

MEDIA RELEASE

(Update on 2023 Population & Housing Census)

10 August 2023

Swakopmund

NSA Erongo Regional Statistics Office

For immediate release

UPDATE ON 2023 POPULATION & HOUSING CENSUS

1. Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) is pleased to update the Namibian nation on the progress we made towards the conducting of the 2023 Population and Housing Census; which is a national project of which NSA is the implementing agent.
2. At our last media engagement on the census, on the 8th June 2023, we confirmed that the 2023 Population and Housing Census field work will commence from 18 September to 03 November 2023. This time span will include the enumeration as well as the Post Enumeration Survey (PES). The Post Enumeration Survey (PES), which is a quality assurance exercise, is a critical aspect of the census as it aims to ensure that NSA disseminates quality statistics.
3. **Census update**

3.1 Census advocacy

The NSA has kicked started its census advocacy in March 2023 after the Minister of Finance confirmed that funds had been availed to conduct the 2023 Population & Housing Census. NSA started off with relevant stakeholders engagements such as the Namibian Police Force, the Namibia Defence Force, all 14 regional councils, all 14 regional governors, all 121 constituency councillors, major local authorities in all 14 regions, Government offices, ministries, and agencies, United Nations, Embassies and High

Commissions, private sector, national youth council, gated residents, Chamber of Mines and various mines, Farmers' unions and Small farmers, Fisheries Observer Agency, the Office of the Prime Minister, and many more. The idea was to share with them the implementation plan of the census so that they are aware of the upcoming exercise and will be able to provide the necessary support needed. NSA is also making use of various platforms, such as television, radio, newspapers and social media to spread the census message. Various census videos, and radio jingles, in all local vernaculars are airing on these platforms since July 2023 and will proceed until the census enumeration ends on the 3rd November 2023.

3.2 Census Trainings

The training for the 2023 Population & Housing Census has officially begun on the 24th July and will conclude with the mass enumerators training on the 16th September 2023. The aim of the training is to equip participants with the knowledge needed to conduct and successfully implement the enumeration phase. It is also the aim to train those who will be training enumerators in all constituencies throughout the country when the time has come. Currently there are training sessions taking place in Swakopmund and Otjiwarongo for the PES Master Training and Training of Trainers 1 (ToT 1), respectively. The Census Master Training took place from 24 July 2023 to 04 August 2023 while the PES Master Training is currently under way from 07 August 2023 to 18 August 2023.

4. Census Staff Recruitment

The 2023 Population and Housing Census requires approximately about 13,000 suitably qualified persons to be employed on a temporary basis to carry out the work in the different phases of the Census. The temporary positions for the 2023 Census are:

- Human Resources Officers
- Enumerators (ENs)
- Team Supervisors (TSs)
- IT Field Technicians
- Community Mobilizers
- Constituency Supervisors (CSs).

All Census vacancy advertisements were sent out through various platforms such as newspapers, NSA website and through social media. A total of **101,009** applications were received for various field staff positions alone through the NSA Online Recruitment system. A further **10,485** was received for the office-based positions.

The recruitment of the Enumerators who will be trained from 08 to 16 September 2023 will be finalised in due course. The NSA will inform successful applicants by publishing their names on the NSA website, Social media platforms as well as to the various Constituency Offices. The number of positions required are:

1. Enumerators x **9,046** (Census = 8,738 & PES = 308)
2. Position: Team Supervisors x 3,606 (Census = 3,298 & PES = 308)
3. Position: Constituency Supervisors x 121
4. Position: Constituency Fleet Officers x 116
5. Position: Regional Security Officers x 14
6. Position: Data monitors x 35 (Census = 28 & PES = 7)
7. Position: Data Clerk Supervisors x 3 (PES only)
8. Position: Data Clerks x 42 (Census = 5 & PES = 37)
9. Position: Regional IT Field Technicians x 28 (Census = 14 & PES = 14)
10. Position: Constituency IT Field Technicians x 121
11. Position: National IT Field Technicians x 6 (Census = 4 & PES = 2)

4.1 Census Enumeration Field Staff Selection process

Only those applicants who have submitted their applications through the NSA Online Recruitment System as specified in the advertisement are considered. Only those applicants who fully met the requirements get selected for training.

To ensure that the NSA complies with the Affirmative Action Act and to ensure inclusivity or representativeness of the recruited applicants to the Namibian Nation, the NSA will give preference to the persons living with disabilities. The selection of persons living with disabilities will be done depending on the nature of disability and provided that they meet the requirements of the positions applied. A quota system (relative to the percentage composition of the following population groups) as illustrated below will be adopted:

1% San people = $13,100 \times 1\% = 131$

1% Ovahimba people = $13,100 \times 1\% = 131$

2% People with disabilities = $13,100 \times 2\% = 262$

2% Others (Other minority/marginalised groups) = 13,100 x 2% = 262

In the case of marginalised communities who might face a challenge with meeting the set requirements, NSA would consider to accommodate such cases in order to ensure inclusivity. The following requirements will be used for selection: A Grade 12 without the required points as per the advert, or Grade 11, or A Grade 10 Certificate, previous experience in household-based surveys/censuses, ICT experience i.e., on the usage of tablets, computers, etc. Should there be not sufficient applicants who meet the requirements in another constituency, the NSA will select an applicant who meets the requirements from the neighbouring constituency.

