



National Statistical Office

Launching of 2006 Demographic and Health Survey

31 March 2006-Granville Motel, Port Moresby

Speech by Mr. Nick Suvulo
National Statistician

- The Secretary for National Planning and Monitoring**
- Representatives from Development Partners**
- Representatives from Government Departments and Agencies**
- Ladies and Gentlemen**

We gather here today not only to witness the launch of the 2006 Demographic and Health Survey but to also reflect on the type of statistics we have. As planners and decision makers you will need more indicators for your planning purposes and that is something we lack today. The DHS will not generate all the statistics that you will require.

There are a lot of statistics out there that we need to collect to reflect the status of our people today. NSO currently has some programs which we will pursue strongly after the 2010 Census. If we are lucky we may be able to implement one such program before the 2010 Census. Household Income and Expenditure Survey, Informal Sector Surveys, Agriculture Census, just to mention a few.

With this few introductory remarks, I now welcome you to the launching of the 2006 Demographic and Health Survey.

The 2006 Papua New Guinea Demographic and Health Survey will be a nationwide representative sample survey. It will cover both the rural and urban areas and is designed to provide information on the levels and trends of fertility, infant and child mortality, maternal mortality, family planning and HIV AIDS.

Likewise it will provide additional socio-economic information on education, employment, housing and even religion. The information are intended for use by program managers and policy makers to evaluate and improve family planning and maternal and child health programs.

The last Demographic and Health Survey conducted in PNG was in 1996 and its usefulness and relevance has diminished over the ten year period. The information obtained had been very useful indeed and the findings have been used to formulate important national policies such as the National Population Policy, National Health Plan, Education Plan and the Medium Term Development Strategy.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The conduct of the 2006 DHS is very significant and important. The pressing need for up to date information for development planning can not be over-emphasised. The national interest in such an undertaking must be recognised and adequate resources be made available to undertake the exercise. The 2006 DHS must be conducted now as the year 2007 is not suitable because of the national elections, and serious planning for 2010 Population Census will commence in 2008.

Preparations for the 2006 DHS has started in January this year. The agencies have committed themselves by way of chairing operational committees. One such committee is the Users Advisory Committee (UAC) chaired by the Health Department and the National Research Institute as Deputy Chairperson.

The overall control of the DHS will be guided by the 2006 DHS Coordinating Committee which is chaired by the Secretary for the Department of Planning and Monitoring.

NSO in particular is now fully focused on the exercise. The participation by the provinces has been established with the appointment of the Provincial Survey Coordinators who are now here today.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

We have established within the National Statistical Office the DHS Management Team which is headed by one of the Deputy National Statisticians, Mr. Bernard Kiele, as the 2006 DHS Director.

The role of the team is to ensure the full implementation of the 2006 DHS.

The National Government has made available in the 2006 Budget funds for the DHS and we thank the government for its full commitment.

Development Partners in particular AusAID and New Zealand Aid have also pledged financial support and we thank them for their generosity.

The Asian Development Bank will play some significant role as well by way of providing consultancy services to the 2006 DHS.

UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA have also pledged their support both in kind and in financial support.

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is very obvious that there is evidence of full commitment from the National Government and the Development Partners that I have mentioned.

It is our duty to translate this strong support in ensuring that the 2006 DHS is implemented successfully.

The 2006 DHS will cover 10, 000 households. Every province is represented evenly and the survey results will be analysed at the National Level, covering both Urban and Rural areas and at the Regional Level.

There will be three kinds of questionnaires to be used in the 2006 DHS, the Household Questionnaire, the Women Individual Questionnaire and the Male Individual Questionnaire is to be used.

The 2006 DHS will be a little bit different from that of the 1996 DHS, in that a Male Individual Questionnaire is added to find out the man opinion about family planning in PNG, after all family planning is the responsibility of both man and women.

Also few additional questions are being added and will be pretested shortly.

A major pilot test of the 2006 DHS is planned for the next couple of weeks. The pilot test is a rehearsal of the main operation and it will determine the final outcome of all operations of the DHS.

The total cost of the survey will be around K7.5 million.

Ladies and Gentlemen

A major publicity program will be mounted during the weeks leading up to the main field operations in June and July so that people are not confused about the DHS and the Common Roll Update that is being mounted by the Electoral Commission at the same time in some provinces.

I therefore, call on all stakeholders to assist the National Statistical Office to conduct this very important survey as the results of the 2006 DHS will be beneficial to the country.

I also appeal to all heads of households to give their full cooperation when the interviewers visit their homes during the main enumeration week in June and July this year.

The respondents and PNG as a whole stand to benefit from this survey as the information obtained and the findings will be used to formulate and implement important national development policies.