

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **DR. JOHN STEYTLER LEAVES NAMIBIA STATISTICS AGENCY**

**Windhoek – 16 December, 2014**

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA), as the Chairperson, I would like to announce today that Dr. John Steytler has tendered his resignation as Statistician-General of the NSA, and his last working day will be the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2015.

There is no doubt that with Dr. John Steytler at the helm, the NSA made great strides. The agency was established as an independent statistical authority that produces and disseminates relevant, quality and timely statistics that are fit for purpose. Evidently, within a short period of time the NSA has established itself as a reputable institution and has proven that it can provide the statistical information needed for evidence-based policy decisions. This was achieved because Dr. John Steytler is an expert in his field and led the Agency in a manner that ensured that statistical outputs are par excellence.

I am certain that there is consensus that our statistics improved tremendously since the creation of the NSA. Particular achievements are the production of the first agricultural census in 20 years; Production of annual labour force surveys and the establishment of the most modern Data Processing Centre in Africa, amongst others. The NSA, under the leadership of Dr. Steytler has broadened its strategic horizons, including securing substantial support from development partners and signing memoranda of understanding with key stakeholders.

The achievements of the NSA was, however, not easy. At the beginning, and in order to run an effective institution, the challenge was to adhere to the design and implementation of appropriate governance structures and policies, setting up of physical infrastructure and ensuring smooth processing and presentation and analysis of survey results. From a governance perspective, and considering the time of existence, we can confidently say that the NSA is one of the better run institutions in the country today, with a record of unqualified audits since inception.

The NSA will continue to implement its strategic focus to raise the quality of statistics in Namibia and will continue to be run as a professional statistical authority, mandated by the Statistics Act No. 9 of 2011. We have the necessary manpower, skills, ambitions, vision and focus to achieve that. As a way forward, the normal process of recruitment shall take its course and in due time, the nation will be informed about the next Statistician-General. In the interim, the Board of Directors in accordance with the Statistics Act will appoint an Acting SG, to ensure the smooth operations of the Agency.

We are thankful for Dr. Steytler's leadership over the past few years at the helm of the NSA and wish him all the best in the next phase of his career.

Yours in statistics



Ms. Florette Nakusera

Chairperson of the NSA Board of Directors



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About NSA:

The Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) is a statutory body established in terms of the Statistics Act, 2011 (Act No.9 of 2011). The Agency is mandated, among others, to constitute the central statistical authority of the State and to collect, produce, analyze and disseminate official and other statistics in the country.

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