

SPEECH TO CENSUS 2001 ENUMERATORS AND SUPERVISORS

Deputy Director of Planning and the rest of the temporary staff of the Development Planning Unit, as your Director I am here to give you some broad instructions, some words of encouragement, to remind you of your responsibilities, to tell you about the importance of your exercise and also to share the expectations that I have of you.

You have been employed for this exercise because of some particular skills, experience or competence we assumed you have by virtue of experience, tenure and occupation. But let me tell you that the Population and Housing Census 2001 is one of the most critical exercises in planning for the future of the BVI. The information which comes out of this exercise is equal in worth to all other policy and planning instruments coming out of the Executive and Legislative Councils. This exercise has no politics or bureaucratic spin, it will just deliver the facts as you report them.

This exercise is expensive and the people of the BVI will be looking for value for money. And of course, the value for money objective is my responsibility and I will be held accountable in this regard. The Deputy Director of Planning is in charge of this exercise and I have every confidence in his ability to get the job done. Please give him your full co-operation.

I ask you to be kind, courteous and professional in your approach to the people you enumerate. Please remember that you will be in their castles in prime time and you are therefore asked to honour them.

We will train and empower you to retrieve the information from the public. You are chosen to be an employee because we think you have the skills required. Some of you

have done this exercise before and are aware of the challenges. Please help your co-workers, and I to encourage you to try your best to do a good job.

As we continue, let me remind you that you are an employee of the Government of the British Virgin Islands and as such you will be held to the standards of all other public servants in the eyes of the public. You will be asking people some of the most personal and private questions ever in your life. You are responsible to be complete, accurate and truthful in your work.

This is an important exercise because our country is changing and many policies and strategies, by both government and the private sector, during the next decade, will be dependent on the quality of the work you do as enumerators and supervisors.

As Director of Planning and Statistics I expect each and everyone of you to do a good and complete job. I expect value for money as we will be compensating you. We expect you to take pride in this exercise as this is our country and we have already set high standards for ourselves.

May God guide you and bless you with the satisfaction you will have gained from participating in this great exercise of such national significance.