

Office of The Statistician General

HANDOVER OF THE ANNUAL REPORT BY THE STATISTICIAN GENERAL

COMMISSIONERS ROOM, NPC

JUNE 20TH, 2014

Dear invited guests and members of the media,

Welcome to the handing over ceremony of the Annual Report of the NSA. Certainly a moment to pause and reflect on and to be proud of. Not just proud as the NSA, but pride for all of us Namibians.

This year the Annual Report takes on a different format and demonstrates the impact our organisation has on Namibian Society. Each one of our employees is trained, geared and driven to deliver excellence in their work and in turn for the organisation and therefore for our country. Every set of data tells a story and every census reveals a trend or a direction that the nation is going in. Whether we uncover through the Labour Force Survey and report on the increase in women being employed or that we finally can give accurate agricultural Data as a result of the Census of Agriculture carried out. It all tells us something, statistics are wonderful this way.

We are an independent statistical authority that produces and disseminates relevant, quality and timely statistics that are fit-for-purpose in accordance

Board of Directors

Mr Paul Hartmann (Chairperson), Ms Florentia Amuenje, Ms Florette Nakusera,
Mr Sikongo Haihambo, Ms Anna Matebele, Mr Martin Mwinga, Dr John Steytler

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with international standards and best practices. Quite a mouthful, but essential for our organisation to operate this way because it's our mandate.

Our Agency's mandate is an ambitious one and we are beholden to the nation in providing relevant stakeholders with timely, accurate and relevant statistics in all fields. To be able to achieve this and our strategic goals, it's essential to always perform to the best of our abilities. Not just in one area, but right throughout the organisation and expecting and demanding, as well as delivering nothing less than our best.

For example, the NSA with the assistance of our development partners has been able to set up a state-of-the-art Data Processing Centre that is leading in the Southern African region. Actually, to be honest, not just leading in Southern African, but really, World Class. We have had our staff go on research expeditions to other Statistical agencies, including to the United States of America, to learn from the best and thereby ensure we have 'best in class' technology and operating methods.

We set high standards for ourselves as an Agency and we do so as we have a responsibility to be the best we can be. After all, it's not our own money that we are spending. This means that we aspire to being a High Performance Organisation. Directly linked to our unrelenting drive for Performance, measures and policies have been put in place. This has been achieved with the assistance and strong support of the Board of Directors and the Agency's governance structure. We have developed and implemented a great number of policies that guide internal procedures and the production, use and dissemination of data.

To attain and maintain our high levels of achievement and performance, the NSA has entered into performance contracts with its staff, which requires quarterly assessments including the identification of training needs. The Annual Report we are handing over today documents all of this. Staff development is at the heart of the NSA and a key strategic objective. This drives individual performance, as well as our organisational performance. Just one example of the things we have done to pursue excellence according to best practices, is rebasing our Consumer Price Index and our National Accounts. Rebasing is a real challenge, this exercise requires co-operation with economic stakeholders. The rebasing of the national accounts aims to present an up to date structure of the economy, improve compilation methods, increase the scope of coverage of industries and reclassify companies into their respective industries according to international recommendations.

This Annual Report is filled with examples of how we are continuously improving our performance and developing our surveys and data collection practices. Using the best technology to secure and acquire our data. Having the best people in place because of the HR-policies and overall philosophy on employee development, allowing us to achieve our strategic objectives. But, also realising the impact NSA has on society and not merely measuring and acquiring data on Namibian Society. The Labour Force Survey for example will be carried out every year, highlighting the performance of Namibia and Namibians in the work space. The Agricultural Census delivers much needed insight, data and statistics on farming at all levels in Namibia. These projects can only be carried out if the basis of everything that we do is based on excellence and performing as a High Performance Organisation.

We have an overall aim to create a Team NSA of all the individuals with their different professional, social and cultural backgrounds. We have developed NSA's Strategic Plan that covers the period 2012/13 to 2016/17 and coincides with the period of the current Fourth National Development Plan. The alignment of these two plans supports the monitoring and evaluation process of NDP4, by providing the economic and social statistics that indicate whether we are on the right track to achieve our ambitions to become an industrialised and knowledge-based country by 2030. So, you can see, NSA is intricately and intrinsically interwoven in the very fabric of Namibia, its economic development and social evolution.

Performance and excellence is in our DNA as an organisation. The activities undertaken over the last year are testament to this as hopefully this Annual Report reflects. I must stress again that none of this would be possible and being a High Performance Organisation is nothing but a pipedream without the unwavering support the Director General and his staff, the support of our excellent Chairman, Paul Hartmann, and the entire Board and the experienced and committed management staff. But, even more importantly, I thank each and every one of our employees for all your hard work, dedication and pursuit of excellence in your respective jobs.

We are proud of what we have achieved over the last two years and in the last year, which is reflected in this year's Annual Report.

Thank you for your time and I hope you will take the time to read and peruse the report. Of course if there are any questions, do not hesitate in speaking to me or one of our staff members.