

2008  
Nasonal Populesen mo Haosing Senses  
blong Vanuatu (Test nomo)



# CENSUS UPDATE

## New Census Manager appointed

Recently the Vanuatu National Statistics Office through the Public Service Commission duly appointed Mr Benuel Lenge a Statistician from the VNSO as Census Manger to head up the organisation and supervise the taking of the Population and Housing Census throughout the nation in the run up to census night 15 November 2009.

The last Population and Housing Census in Vanuatu was held in 1999. Next year will be the third census in the country since Vanuatu gained independence in 1980.

Benuel Lenge (pictured opposite), aged 30 is Vanuatu's youngest ever census commissioner and was appointed to the post in July this year. Mr Lenge who holds a Masters Degree in Population Studies from Australian National University says "Census is a snapshot of the number and characteristics of people in Vanuatu on census night. Its results help the Vanuatu Government plan and fund our public services - health, education, transport - based on what we need".

In another development the first census project steering committee meeting was held on 2nd of October 2008. The meeting was chaired by the Director General of the Ministry of Finance, Mr George Maniuri. The committee is expected to meet every two months to report on progress or any difficulties. For instance in the first meeting in October with stakeholder representatives from line ministries discussed design and content of the census questionnaire, and an overall budget and timeline was agreed upon.

## Census project 2009 officially launched

The 3rd Census of Population and Housing in Vanuatu was officially launched at the Le Meridian hotel on Friday 14 November to coincide with the presentation of the Agriculture Census final report and winding up of the project. Present for the launch was the Acting Government Statistician Mr Simil Johnson and First Political Advisor Mr Augustine Garae within the Ministry of Finance. The theme for 2009 is 'Vanuatu hemi kaontem yu'.



Mr Benuel Lenge, Census Manager

