

**PRESS STATEMENT BY DR JOHN STEYTLER
STATISTICIAN-GENERAL
LAUNCH OF 2013 LABOUR FORCE SURVEY
10 SEPTEMBER 2013**

1.The Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) is pleased to inform the Nation that we have embarked upon the 2013 Labor Force Survey which will take place from the 30th of September 2013 until the 13th October 2013. As you will recall, the latest Labor Force Survey was conducted in October 2012 and the results were released in April 2013. Cabinet has now directed the NSA to conduct Annual Labor Force Surveys in order to provide policy makers in the public and private sectors with up-to-date information on developments in the labor market.

2.The first full scale Labor Force Survey was carried out in 1997 under the National Household Survey program after the Government endorsed a five year plan of series of surveys to be conducted at regular intervals. The 2012 Labor Force Survey was the fifth post-independence Labor Force Survey and was conducted in close collaboration with the Ministry of Lands and Social Welfare. This year's survey will be entirely conducted by the Namibia Statistics Agency and will be the first one to be conducted on an annual basis.

3.The Labor Force Survey is the only official source of labor force statistics in the country. It is from this survey that the official unemployment rate is calculated. Of all national statistics, the unemployment rate produced by the Labor Force Survey is one of the most widely used indicators to assess the health of the economy of Namibia and its labor market.

4.To ensure a high degree of credibility this year survey like that of last year will cover a sample of 9,108 households and will employ 454 people. The training of trainers was completed already and the training of field staff will be concluded by the 13th of September 2013. Thereafter the field staff will be deployed to their respective regions and will start with the listing of households.

5.The selection of households will be aided by the use of Geographic Information System (GIS). The use of GIS in sampling and managing the entire process places Namibia among the top countries in the world using the best practice methods to collect its labor force statistics. That is why, before the actual interviews, our trained fieldworkers will already know from visual maps- the exact location of the households selected for inclusion in the survey.

6.Conducting the Labor Force Survey successfully depends on each of us contributing their part. I can therefore not overemphasize the importance of partaking in this survey. Let me at this instance also inform the nation that refusing to partake in this survey is a violation of the Statistics Act 9 of 2011. It is not only our duty to participate as a citizen but also our duty to enable Namibia to have sound information on which crucial decisions are made of.

7.The Namibia Statistics Agency appreciates the efforts being made by the Government of the Republic of Namibia in ensuring the provision of quality statistics. While the task before us is daunting, I am confident that we can achieve the desired outcome in a timely manner. All that is required is the goodwill and the cooperation of all Namibians. Play your part and assist our field staff to do their work in the best manner possible. Do it for yourself. Do it for Namibia so that we have statistics that are good for purpose.

8.I now officially launch the 2013 Labor Force Survey.

I Thank you