex, age, language, etc.), migration (where you live, have you moved), general health & functioning, parental survival, income, education, employment, fertility, access to services and mortality. Please note that section 16 of the Statistics Act obliges respondents to answer all questions asked of them. There is one question on income, and it does not ask your specific income, but asks you which range it falls into (e.g. R401 - R800; R801 - R1600, etc.)

Section 17 of the act guarantees that all information collected by Stats SA is confidential, and cannot be accessed by anyone outside of the organization. All Stats SA staff, both permanent and contract, have taken an oath of confidentiality. If this oath is violated, the offender is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding R10000 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 6 months.

Enumerators may ask you for your telephone number; this is for quality check purposes only e.g. if the questionnaire shows that there is a 5-year-old in your household with a PhD, it will be easier to contact the household telephonically than to do a physical return visit to the household.

If anyone comes to your door claiming to be a census official and asks you for information such as your ID number, banking details, etc. they are not part of the census process and should be turned away immediately.

Stats SA thanks you for your willingness to cooperate with this nation-building exercise. Please open your doors and welcome our enumerators into your home.

Thank you.

Regards  
The Census 2011 Management Team