

Welcoming Remarks by Paul Hartmann, Chairperson of the Board of the Namibia Statistics Agency, at the Annual General Meeting

Windhoek, 10 July 2013

Director of Ceremonies
Honourable Director-General of the National Planning Commission
Fellow NSA Board Members
Statistician-General
Senior Staff Members of the NPC and the NSA
Members of the Media

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the AGM of the NSA where we are presenting our Annual report to the Hon Director-General of the NPC. The annual report covers the financial year ended 31 March 2013, and in terms of section 31 of the Statistics Act, 2011, contains:

- the audited financial statements and a report of the auditor on those statements; and
- a report on the activities of the Agency during that financial year.

It has been an eventful year and from my perspective as Chair of the Board the following are some of the key highlights worth mentioning:

- (a) The founding of the new institution in accordance with the Act;
- (b) The establishment of the physical infrastructure for the production, processing and dissemination of statistics;
- (c) The recruitment of competent, experienced and dedicated staff to fulfil the functions of the Agency;
- (d) The introduction of the necessary governance structures and practices that are necessary to ensure that the Board acts with fidelity, honesty, integrity and in the best interests of the Agency in managing its financial affairs;
- (e) Ensuring that the Agency maintains a strategic focus in everything that we do – whether it is producing statistics, managing our staff compliment or our finances;
- (f) Remaining closely attuned to the needs of Namibia and its development aspirations, as reflected in NDP4 and other Government strategies and policies; and
- (g) Disseminating highly relevant information and statistics that are necessary for policymakers to take informed, pragmatic and evidence-based decisions.

Against this background, I invite the Statistician-General, Dr John Steytler, to give a high-level overview of the Annual Report of the NSA.