

DISTRIBUTION OF NSA PUBLICATIONS IN LIBRARIES STATEMENT BY DR. JOHN STEYTLER STATISTICIAN-GENERAL

Windhoek – 25 September, 2014 – Official Distribution of NSA Publications in all Libraries

Recently the Namibia Statistics Agency and the University of Namibia signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The aim of the MoU was to create an enabling platform for mutual areas of cooperation. I am therefore glad to see that we have in such a short time created a platform to disseminate and avail statistics to all our libraries in the country. This is surely a step in the right direction as this information will be useful to learners, students, and researchers.

There is no doubt that education and statistics go in hand and the fact that education is the catalyst to us achieving our goals as, for example, enshrined in Vision 2030.

The same can be said about statistics. We are all aware that official statistics provide valuable information on the basis of which Government and other institutions base their planning and monitoring. In this context, the availability of reliable and timely statistics facilitates effective service delivery. Therefore, I am certain and pleased to witness education and statistics coming together in creating such a platform that brings statistics to the doorstep of the users.

The Statistics Act of 2011 states that official statistics must be relevant, accurate, reliable and timely. The NSA has strived to adhere to these requirements. We are certain that our statistics such as the monthly NCPI, quarterly Trade and GDP estimates as well as different types of thematic reports such as Fertility and Mortality reports launched recently, Regional Profiles that have been disseminated to all the regions as well as our upcoming Population Projections, are more than relevant. Other relevant statistical productions include the annual Labor Force Surveys, Namibia Household and Income Expenditure Surveys as well as the Population and Housing Census. All these statistical productions are used for policy formulation, planning and monitoring of our national agenda at the highest level.

In terms of accuracy, there is no use if our learners, students and researchers are provided with statistics that do not reflect the reality on the ground. This will lead to errors and damages of unimaginable consequences. If the statistics are not accurate, surely they will neither be reliable. Furthermore, with respect to timeliness of statistics, the purpose is really to enable learners, students and policy makers to make real time decisions and formulation of smart policies that speaks to socio-economic problems facing Namibians today.

Therefore, providing this platform of availing all our publications and reports to libraries throughout the country is indeed commendable. I am therefore confident that the direct beneficiaries who are the learners, students and researchers and to a great extent the general public will be capacitated in their work and therefore contributing to the quality education.

Let me now conclude by once again congratulating UNAM and the Namibia Statistics Agency for coming up with this platform, which will surely go a long way in the dissemination of statistics to a much wider audience as well as providing the necessary information required by our people.

I thank you