



**OFFICIAL LAUNCH FOR THE 2023 POPULATION AND HOUSING  
CENSUS MAIN REPORT  
WINDHOEK COUNTRY CLUB RESORT  
WINDHOEK, 30 OCTOBER 2024**

**Remarks by Mr. SALOMO HEI,  
BOARD CHAIRPERSON - NAMIBIA STATISTICS AGENCY (NSA)**

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

It is with great pride to stand before you today as we launch one of the most ambitious projects in our country’s statistical history—the 2023 Namibia Population and Housing Census. This day marks the result of a journey that has required careful planning, extraordinary teamwork, and unwavering commitment.

As Chairperson of the Namibia Statistics Agency Board, I want to take this moment to acknowledge the magnitude of the task that was entrusted to us, the NSA—an undertaking that reached every corner of Namibia, across vast deserts, rugged terrain, bustling urban centers, and remote rural areas. The scale of the census is truly national, and the successful completion of this task is a testament to the resilience and dedication of everyone involved. I must really commend the NSA management under the leadership of Mr. Shimuafeni and the entire team, YOU DID IT COLLEAGUES! We skilled over 20k people and 14k were meaningfully employed during that period. We rented out close to 3000 vehicles in broad based impact.

“It is about the man in the arena”

Ladies and gentlemen, the assignment of conducting a national census is not one that can be taken lightly. In essence, the Namibia Statistics Agency was charged with not just counting, but gathering necessary information on every individual who spent the night of the now “famous” 24 September 2023 within our borders of our beautiful Namibia. I guess we will not easily forget that date, NSA told us to sleep where we want to be counted. To achieve this, we had to ensure the mobilization of thousands of personnel, the deployment of cutting-edge technology, and the seamless coordination of teams spread across all 14 regions.

“It was about the man in the arena”

The complete scope of the census involved reaching millions of people—documenting not only the population count but collecting information on housing, living conditions, and socioeconomic factors. Every household, no matter how remote, was to be included. This was no small feat. It required extraordinary logistical coordination, overcoming challenges such as difficult terrain, limited infrastructure in some areas, and the complexities of the fact that other operations of the NSA had to continue with the very same team that was managing the Census. Some initial refusals from some public members also did not aid in the smooth running of this biggest peacetime project in the world for any country undertaking it.

Despite these hurdles, the Namibia Statistics Agency rose to the occasion. The 2023 Census became one of the most technologically advanced and efficient data collection exercises we have ever undertaken. “Ladies and Gentlemen, we have broken new Grounds”

The road to today has not been without its challenges. Organizing a census of this magnitude requires foresight, collaboration, and a remarkable amount of resources. From recruiting and training thousands of enumerators, to utilizing new digital tools for data collection, and ensuring the timely processing of information—we had to remain focused and adaptable. We came face to face with cold of poverty and the luxurious comfort of the affluent. Census doesn’t discriminate.

There were moments when the obstacles seemed overwhelming. But thanks to the collective resolve of our teams, partners, and the Namibian public together with the men and women in uniform, we stayed on course. Together, we have successfully captured a comprehensive snapshot of who we are as a nation in 2023.

Today, we can confidently say that the Namibia Statistics Agency has delivered on its mandate, and the report to be launched today is proof of that accomplishment.

I must emphasize that the 2023 Census was a major leap forward in terms of modernization. For the first time, we fully embraced the use of digital tools and mobile devices to collect data, improving accuracy, speeding up processes, and allowing for real-time monitoring due to the fact that this Census was also a GIS enabled Census. We deployed advanced geospatial tools, satellite imagery, and rigorous quality assurance systems to ensure that the data we present to you today is precise, reliable and will eliminate any doubt of the tally as every household enumerated has a GIS coordinate assigned to it.

This technological shift enabled us to tackle the enormity of this project with greater efficiency and effectiveness, ensuring that every citizen, from the furthest reaches of Namibia’s geography, was included in this exercise. Our modernized approach shows our commitment to providing data that is not only fit for purpose but also relevant for the rapidly changing world we live in.

Ladies and gentlemen, the successful completion of this census is not just a victory for the Namibia Statistics Agency—it is a national achievement. The success we are referring to here is in terms of completing the Census project in time, within budget and with quality data. This Census was made possible by the dedication of our field and office-based teams, the cooperation of the Namibian public, and the strong partnerships we fostered with stakeholders at every level. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our development partners, the government, those from the private sector who contributed to this project and the media for their unwavering support throughout this process.

But most importantly, I want to recognise the people of Namibia—the communities, the individuals, and the families who opened their homes to our enumerators and took part in this exercise. Your participation ensures that the data presented today is an accurate reflection of who we are as a country.

As we move forward, let us remember that the success of this census is not just in its completion but in how we use this data. The information we have gathered will be a powerful tool in addressing the challenges our nation faces and in crafting policies that will improve the lives of every Namibian. It is now up to all of us—government, private sector, civil society, and individuals—to harness this information for the common good. That is, we should now make good use of the data to create a Namibia that we want!

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, I stand here today and on behalf of my fellow Board members, filled with pride and confidence. The Namibia Statistics Agency was given a huge task, and we delivered. We have fulfilled our mandate and provided our nation with a wealth of knowledge that will serve as a guide for future development.

Let us now put this knowledge to work as we continue building a brighter, more inclusive, and more prosperous Namibia.

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I Thank you.