**LAUNCHING SPEECH BY THE STATISTICIAN GENERAL OF NAMIBIA STATISTICS AGENCY ON THE LAUNCH OF CHILD POVERTY REPORT AND POVERTY DYNAMIC REPORT**

**Zoo Park, 23 November 2012**

DISTINGUISH GUEST GUESTS,

HIS EXCELLENCY THE AMBASSADOR OF –

REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE MINISTRY OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE

REPRESENTATIVE FROM UNFPA, UNICEF, AND UNDP

MEMBERS OF MEDIA HOUSE

COLLEAGUES,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The report presents up-to-date comparative analysis of poverty patterns and trends in Namibia, based on the results of Namibia Household Income and Expenditure surveys which were conducted at three different point in time, which were 1993/94; 2003/04 and 2009/10.

The two reports presents the situation of poverty at individual level instead of household level as it was presented in previous reports. The report show that poverty at individual levels still exist in Namibia. Close to a third (28.7%) of population lives in poverty. It is however pleasing and worth noting that level of poverty in general declined over the past seventeen years from 70 per cent in 1993/94 to 38 per cent in 2003/2004 to 29 in 2009/2010.

 The situation differs in regions. While poverty levels declined in most regions, Caprivi and Khomas regions experienced increase in poverty between 2003/2004 and 2009/2010 period. On the other hand, the rest of the regions have poverty levels above the national average, except Oshana, Omusati Khomas and Erongo regions where poverty levels are below the national average. On the other hand, Kavango and Caprivi experienced higher poverty levels where more than half of their population live in poverty with Kavango being the poorest region in Namibia with 55.2 % of its population in poor.

As far as the situation of children is concerned,

About 34 per cent of children in Namibia live in poverty, compared to 28.7 per cent of the general population. However, this also represents a substantial reduction of poverty rates since the previous NHIES in 2003/04 when 43.5 per cent of children and 37 per cent of the general population were living below the poverty line. Nevertheless, child poverty remains widespread and needs to be addressed with urgency if Namibia is to reach its Vision 2030.

Child poverty is more experienced in rural areas than urban areas and in Caprivi and Kavango regions. Poverty is also more in households were the female caregiver has low level of education (primary or no formal education) and in households where there is no employed persons.

Old age pensions are more effective social grant, reducing poverty by 4.8 per cent compare to child welfare grant which reduces poverty by only 1.5 per cent.

In general the results presented in the reports suggest that it is possible to reduce poverty close zero in Namibia.

You would agree with me that the two reports presents very useful information to inform planning and policy making. I therefore urge planners and decision makers make use of the reports for evidenced based decision making and planning.

The two reports are based on quantitative studies and can not explain why poverty exists in Namibia. I therefore invite researchers to investigate more to find out the main contributing factors of poverty in Namibia and in specific regions.

I now have the honour to officially launched, the two reports: “Poverty Dynamics in Namibia” and “Child Poverty In Namibia”

I thank you!!