

**Presentation of NSA Annual Report 2012/13**

**NCP Committee Rom**

**10 July 2013**

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Master of Ceremonies

Director General of the National Planning Commission

Permanent Secretary of the National Planning Commission

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the NSA

Board Members of the NSA

Members of the Media

It give me a great pleasure to present to you the first annual report of the Namibia Statistics Agency that covers the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013.

It has been an exciting and demanding year for me being at the helm of the NSA. Building and shaping a new institution from scratch is not an opportunity that crosses one's professional path often and requires imagination, innovation and a great deal of flexibility.

I have been fortunate to have been surrounded and by supported by people who share the same vision for the NSA, including a supportive shareholder Ministry under the leadership of Mr. Tom Alweendo, a professional and dedicated Board of Directors led by the Chairman Paul Hartmann, experienced and committed management staff and colleagues, as well as supportive stakeholders and partners, including the media, that were always willing to provide advice and support where possible.

Let me now highlight some of the achievements of the NSA during the year under review.

First and foremost we have put in place with the strong support and guidance of the Board of Directors a robust governance structure that ensures adherence to the letter and spirit of the Statistics Act, other legal obligations and internal policies. We have developed and implemented a great number of policies and procedures that guides the operations of the NSA and that also ensured the successful transformation of the former Government Department, CBS into a fully autonomous statistical agency.

During the first year of operations we have developed NSA's strategic plan that covers the period 2012/13 to 2016/17 and coincides with the current Fourth National Development Plan. The alignment of these two plans will support the monitoring and evaluation process of NDP4, by providing economic and social statistics required to indicate whether we are on track towards achieving our common national goals.

I am delighted to report that our Financial Statements received a clean bill of health from external auditors. This is a major achievement since all the necessary governance structures and policies were being developed during the first few months of the NSA's existence and not yet in place when operations and financial transactions started.

Besides laying the organisational foundations of the NSA, work on statistical production had to continue, putting double burden particularly on management. I am proud to say that we have lived up the expectations. Some of the major achievements with respect to statistical production during the year under review include: the release of the main Census Report, the main report of the National Household Income and Expenditure Survey as well as two related poverty reports; monthly inflation reports, quarterly GDP and trade statistics, as well as annual economic and trade statistics.

Although I am overall satisfied with the progress that the NSA has made, the Namibian statistical system continues to face a number of challenges, including inadequate funding for statistical operations as well as skills deficits in certain technical areas. I am however, certain that with the strong commitment and support of all our stakeholders these challenges are not insurmountable.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my gratitude and appreciation to the Board of Directors and in particular the Chairman Mr. Paul Hartmann for their guidance and leadership during this inaugural year.

Thank you

John Steytler

Statistician General