

PRESS RELEASE KICK OFF - CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Rundu – 17 February, 2014

Today, Namibia's Census of Agriculture 2014 was launched when the very first Agricultural Holding was listed just outside of Rundu in the Kavango West Region. The survey takes place throughout the whole of Namibia, and will be carried out as per the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010 (WCA 2010). To underline the national importance of this Agricultural census, Honourable Tom Alweendo, Director General of Planning, the mayor of the Kavango region, Ms. Hilka Leviand and the Statistician General, Dr. John Steytler, were all present to kick off this ambitious and essential exercise.

The Namibia Census of Agricultural is vital for the nation. In order to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate sound agricultural development policies and programmes, timely, accurate and reliable agricultural statistical data is needed. The Namibia Census of Agriculture will bring a wealth of information on which planning can be made.

The nearly 500 enumerators that are administering the Census have been equipped with all the necessary tools and transportation so they can go out in the field and conduct the Census successfully. Just because a respondent is not in an easily accessible place, does not mean their opinion and the data doesn't matter. The Statistician General of the NSA emphasized the need for collaboration by telling all Namibians and all farmers; *"We need to help you where we can. This Census is a major step in helping you. Therefore we urge you to help us by answering as fully and truthfully as possible and provide all possible assistance to the enumerators."*

In this Census each region is vital and together they form the true foundation and backbone of all that is Namibia and Namibian. That is especially true of Agriculture, one of the essential pillars of Namibian Society and certainly of our economy. The information obtained from the Agricultural Census provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive and impartial agricultural data for every region in the nation. Through the Census, producers demonstrate to the nation the value and importance of agriculture. This also allows them to have a say and influence the decisions that will shape the future of Namibia's agricultural sector for years to come.

With the administering of the first listing of the first household, the signal has been given for the enumerators to go into the 14 regions and start the enumeration and interviewing process of the Namibia Census of Agriculture over the coming months.



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