4.2 Census Office based staff

In addition to the Field positions, the NSA recruited office-based employees to support Head Office operations in Windhoek and at various NSA Offices countrywide. To carry out the 2023 Census recruitment activities, 14 additional temporary HR Officers were recruited to support the Census recruitment and payroll processes based at Head Office. Each of the 14 temporary HR Officers are assigned to one region each.

The first phase of recruitment took place during April and May 2023. A total of 125 office-based positions were advertised. The 14 temporary Human Resources (HR) Officers were recruited first to augment the work of the current HR team at Head Office as well as to support regional HR needs. The temporary HR Officers started on the 19 May 2023. The NSA started with the selection of the Enumerators on the 01 August 2023. There are some constituencies especially in Karas and Hardap, Erongo regions where all applicants do not meet the requirements for Constituency Supervisors as well as the Team Supervisors. In these regions, some constituencies received very few applications which poses a challenge for selection and filling the numbers required per constituency e.g. there is a certain Constituency in Hardap Region that requires 14 Team Supervisors. However, only 14 applicants meet the minimum requirement of Grade 12 without survey experience.

4.3 Aailed staff from the Offices, Ministries and Agencies for the Census

The NSA is also appreciative of staff that have been availed through the national statistical system. As indicated before already, the census is a huge undertaking and requires the support of the entire nation to make sure this becomes a success.

4.4 Other Field staff required (IT Field Technicians, Site Security Officers .)

The field positions that were needed include IT Field Technicians, Data monitors, data clerks supervisors, data clerks, constituency supervisors, teams supervisors, enumerators, regional security officers and fleet officers. The NSA is busy finalizing all these to ensure that the successful candidates will be informed in due course.

5. Transport services

NSA will be making use of transport services where individual car owners will be transporting NSA enumerators. The vehicles to be used will be selected from within their constituencies and the owners will be driving their own vehicles or their assigned drivers.

5.1 Vehicle registration

The NSA registered vehicles based on constituencies and the vehicle registration was successfully completed by the end of June 2023. These registrations took place at the all the Constituency offices and the extension of the deadline from 23 June to 30 June 2023 included an option of online registration.

NSA will need just over 2800 vehicles to use countrywide and more than 8000 vehicles were registered during the process.

5.2 Vehicle inspections

The NSA went to each and every constituency to inspect the vehicles that were registered throughout the entire country. This process started off on 06 July 2023 in Khomas until 21 July 2023. Data entry of these inspected vehicles is under way and it is in its final stages. We are aiming to finalise this process by end of tomorrow 11 August 2023.

This vehicles inspection process established that amongst the vehicles registered, there were vehicles registered such as single cabs, sedans and combies that did not qualify.

5.3 Vehicles selection

The vehicles that will be eventually selected will be compensated a daily fee of averaging N\$ 2,000 per day (depending on the Enumeration Area that the vehicles will be operating in).

Since this daily rate is what NSA will be offering and what the vehicle owners will be accepting, thus no price bidding by vehicle owners, the method of selection to be used will be a Random Selection of equal chance per constituency. Since we have registered more vehicles than what we would need, the vehicles that are not selected will automatically become part of the reserved vehicles (i.e. vehicles on stand-by) in case of any replacements needed. This Random Selection process will be conducted via computer generated random numbers and under the supervision of an external Auditor as well as an NSA Auditor.

The NSA will inform successful bidders in due course by publishing that information on the NSA website, Social media platforms as well as to the various Constituency Offices.

6. Census SMSes

6.1 What are the SMSes about

As part of ensuring that the nation is aware that there is a census, NSA is using SMSes as a means of spreading the message to the nation.

6.2 Why are we sending these

The SMSes are being sent to inform the nation that there is a census this year, what the census is all about and to request the nation to play their part and indeed be counted.

6.3 Who is supposed to receive these messages

The recipients of the SMS are all those that have MTC numbers. We have also engaged Telecom Namibia in order to use their platform and we are waiting on Telecom Namibia to revert to us. We remain appreciative to MTC for their support to the 2023 Population & Housing Census.

6.4 When are these SMSes normally sent out and by when are they expected to end

The SMSes are sent out on a weekly basis, started in July 2023 and will come to an end in November 2023.

7. Conclusion

As I have said before, the 2023 Population and Housing Census is a national project which is a collective effort that demands the support and cooperation of every citizen. NSA has earlier urged all members of society to embrace this initiative and actively participate when enumerators visit their households.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank and appreciate each and everyone, from Government to private sector, MTC, international organisations as well as all our stakeholders for having provided massive assistance to the preparations of the 2023 Population and Housing Census so far. We therefore enthusiastically look forward to conducting the census next month, September 2023. Please play your part and ensure that you are counted.

Media Release



I thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Shimuafeni".

ALEX SHIMUAFENI
STATISTICIAN - GENERAL & CEO

For more information and updates on the 2023 Population and Housing Census, please visit our official website at www.nsa.org.na, find information on NSA official social media pages or contact our office at 061 431. You may also email us on 2023-census@nsa.org.na.

About Us

Namibia Statistics Agency is mandated with collecting, producing, analyzing and disseminating official statistics. Find us at www.nsa.org.na