



**Namibia Statistics
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MEDIA RELEASE

Latest Update

Windhoek – 4 November 2015 – Release of NSDI Strategy and Action Plan

NSA releases 5 year NSDI Strategy and Action Plan

Statistics Act No. 9 of 2011 requests for the establishment of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure to act as the national technical and institutional framework to facilitate the capture, management, maintenance, intergration, distribution and use of spatial data

The purpose of this media conference is to release to the nation and share with them the 5 year Namibia Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Strategy and Action Plan. I know this is a topic not too familiar with many, hence allow me a bit of time to provide some more information on it.

Our line minister, the Minister of Economic Planning and Director General of the National Planning Commission, in accordance with the Statistics Act No. 9 of 2011, appointed members to the Committee for Spatial Data in November 2013. The purpose of this committee is to advise the Minister and the Namibia Statistics Agency on the establishment of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI).

You might ask what the National Spatial Data Infrastructure is. To start from the beginning, spatial data represents the locations, sizes and shapes of objects on earth. Governments at all levels and in all countries provide infrastructure of various kinds. These types of infrastructure, not all provided by government but make up part of the infrastructure, include buildings, rivers, mountains or townships. It also includes networks of telecommunication, transport and water and sewerage systems, just to mention a few. Various applications such as Geographic Information Systems



(GIS) can be used to access, visualize, manipulate and analyze this geospatial data. The most common form of spatial data is, hence, a map.

Coming back to my earlier point after this background, it becomes clear that the national spatial data infrastructure is data infrastructure of geographic or locational information. The NSDI can therefore be seen as the set of policies, standards and procedures under which organizations and technologies interact to foster more efficient production, management, access and use of spatial data. In our country this has so far not been well coordinated resulting in various ministries collecting the same information at high costs, leaving collected information not documented, the data quality and fitness not generally known and access to and sharing of such data being non – existent or limited. The National Spatial Data Infrastructure was hence created to place more value on the use of spatial data, avoid wastage, improving coordination and increasing the use of spatial data and therefore building a knowledge-based economy.

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The committee for spatial data, which I said was established in November 2013, came up with a National Spatial Data Infrastructure Policy which was gazetted in March 2015. It is this policy which paved the way for the development of the NSDI Strategy and Action Plan to guide the implementation of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). It is this very Plan that we are releasing today.

The NSDI Policy identified various fundamental data sets seen as critical for the national spatial data infrastructure. These relate to all types of information and are coordinated by various stakeholders. The Action Plan hence places significant responsibilities in the hands of the NSDI stakeholders. These include, but are not limited to, the Namibia Statistics Agency, Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Land Reform, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Ministry of Mines and Energy, Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, Ministry of Works and Transport, Ministry of Health and Social Services, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Safety and Security, Ministry of Economic Planning and National Planning Commission, NAMWATER and NAMPOWER. This list is not exhausted.

The Action Plan that we are releasing today has four (4) overall goals, twelve (12) strategic objectives and sixty five (65) key activities. The issues that are being addressed by this five (5) year Strategic Plan and to which stakeholders must take note of are important. These include the quality and timeliness of spatial data, the avoidance of duplication of data collection by different ministries and agencies, generate wide spread access to and sharing of spatial



data for timely decision making and evidence based development planning. The action plan will also generate near real-time to real time spatial data for monitoring of disasters and national food security. Most importantly, it will also concentrate on building a spatially enabled information society. It is estimated that around N\$ 45 million will be required over the next five years to fully implement this strategy and action plan.

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I am certain that most of you present in this media conference now have a clearer idea of what spatial data is. I am also sure that you now have a better understanding of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. Implementing this action plan will now take us closer to our envisaged goals with regards to spatial data. With these few words I would like to thank you for your time and keen interest. I **now** consider the 5year NSDI Strategy and Action Plan officially released to the nation.

I THANK YOU

MR. SIKONGO HAIHAMBO

ACTING STATISTICIAN-GENERAL