The Namibia Statistics Agency hereby releases the first Quarter Trade Statistics as well as the Consumer Price Index and Zonal CPI estimates for the month of May 2019.

1. The first quarter of 2019 recorded a trade deficit amounting to N$2.950 billion as compared to N$9.293 billion witnessed during the same period of last year, implying a significant improvement of 68 percent. This was mainly driven by exports which strengthened by 12 percent over the course of the year, while imports declined by 14 percent.

2. The imports stood at N$24.390 billion after recording N$27.548 billion and N$28.376 billion in q4-2018 and q1-2018 respectively, while exports amounted to N$21.440 billion from N$19.038 billion in q1-2018 and N$24.959 billion in q4-2018.

3. Namibia’s leading export markets in q1-2019 comprised of China (N$5.437 billion, mainly copper and ores), South Africa (N$3.618 billion: precious stones & metals, live animals and fish), Botswana (N$2.405 billion: precious stones and metals), Belgium (N$1.936 billion: copper) and Spain (N$0.942 billion: fish).

4. Namibia’s imports were mainly sourced from South Africa (N$10.342 billion: motor vehicles & parts, industrial machinery,
electrical machinery), Zambia (N$4.218 million: copper), Belgium (N$1.779 billion: ores), Botswana (N$0.960 billion: precious stones and metals), and China (N$0.859 billion: industrial machinery and articles of iron or steel).

5. In terms of economic blocs, about 28 percent of Namibia’s total value of goods exported were destined to SACU, making that region the country’s largest export destination in q1-2019. BRIC and the EU occupied second and third positions, accounting for 26 percent and 23 percent shares of total exports, respectively.

6. SACU remained the largest source of domestic imports, accounting for 47 percent share of the total import bill, followed by SADC-Non-SACU and COMESA with 18 percent each.

7. Sea transport was the most used mode of transport in terms of exports, shipping out 56 percent of the total exports. The remaining 23 percent and 21 percent were transported via air and road respectively. On the other hand, 63 percent of the total imports to Namibia were transported via road, with the remaining 32 percent and 4 percent of total imports coming in by sea and air transport respectively.
8. Based on the May 2019 price movements, the annual inflation rate increased to 4.1 percent compared to 3.8 percent recorded in May 2018, registering an increase of 0.3 percentage points. On a monthly basis, the inflation rate stood at -0.1 percent compared to 0.4 percent registered a monthly earlier.

9. The annual increase resulted mainly from increases registered in: Food and non-alcoholic beverage (from 3.9 percent to 4.4 percent), Education (from 9.9 percent to 12.0 percent), Transport (from 5.6 percent to 7.6 percent), Communications (from -0.1 percent to 1.3 percent), Recreation and culture (from 2.4 percent to 4.5 percent) and Hotels, cafes and restaurants (from 3.3 percent to 4.7 percent).

10. The twelve months average annual and average monthly inflation rates from June 2018 to May 2019 stood at 4.6 percent and 0.3 percent. Corresponding rates recorded during the same period a year earlier stood at 4.7 percent and 0.3 percent respectively.

11. For the month of May 2019, the Food and non-alcoholic beverages annual inflation rate stood at 4.4 percent compared to 3.9 percent registered during the same period last year, resulting in increase of 0.5 percentage points. The increase in this group emanated from annual price increases recorded in the sub-groups of Vegetables including potatoes and other tubers (from 5.8 percent to 13.3 percent), Sugar, jam, honey, syrups, chocolate and confectionery (from -1.0 percent to 6.2 percent), Bread and
cereals (from 2.3 percent to 8.1 percent) and Milk, cheese and eggs (from 0.2 percent to 3.9 percent).

12. The Index for Goods and Services for the month of May 2019 stood at 137.8 and 136.3 respectively, compared to the corresponding indices of 132.9 and 130.3 recorded during the same period last year. The monthly and annual inflation rates for May 2019 for Goods stood at -0.1 and 3.7 percent, while for Services were estimated at 0.03 and 4.6 percent respectively.

13. The highest contributors to the May 2019 annual inflation rate were Transport (25.0 percent), Food and non-alcohol beverages (19.3 percent), Alcoholic beverages and tobacco (18.3 percent), Housing, water, electricity and other fuel (13.3 percent), and the rest of the groups contributed 24.1 percent all together.
Zonal Consumer Price Index, May 2019

Zone 1 CPI
1. The annual inflation rate for Zone 1 CPI slowed down from 4.3 percent to 3.3 percent a decrease of 1.0 percentage points. The decrease resulted mainly from all the groups comprising Zone 1 CPI except Clothing and footwear which increased (from -7.4 percent to -0.9 percent), Transport (from 4.7 percent to 7.6 percent) and Communications (from -0.01 percent to 1.7 percent).

2. On a monthly basis the inflation rate remained unchanged at 0.1 percent.

Zone 2 CPI
3. The annual inflation rate for Zone 2 CPI stood at 4.1 percent compared to 2.9 percent recorded in May 2018, an increase of 1.2 percentage points. The increase emanated from increases recorded in the price levels of Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants (from 1.7 percent to 8.9 percent), Education (from 11.3 to 15.2 percent), Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (from 0.7 percent to 3.3 percent).

4. It also emanated from recreation and culture (from 2.6 percent to 4.8 percent), Furnishing, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house (-2.1 percent to -0.2 percent) and Food and non-alcoholic beverages (from 3.6 percent to 4.3 percent).

5. On a monthly basis the inflation rate stood at -0.6 percent showing a decrease of 1.4 percentage points compared to 0.8 percent recorded during the previous month.
Zone 3 CPI

6. The annual inflation rate for the month of May 2019 remained unchanged at 5.1 percent, however, noticeable increases were recorded in the price levels of Food and non-alcoholic beverages (from 2.8 percent to 6.8 percent), Communications (from -1.8 percent to 1.9 percent), Clothing and footwear (from 0.4 percent to 4.0 percent) and Transport (from 5.2 percent to 8.8 percent).

7. On a monthly basis, the inflation rate increased to 0.5 percent from 0.1 percent registered last month.

I thank you

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