

MEDIA STATEMENT
Release of Labour Force Survey 2018
28 March 2018, Windhoek

1. Today we are here to release the latest Namibia Labour Force indicators of which the field work conducted between September and October 2018. As you might be aware this is the fifth countrywide labour force survey that was conducted by the Namibia Statistics Agency. The survey is named LFS 2018 because it looked at the labour situation of the country between September 2018 and October 2018.
2. The objectives of the survey is to provide up to date labour market information for our planning and decision making. The data provided consists of industry information as well as employment and unemployment indicators.
3. We targeted non-institutional population residing in private households across the entire country. We are happy that we achieved quite an acceptable response rate of over 94 per cent. This is a good indicator that our response rate was satisfactory as per the international standards.
4. Now let me enlighten you with some of the major indicators from this survey. From the face value our unemployment reduced slightly by 0.6 per cent, from 34 per cent in 2016 to 33.4 per cent

in 2018. However, from a statistical significance point of view, there was no significant difference between the figure of 2016 and the one of 2018.

5. The youth unemployment rate (for 15 years to 34 years) for 2018 jumped to 46.1 per cent from 43.4 per cent recorded in 2016. However, with regards to the youth in the age range of 19 to 34 years), the unemployment rate is 44.8 per cent. While, we have a significant increase in female employment, from 318 615 in 2016 to 364 234 in 2018 we only had a very slight increase in the male segment. In 2016, male employment figures slightly increased from 358 270 to 361 508 in 2018. Whilst urban employment remained literally static between 2016 and 2018, the rural indicators show an increase from 261 707 to 310 154.
6. We also present the changes in employed population by industry between 2016 and 2018. Some sectors, like construction, mining, manufacturing and administration recorded a decline whilst agriculture, especially subsistence agriculture, wholesale and retail trade and accommodation recorded some gains over this two year period. Exact details are to be found in the presentation that is to follow.
7. Our analysis shows that there are varying degrees in salaries; while some earn high salaries some are still

earning very low salaries. The average for the country however, is around N\$ 7 935 per month. In general the results shows that men still earn higher salaries than women.

8. Employment in the informal sector was also measured. Employees were categorised as being in informal employment if their employer does not provide at least a pension scheme, medical aid or social security. In this regard 57.7 per cent of the employed population are working in the informal employment
9. The report also provide unemployment figures per region and compares it with the previous years. We still have very high unemployment in the Kavango East and Kunene regions as well as the Omaheke and Zambezi region.
10. The unemployment levels by level of education are also provided and it remains clear that the lower the education level the higher the chances of being without employment. For the first time, we have started tracking unemployment rate among technical/vocational certificates and diploma holders. This unemployment rate stands at 33.3 per cent.
11. The report also shows that high proportion of our youths (34.9%) are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET). All these indicators show that as a nation we still have a lot of work to do to reduce unemployment, especially among the youth

population. I strongly believe that, if we work together and continue to make use of available statistics to inform our decision making at all levels, we will be able to achieve better planning results.

I thank you



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