

Official launch of the Data Processing Centre of the Namibia Statistics Agency

Remarks by the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany

21 February 2013

Director of Ceremonies,

Hon. Director General of the National Planning Commission – Mr Tom Alweendo

Statistician General of the Namibia Statistics Agency – Dr John Steytler

Representatives of the Namibia Statistics System,

Members of the Industry,

Distinguished Invited Guests,

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Anlass, Würdigung

1. Today, we are inaugurating the Data Processing Center of the Namibia Statistics Agency. It is **one of the most modern and powerful Data Processing Centers in Africa** and will serve Namibia on its Journey towards achieving Vision 2030.

I am delighted to be here today and thank the Namibia Statistics Agency to speak on this memorable occasion.

2. Within the shortest imaginable period of time – approximately **4 months** – a highly **dedicated and motivated team** of experts from the Namibia Statistics Agency and the GIZ have turned this building previously used as storage warehouse into what we see today.

It is a truly remarkable achievement, in particular due to the fact that it was conceptualized and fully implemented **by local companies and in a**

courageous and concerted manner.

It illustrates the **true spirit of cooperation** between the Governments of Namibia and Germany, and serves as an example to the many projects we are currently jointly implementing to manage natural resources, improve the transport infrastructure, enhance sustainable economic development and combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The Data Processing Center was implemented under our joint *Partnership for Economic Growth Program* and received a grant support worth approx. NAD 17 Million for hard and software equipment in addition to the technical assistance.

Thank you to all involved in this project for the hard work and dedication!

Zweck des DPC

3. Soon, the Namibia Statistics Agency will launch the census and 2012 labor force survey results. The last labor force survey concluded that 51,2% of Namibians are unemployed. The Government has since launched a number of initiatives – including TIPEEG – to mitigate the situation. However, the **unemployment figure** has been questioned by economists, politicians and the wider public.

The Data Processing Center will allow the Namibia Statistics Agency to **conduct labor market surveys at shorter intervals** in order to inform on the success of policies and activities implemented. It has been designed to allow operation around the clock; its processing capacity has been increased by almost 200% as compared to NSA's previous facilities and the data storage capacity by a factor of 10.

This will contribute to the objective of the NSA to make relevant, **accurate and timely statistics** available for **evidence based policy design and decision making** in Namibia, the private sector and the civil society.

4. With these remarkable capacities, the Data Processing Center is not only a powerful instrument of the NSA, but could serve the whole **of the Namibian Statistics System** and efforts taken towards e-Government. As far as I am informed, we can expect a number of further surveys to be processed here in

the **near future, e g on health, demographics as well as an agricultural census.**

5. The huge responsibility an **independent statistics Agency** carries for the development of a nation is evident – and I would like to congratulate the Namibian Government to taking this path.

The Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) has since inception early last year proven that it is a reliable institution, fulfilling its mandate to become the central statistical authority and repository for all statistics produced in Namibia.

Future Cooperation

6. The German Government will continue to support the Namibia Statistics Agency on its remarkable journey since inception.

Last year, the Statistician General led a Delegation **of NSA representatives to visit institutions of the German statistical system** and to establish a cooperation with the German Statistical Office.

In the bilateral Government consultations held last week, we committed ourselves to provide **further technical assistance to the NSA.**

Abschluß

7. I would like to conclude with a quote from Simeon Strunsky: "Statistics are the heart of democracy."

May this Data Processing Center deliver the data Namibia requires on its journey towards Vision 2030.

Thank you for your attention.