

OFFICIAL OPENING FOR NAMIBIA HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SURVEY (NHIES) STAKEHOLDER'S CONSULTATION WORKSHOPS

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Senior colleagues from Government and private Institutions
NSA Colleagues
Members of the Media
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning,

The NSA's mission is "to produce and disseminate relevant, quality and timely statistics that are fit-for-purpose in accordance with international standards and best practices. "

Ladies and gentlemen, the NSA can produce relevant data if we do proper consultations with our stakeholders. That is why I am very pleased to see you all this morning. By deciding to take time off from your busy schedules for the next two days to be part of this consultation workshop is a clear indication that you are interested in seeing relevant and quality data. This is quite encouraging for me and all the NSA staff.

NHIES is one of our specialised household based surveys designed to collect data on income, consumption and expenditure patterns of households in the country since independence, 3 surveys have been carried out in 1993/94, 2003/04 and 2009/2010 respectively. This survey that is being planned for today will be the 4th of its kind.

As the main source of information on annual household income and expenditure in the country, the survey data is also used to compute important poverty indicators for assessing poverty lines, indices and income inequalities at household and individual levels.

Some of the findings from the 2009/10 NHIES informed us that the average annual consumption per household was N\$65 438 while the consumption per capita was N\$13 813; 19% of households in Namibia are classified as poor

according to the basic needs approach while 27% of households in the rural areas are poor compared to 9% in the urban areas. This is an indication that poverty varies between urban and rural areas. The highest incidence of poverty is in the Kavango region where 43% of households are poor. That is why we need to conduct another survey of this kind to determine whether the situation on the ground has changed or not over the past 5 years.

In addition, the data from NHIES also serves as a statistical framework for compiling the national basket items for the compilation of price indices used in the calculation of inflation. Similarly, the data from this survey forms the basis for updating prices or rebasing of national accounts. I am happy to inform you that NSA has rebased the Namibian Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the National Accounts using data from the previous Income and Expenditure Survey.

Therefore, this survey collects **crucial data for evidence-based planning and decision making for all data users. This is why** have called you today for your inputs before the actual field data collection. My colleagues will share with you the content of the questionnaire that will be used to collect data as well as the new survey methodology that is being adopted for this survey in order to improve data quality. As it is to be expected, not all your needs can be catered in the survey, however there is a need to strike a balance of what is good to know and what is necessarily to have for the countries' development.

We are looking forward to get your valuable inputs, especially, on the content of the questionnaire to ensure that relevant data that will be useful to all planners and decision makers across the country are collected.

Ladies and gentlemen, with these few remarks, I declare this NHIES stakeholder's consultation workshop official open and wishing you good deliberations.

I thank you!!!

