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For immediate release

RELEASE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS

MR. ALEX SHIMUAFENI

STATISTICIAN-GENERAL & CEO

1. As customary, it gives the NSA great pleasure in releasing the economic statistics to the nation.
2. Today we are releasing statistical information that relates to the Third Quarter of 2021 on the Government Wage Index, Agriculture Statistics, GDP and selected Sectoral Reports for the month of October 2021.

GOVERNMENT WAGE INDEX - Q3:2021

3. The Government Wage Index (GWI) measures the level of prices that government employees charge in exchange for their labour services. During the period under review, GWI posted a marginal decline of 0.1 percent when compared to same quarter last year in which it recorded an increase of 0.7 percent. The decline in the index was attributed to the declined observed in the Education sector.
4. Education index recorded a first decline since the first quarter of 2020, registering a decline of 0.8 percent during the period under review. While on the other hand, Public administration and Health indices both increased by 0.3 percent during the third quarter of 2021.

AGRICULTURE STATISTICAL BULLETIN

5. The Quarterly Agriculture Statistical Bulletin presents an overview of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery sector in Namibia. The objective of the bulletin is to illustrate the short term performance of the sectors by looking at the merchandise trade patterns, auction prices and food inflation rate development on a quarterly basis.
6. This sector contributed N\$3.4 billion (7.6 percent) to GDP in the third quarter of 2021 with the Agriculture subsector recording the highest contribution of 4.5 percent, followed by the Fishing subsector (2.8%) and Forestry subsector (0.3%).
7. Looking at the cereal crop production, in the quarter under review, the production of cereal crops stood at 47,991 tons, more than the 34,289 tons recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2020. White maize was the highest produced grain, accounting for 96.9 percent of the total grain followed by pearl millet and wheat.
8. Moving on to the Fish landings, the total landings of quota species stood at 57,935 metric tons in the third quarter of 2021, down from 73,590 metric tons recorded a year earlier. This translates into a reduction of 21.3 percent in landings over the year. The decline recorded in the volume of species landed during the review period was reflected in Rock Lobster, Tuna and Hake.
9. For the quarter under review, Namibia's export earnings from commodities of 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing' sector amounted to N\$3.7 billion, whereas the import bill expanded to N\$1.4 billion, resulting in a trade surplus of N\$2.7 billion.

10. The Fisheries products including the manufactured fish, accounted for the highest in terms of foreign earnings recording N\$2.8 billion while forestry commodities worth N\$643.2 million were the main products imported.

SECTORAL REPORTS

11. Sectoral reports looks at the short term indicators that tracks production of a selected industries on a monthly basis.

12. For the month of October 2021, the Building Plans Completed Index registered a significant growth of 391.3 percent on monthly basis compared to a growth of 34.9 percent registered in September 2021. The increase is mainly attributed to the construction of Commercial buildings.

13. Livestock Marketed Composite Index declined by 8.0 percent in October 2021 an indication that farmers are continuing to restock their animals. For the month of October 2021, a total of 54 932 livestock was marketed compared to 55 791 livestock recorded during the preceding month. A total number of 19 725 cattle were marketed during the month of October 2021 accounting for 35.9 percent of total livestock marketed followed by sheep with 29.5 percent (16 193), Goats with 20.3 percent (11 158) and Pigs with 6.5 percent (3 552)

14. The mining production index recorded a monthly growth of 1.2 percent in October 2021, a slowdown when compared to a growth of 9.1 percent recorded in the preceding month. The increase recorded on the monthly basis mainly emanated from the production of zinc concentrate and gold bullion, attributed to high-grade ore mined and

the expansion of operation in the mining activities during the review period.

15. The Index for Rooms' Occupancy rate on monthly basis registered an increase of 24.7 percent in October 2021 while the index Passengers Arrivals recorded an increase of 40.3 percent on monthly basis. Namibia recorded 21 216 passengers who arrived through our international airports in October 2021 compared to 15 199 passengers in September 2021, and 3 941 passengers in October 2020. The improvement in the latter indices was due to the relaxations of travel restrictions that are in place to combat COVID-19 pandemic.

GDP FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2021

16. The domestic economy remained in a positive trajectory in the third quarter of 2021, recording a growth of 2.4 percent compared to a decline of 12.3 percent recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2020. In nominal terms, the size of the economy was estimated at N\$ 45.0 billion in the quarter under review relative to the N\$ 43.9 billion posted in the same quarter of 2020. This shows that the size of the economy increased by N\$ 1.1 billion over a year.

17. The expansion of economic activities in the third quarter of 2021 was observed in almost all the sectors of the economy. Double digit growth rates were registered in 'Mining and quarrying' (41.9%) and 'Hotels and Restaurants' (19.5%). Furthermore, the following sectors also posted strong growths during the period under review Health (7.3%); 'Agriculture and forestry' (5.9%); 'Transport and storage' (5.6%); and 'Real estate and professional service' (4.2%).

18. However, decreased economic activities were observed in the secondary and some tertiary industries. The Construction sector recorded the deepest contraction of 43.7 percent, followed by financial services sector declining by 10.9 percent. Likewise, 'Manufacturing' sector declined by 2.6 percent and 'Wholesale and retail trade' sector also registered a contraction of 0.7 percent.
19. GDP is calculated in three different ways, namely the Income approach, Production approach, and Expenditure approach. The Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) has been producing quarterly GDP by production approach and today the NSA is hereby releasing the quarterly GDP estimates by expenditure approach for the first time.
20. The expenditure approach measures the final uses of the produced output as the sum of final consumption, gross capital formation, and exports less imports.
21. Expenditure on real GDP increased by 2.4 percent in the quarter under review, mainly driven by the private final consumption.
22. In nominal terms the private final consumption expenditure stood at N\$ 34.9 billion during the period under review, up from N\$31.3 billion recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2020. While the government final consumption expenditure stood at N\$11.3 billion down from N\$12.1 billion in the third quarter of 2020. In real terms private consumption increased by 18 percent in the quarter under review while government consumption grew by 2.3 percent.
23. Similarly, investment stood at N\$6.0 billion in the quarter under review, down from N\$7.7 billion in the corresponding quarter of 2020. In real terms, investment declined by 43.3 percent in the third quarter of 2021.

24. For the quarter under review, exports of goods and services stood at N\$13.4 billion while import of goods and services stood at N\$21.5 billion, resulting in a trade deficit of N\$8.1 billion. In real terms, exports of goods and services increased by 3.4 percent, while import of goods and services increased by 6.1 percent.

CONCLUSION

25. I would also like to emphasize the importance of accurate and timely delivery of data from our stakeholders in private and public sectors to the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA), on which compilation of statistics depends on.

26. I wish to express my appreciation to all the data providers without whose assistance the publications would not have been possible. Further, I would like to request all our esteemed stakeholders to continue supporting and providing NSA with the required data so that collectively we can make the production of accurate, reliable, and timely statistics a resounding success.

27. Let me also take this opportunity to remind everyone to adhere to measures put in place to fight the COVID 19 pandemic during this festival season.

28. Further let me wish all our stakeholders both data provider and data users a blessed festive season and a happy 2022.

I thank you



ALEX SHIMUAFENI

STATISTICIAN - GENERAL & CEO

About Us

Namibia Statistics Agency is mandated with collecting, producing, analyzing and disseminating official statistics. Find us at www.nsa.org.na

Issued by:

lipumbu Sakaria

Manager: Corporate Communications

Namibia Statistics Agency

Post Street Mall

P O Box 2133

Windhoek

Tel: +264 061 431 3200

Fax: + 264 061 431 3253

Email: isakaria@nsa.org.na

info@nsa.org