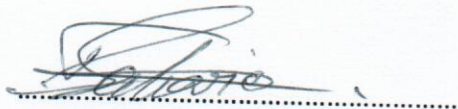


**PRESS STATEMENT BY MR. IIPUMBU SAKARIA  
2013 LABOUR FORCE SURVEY  
9 OCTOBER 2013**

1. As you are all aware the 2013 Labour Force Survey is currently underway. Some of you might have received visits from our field work interviewers already whilst others are still to do so. Nonetheless, we are here today to request for total cooperation from the public in this exercise. This is because we are aware that some of our citizens are refusing our fieldworkers access to their houses and farms.
2. The NSA has been directed to conduct Annual Labour Force Surveys in order to provide policy makers in the public and private sectors with up-to-date information on developments in the labour market. Since employment creation is one of the overall goals of our development, labour market information is crucial for the evaluation of Government programmes and projects in support of Vision 2030.
3. The Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) was established by the promulgation of an Act of Parliament, Statistics Act 9 of 2011. We collect and disseminate statistics and spatial data, educate the public on the use of statistics, and designate statistics as official statistics. This is the mandate that the current Labour Force Survey is operating under. The survey covers a sample of 9108 households and employs 454 people. A lot of work has already been undertaken to ensure that the survey is operating smoothly.
4. However, as I have indicated at the beginning, we are disturbed by reports that some of our citizens and the general public are refusing our fieldworkers entry into their homes and farms. We would like to appeal to the general public that they should not deny our fieldworkers the opportunity to interview them as duly mandated.

5. Refusal to be interviewed by officially appointed staff of the NSA is a crime which may carry a fine or imprisonment, or both. We would therefore like to encourage each and every one to contribute to this national exercise that is meant to assess our situation and assist our national developmental planning.
6. However, we are also aware that some criminal minded people might seize this opportunity to camouflage themselves as officials of the Namibia Statistics Agency. Our staff is clearly identifiable with official tags and representation. If in doubt of someone the public is encouraged to call any Police Station and inform them about the situation at hand.
7. Lastly, while the task before us is large; I am confident that by working together, we can achieve the desired outcome in a timely manner. To achieve this however, I would like to appeal to you to assist and provide a helping hand where you can. I am looking forward to your cooperation.

Thank you



Lipumbu Sakaria  
**Deputy Director of Strategic Communication**