

MEDIA RELEASE

(Update on 2023 Population & Housing Census)

1st March 2023

For immediate release

UPDATE ON 2023 POPULATION & HOUSING CENSUS

1. The Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) is hereby updating the nation on the 2023 Population and Housing Census. The 2021 Census had been postponed and is currently planned to take place in August 2023.
2. Section 7 (2)(d) of the Namibia Statistics Act prescribes that the Agency must cause a population and housing census to be taken every 10 years on a date determined by the Minister by notice in the Gazette, unless the Minister, on the advice of the Statistician-General and by notice in the Gazette, determines otherwise.
3. The Census consists of three phases, namely: pre-enumeration, enumeration and post enumeration phases. Pre-enumeration include the mapping and pilot census; the enumeration phase speaks to itself and the post-enumeration activities include :the Post Enumeration Survey (PES) , data processing, data analysis and reporting writing.
4. The Census is conducted every ten years and is essentially a process of collecting, processing, analysing, publishing and disseminating of demographic, socio-economic and spatial data of the population during a specific period of time. Essentially it provides information on how many people are in the country, their characteristics, and their living standards. The Census is the only data source that provides information at the smallest geographic areas and for small population groups in the county. The Census Main enumeration is planned to take place from August to October 2023 in all corners of Namibia.
5. The Post-Enumeration Survey (PES) is a quality assurance exercise undertaken to validate the quality of the information collected during the Census Main Enumeration. The PES takes place a week after the Census Enumeration concluded and will take place in all 14 regions, however only in selected enumeration areas.

6. The Population and Housing Census provides information on population and housing characteristics of the country in order to guide development planning, decision making as well as to monitor and evaluate developmental progress. The Census results is also used to develop a sampling frame for conducting relevant and representative socio-economic surveys, provides data for the Delimitation Commission as well as results necessary to validate national voter registration system. The Census result as an enabler, plays a big role in uplifting communities' developmental share in terms of schools, hospitals, roads, and public works as it helps the government to decide how to distribute funds and allocate resources across the society.
7. Furthermore, the Census also provides critical data and information for business enterprises in all industries as it guides businesses on the population characteristics and informs decisions on business expansion and reach of customers and clients.
8. The following are the expected major outputs of a Census:
 - a. Census microdata Set,
 - b. Preliminary and Final Census Report
 - c. The Post Enumeration Survey Report
 - d. Thematic reports such as Fertility, Mortality and Migration Reports, Regional Profiles, 20-year Population Projections,
 - e. National Sampling Frame (Master Sampling Frame),
 - f. National Dwelling Unit Frame (National Housing Database),
 - g. Statistics Business Register frame, and
 - h. Administration and Enumeration Area Maps,
9. Namibia's census will for the first time be a spatially-enabled and digital census. The modus operandi will be that NSA enumerators will visit each and every household in Namibia, during a three week period in order to undertake a total count and collect demographic and social data. Section 44(1) of the Statistics Act prohibits the disclosure of information to third parties as well as to unauthorised persons, therefore to ensure confidentiality all Census personnel including enumerators and all team supervisors, including NSA permanent staff, will sign an Oath of Secrecy. Furthermore, the information to be collected is anonymised and processed in order to be in line with the confidentiality clauses as set out in the Statistics Act.
10. For the 2023-2024 Financial Year an amount of N\$706 Million has been allocated by the Namibian Government for the NSA to undertake the 2023 Population and Housing Census. We are sincerely grateful that our Government has committed itself to fund this critical exercise which is a major source of national data required for planning, decision-making and monitoring of development goals at the lowest level possible there is.

11. To successfully undertake the Census, the NSA will recruit around 13,000 temporary staff that includes team supervisors, enumerators, constituency supervisors, IT technicians, statisticians, data monitors, programmers, HR practitioners, legal experts, communication specialists, procurement officer and fleet officers just to mention a few.
12. All Census positions will be advertised in all media platforms including the NSA website, the Namibia Integrated Employment Information System (NIEIS) and regional and local authority offices. Job applications will be done through an online recruitment system. Applications can be done via any device that has internet access such as a smart phone, tablet, or a computer. Applications are open to all Namibians and the Agency hopes to give employment opportunities to the unemployed. It is against that background that NSA intends to recruit individuals within their respective constituencies. The nation will be informed when the application process starts.
13. All Census personnel and equipment will be sourced locally, except the 13,000 Tablets which will be borrowed from external entities. In particular, 11,000 Tablets will be borrowed from the United National Economic Commission of Africa (UNECA) and with the other 2,000 Tablets to be borrowed from Statistics South Africa in line with South-South cooperation. Transportation of the tablets to and from Namibia will be facilitated by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The census logistics involved is massive and will require around 2900 vehicles to ensure enumerators reach each and every corner.
14. The NSA is happy to report that it has concluded the Census mapping and pilot census as well as the PES pilot as part of the pre-enumeration phase. Currently, we are busy testing the data collection application, as informed by the pilot Census outcomes, in the seven regions (Zambezi, Erongo, Kunene, Ohangwena, Hardap, Kavango West and Omusati). The field exercise started on 27 February and will run until 10 March 2023. The final testing will be done in Khomas region from 14-17 March 2023. We are humbly requesting the selected households to assist our field staff when approached. The main purpose of field testing is to ensure that all Census tools are ready for the main Census in August 2023.
15. It goes without saying that the NSA truly appreciates the assistance rendered by all households in Namibia for our past surveys, censuses and mapping exercises. It is only through the cooperation of our fellow Namibian citizens that we are able to collect data and provide statistics for national development. It is against that background that the NSA humbly request all citizens, households and those that find themselves within the boundaries of Namibia during the upcoming Census period, to cooperate with our enumerators and ensure that they are counted.

16. To the media: we always recognise and value your significant role of spreading the messages to the entire nation. Please continue to amplify the messages of this national project to all the corners of the country.

I thank you.



ALEX SHIMUAFENI
STATISTICIAN - GENERAL & CEO

About Us

Namibia Statistics Agency is mandated with collecting, producing, analyzing and disseminating official statistics. Find us at www.nsa.org.na

Issued by:
Iipumbu Sakaria
Manager: Corporate Communications
Namibia Statistics Agency
Post Street Mall
P O Box 2133
Windhoek
Tel: +264 061 431 3200
Fax: + 264 061 431 3253
Email: isakaria@nsa.org.na
info@nsa.org