

**19 March 2020**

**For immediate release**

**Windhoek**

## **Temporary Halt of Census Mapping exercise in Namibia due to Covid-19 outbreak**

### **Background**

The Namibia Statistics Agency is busy conducting the Census Mapping exercise. The purpose of census mapping is to demarcate the entire Namibia into uniquely defined units of Enumeration Areas (EAs). The EAs provide an accurate national geographic frame to conduct censuses which in this case is the 2021 Census. In addition, mapping collects detailed information regarding the use of built up structures, which cannot be obtained during an office exercise and such output will contribute to the development of a Statistics Business Register (SBR). The census mapping started in October 2019 and will run until November 2020 with mop up activities until sometime next year (2021) before the main census.

As per the directive from the President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr. Hage Geingob, calling for a State of Emergency because of the Covid-19 outbreak, the Statistician-General & CEO would hereby like to inform the nation that the Census Mapping has been put on hold, until 14 April 2020, or at least until the situation stabilizes. This halting of this activity is necessitated by the fact that mapping field staff is expected to visit numerous Houses for face to face interviews, which may increase the risk of the mapping staff as well as for the household members responding to our survey.

To comply with the directive of H.E. the President, NSA decided to significantly reduce the movement of visitors to our offices, hence NSA hereby wish to advise the public to contact us through [info@nsa.org.na](mailto:info@nsa.org.na), visit our website [www.nsa.org.na](http://www.nsa.org.na) as well as get data through our Mobile App ([Namibia Statistics Agency](#)) .

### **Progress of Census Mapping**

On the progress of the work so far, Census Mapping has been completed in the Zambezi Region and the team is currently busy with the Khomas area where we have already completed 4 rounds. The halting of the Census mapping will delay the envisage completion date of the census mapping, however NSA is looking at ways to strengthen

field teams to ensure the census mapping is completed well in time for the Main census enumeration.

Kindly be assured that NSA is certain that we will be able to implement the Census Pilot in August 2020 with sufficient number of EA's to test all the census tools and methodologies. This is one year before the commencement of the main census, which complies with international recommendations and best practices.

The Main Census Enumeration is scheduled to start on 29 August 2021, which is the Census Reference Night. The Main Census Enumeration data collection is for the period 29 August 2021 to end of September 2021.

We therefore want to ensure the nation that census mapping and the entire census exercise is on track, funds and logistics are being managed prudently and we look forward to the nations' cooperation and support once we come to your household after the coronavirus measures are suspended.

Issued by:  
Corporate Communications Department  
Mr. Iipumbu Sakaria  
Manager: Corporate Communications  
+264811247939  
isakaria@nsa.org.na