



Republic of Namibia

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

AT THE

**THE NAMIBIA STATISTICS AGENCY
RESOURCE MOBILIZATION CONFERENCE**

BY

**RT HON SAARA KUUGONGELWA AMADHILA,
PRIME MINISTER**

ON

5TH FEBRUARY 2020

SAFARI HOTEL

Directors of Ceremonies,

- Hon Obeth Kandjoze, Minister of Economic Planning & Director General of the National Planning Commission and other Cabinet members present
- Hon Members of Parliament
- Members of the Diplomatic Corps
- Invited Guests
- Members of the media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

1. It is my pleasure to join you today at this conference organized to mobilize resources for the upcoming Population and Housing National Census. Namibia is to undertake its fourth population and housing census in August 2021, with the previous censuses conducted in 1991, 2001 and 2011.

2. This decennial statistical exercise is a vast and complex undertaking estimated to cost Government an amount of N\$1.1 billion. As such, we seek the support of all our stakeholders to raise the required resources to realise the conduct of the 2020 census.

3. The census provides us with an opportunity for getting accurate and comprehensive data, thus providing invaluable inputs for public policy formation and development, planning, monitoring and evaluation.

4. Population and Housing Censuses are crucial for the development because they serve as the main source of information about the characteristics of any given population such as basic demographic processes (births, deaths, migration) and population growth and thus providing baseline for projections that are essential for sectoral planning.

5. The 2021 census will present us with an opportunity to answer questions such as; what policy changes can we initiate to improve the well-being of our people? We also need to know how fast the population is increasing. The 2021 census will also help us know how far we have come with regards to achieving the global agenda 2030 on sustainable development goals, Africa agenda 2063 for unity, peace and prosperity and Namibia's vision 2030 and the National Development Plan 5.

6. The information generated through census also comprehensively reveals population characteristics about, amongst others, the education level, labour or employment information, nature and type of housing, energy sources, waste disposal methods and sources of household income. Through the census, descriptive details emerge about our households and communities.

7. Information generated through census is for a wide spectrum of users, besides government, including household or business level. Businesses would want to understand its potential customers, where they live, how they live, what their affordability statuses are, and in general just to be aware of the socio-economic data, in order to make relevant informed decisions.

8. The United Nations (UN) recommends that countries conduct a census at least once every 10 years. Namibia also enacted the Statistics Act, 2011 (Act No. 9 of 2011) in terms of which the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) is to conduct a Population and Housing Census (PHC) every 10 years. Namibia further ratified the African Charter on Statistics at the African Union (AU) level, thereby confirming our commitment for sound statistics for development.

9. This census cycle started in 2017 with the planning phase which entails census planning, mapping, designing of questionnaire and

piloting. Such a phase has been funded with resources availed by government and the development partners, mainly from the UN family such as UNFPA. A total of N\$1.1 billion is needed for the entire census and an amount of N\$950 million has been availed by the Government for the entire census phase, leaving a shortfall of N\$150 million, hence the holding of this resource mobilization conference.

10. The support required range from financial resources, equipment, tools as well as human resources and technical skills and expertise.

11. Census and surveys information available thus far show that since independence there has been a reduction of poverty and income inequality from 69.3% in 1994 to 17.4% in 2016 and from 0.70 in 1994 to 0.56 in 2016 respectively. It also shows that the number of households have increased from 254,389 households in 1991 to 589,787 households in 2016.

12. With the above in mind, census information is therefore critical for national and human capital development. As such there is need to ensure that the census is adequately mobilized. I am informed that, technological devices will be developed to aid data capturing, and this will accelerate the compilation of data processing for analysis and reporting. I am also informed that this census will be a spatially- and Geographic Information System-enabled, so it will also greatly assist in understanding the exact location of people and the conditions they find themselves in.

13. Besides stakeholder support, Government will investigate possibilities for sharing of resources with NSA by different Offices/ Ministries and Agencies, to promote the successful conduct of this census.

I thank you in anticipation of your favourable consideration of our request for your support towards the 2020 census.