

Vote of Thanks and Closing remarks at the 2011 Census Basic report Launch

His Excellency President, Hifikepunye Pohamba,
The Right Honourable Prime Minister, Hage Geingob,
Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Theo-Ben Gurirab,
Honourable Chairperson of the National Council, Asser Kapere,
Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers,
Members of the Diplomatic Corpse,
Honourable Regional Governor and Mayors,
The United Nations Resident Coordinator, Mr Musinga Bandora,
Heads of various industries,
Members of the Media fraternity,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to address you on behalf of the Namibia Statistics Agency. The information released today was eagerly awaited upon by all of us. Your presence here signifies not only the value you place on this initiative, but also the importance of statistics for national development. I would therefore like to extend a word of thanks to all present, thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to be with us at this momentous occasion.

I would like to thank His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba, for providing the leadership and support toward the whole census exercise. I can recall His Excellency being the very first to be counted and offering words of encouragement to the rest of the population to cooperate and ensure that they are counted. Allow me to thank His Excellency in particular for taking the time to launch the report this morning. We are honoured and privileged to have you in our midst.

I would further like to thank all those who contributed to the successful implementation of the Census exercise. It is an extremely important national ~~exercise~~, exercise, which comes along every ten years. We therefore sincerely value and appreciate your contribution towards planning, enumeration, data processing, analysis, and all the preparation that went into the report launched today.

To the Director General of NPC Mr. Tom Alweendo, allow me to thank you for your continued guidance and advice. You continue to assist us in turning the Namibia Statistics Agency into a center of excellence in statistics delivery in support of national development.

The 2011 census was a complex, expensive and time-consuming undertaking. The successful implementation of the census could not have been achieved without the support received from different organizations and individuals. There is no doubt that most funding and resources were provided by the Government of the Republic of Namibia, but a number of organizations provided crucial technical or financial support. We are therefore grateful to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Government of the United States of America through USAID and Statistics South Africa for their technical support to ensure the timely completion of census activities. We would also like to thank the census inter-agency technical committee, officials from the various line ministries, government offices and agencies, the regions, private institutions, and census field staff for working tirelessly to ensure that the census enumeration was a success. I commend you and applaud you for the excellent results delivered!

Last but not least, I would like to thank the general public for providing the required information during the census enumeration, without your support and cooperation it would not have been possible to produce this report.

Finally, a special thanks to Safari Hotel, Oxygen Communications and the NSA team who worked hard in organizing this event and making it a memorable one.

As we leave here today, I would like to remind you that the census results can only be of value if used in decision making processes and planning for development. I trust that users will find the contents of the report useful in their strategic planning. In closing, I would like to invite you to contact the NSA officials should you require more information on the report or for further clarification purposes.

I thank you.