

**Follow-up actions arising from the meeting of  
the Legislative Council Panel on Financial Affairs  
on 2 December 2013**

**Agenda Item VI – Plan for the 2016 Population By-Census**

The Census and Statistics Department (“C&SD”) would take into account a number of factors in deciding the data topics for the 2016 Population By-census (“16BC”). One of the important factors of consideration is the willingness and ability of the respondents to answer. Other considerations, as explained in paragraph 10 of the Administration’s paper on “Plan for the 2016 Population By-census” (ref: LC Paper No. CB (1)390/13-14(07)), are –

- (a) usefulness of data;
- (b) ability of the enumerators to understand;
- (c) existence of other data source/data collection channel;
- (d) processing efforts;
- (e) comparability of data with previous censuses/ by-censuses;
- (f) keeping the interviewing time within reasonable length; and
- (g) recommendations of the United Nations and international practices.

C&SD will carry out further research and consultation with experts and stakeholders with a view to drawing up the questionnaire and enumeration instructions of the 16BC. C&SD also plans to conduct a pilot survey in mid-2015 to evaluate the questionnaire design and test out the data topics especially those of sensitive nature, before finalizing the details of the 16BC.

In any case, the following measures to protect data privacy throughout the process, from data collection to subsequent processing and disposal of the information collected, will be adopted –

- (a) households will be provided with the option of self-enumeration by submitting e-Questionnaire via the

Internet - individual household members who prefer separating his/her return from family members can apply for a separate account;

- (b) respondents are not required to provide information that may identify them, but only with information sufficient for follow up clarifications as necessary;
- (c) all collected information will be treated in strict confidence, including encryption during storage and transmission, and processing by designated officers only; and
- (d) all enumerators will take an oath of secrecy.

**Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau  
Census and Statistics Department  
23 December 2013**