

MEDIA RELEASE

(Update on 2023 Population & Housing Census)

7th NOVEMBER 2023

NSA Head Office

For immediate release

UPDATE ON 2023 POPULATION & HOUSING CENSUS AND POST ENUMERATION SURVEY (PES)

1. Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) is pleased to update the Namibian nation on the 2023 Population and Housing Census.

Census background

2. The Namibia Statistics Agency is pleased to announce the completion of the major enumeration and interview phases for the 2023 Population and Housing Census. This national undertaking commenced on 18 September 2023, with 24 September 2023, being the pivotal Census Reference Night (CRN) to which all enumeration had to relate and concluded with the Post Enumeration Survey (PES) phase, by 24 November 2023.
3. The population and Housing Census is a complete count of all the people and dwelling structures in the country, at a specific time. The 2023 Census used a Defacto method of counting which required that everyone who spent the midnight of 24 September 2023 (CRN) in Namibia had to be counted, regardless of nationality and all the people who were not in Namibia by midnight of 24 September 2023, would not be counted.
4. NSA trained enumerators, who could be identified by the NSA branded Bibs, hats and bags visited every household in Namibia to count all the members of each household, the head of household or a responsible adult had to answer on behalf of every member of the household that spent the CRN in that house. People in transit and institutions such as hotels, lodges, hostels, police barracks, holding cells, were also counted, with tailored questionnaire forms.

5. To ensure full count of the population, the NSA had a mop up period, an open call to all the people whose households had not been enumerated to contact the NSA and schedule an appointment so that their household got to be counted. The Mop Up period had to be extended until the 5th of November 2023 in few regions as per the public member calls and email requests to be enumerated. The cellphone numbers of the 14 Regional Statisticians along with their email addresses and the 2023-census email address, were availed for enumeration appointments, per region.
6. The Post Enumeration Survey (PES) was a survey conducted after the Census enumeration to measure the coverage and quality of the Census results. The PES commenced on 06 November 2023, soon after the Census Mop Up period and concluded on 24 November 2023. PES was conducted in all regions of the country, however, only in selected constituencies and selected Enumeration Areas (EAs). All households within the selected EAs were then visited and interviewed for the PES. The selection of constituencies and EAs was done using the random sampling method.
7. The Post Enumeration Survey consists of three phases, the main enumeration which concluded on 24 November, will now be followed by the Matching phase from 11 December 2023 – 19 January 2024, an office-based exercise, whereby matchers will compare the Census and PES results to assess if the data is corresponding. If any discrepancies are to be found during the matching process, such a differential data records of Census and PES on the same household, the PES then has the third phase called Reconciliation Phase on 01 -14 February 2024, whereby NSA officials will have to go back to the households that are not matching to determine the actual match status. The households will be contacted either in person or telephonically. The PES then serves to guarantee accurate and reliable data.

Human Resources (HR) / Recruitment

8. The NSA aimed at contracting the unemployed communities to serve as Census enumerators, in their own constituencies. Census and Post Enumeration Survey field staff positions were advertised on varied platforms and received more than 110,000 applications through the NSA Online Recruitment system. In total 12 688 staff were recruited for the census, whilst 621 staff were recruited from for the

Post Enumeration Survey (PES) making it 13 309 enumerators for both the Census and PES in total. The number of staff availed to NSA from Ministries and institutions throughout the country stood at 376.

9. The NSA ensured inclusivity by giving preference to applicants of marginalized communities and people with disabilities.

Transportation Services (Vehicles)

10. The NSA employed the method of transport services where vehicle owners provided their vehicles to the agency for compensation. In total 2 926 vehicles were used as part of the transportation services for the Census and PES. Government provided 114 vehicles, a boat as well as a helicopter in order to reach all areas. The NSA remains grateful for all the assistance received.

Modern and Digital census

11. For the first time Namibia conducted a modern and digital census whereby tablets were used to collect the census data from the population. NSA deployed 12,970 tablets to all regions and only 22 were lost countrywide. This is due to robust controls and security measures put in place to safeguard the tablets. The public is hereby assured that all data that was on the lost devices was fully encrypted and no data leaks/breach has been experienced. The NSA would like to also thank the field staff for handling the census gadgets responsibly. Furthermore, NSA would like to thank United Nations Economic for Africa (UNECA) and Statistics South Africa for availing Tablets to Namibia to undertake a digital census in line with the UN recommendations. We also would like to thank the Ministry Of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation for availing the electronic recruitment system to facilitate all census recruitments.

Payments

12. It is essential to highlight the significant efforts invested in this crucial undertaking, despite encountering various hurdles which naturally come with projects of such magnitude. Specifically, addressing payment delays stemming from the verification process was a major concern, where advocates and key stakeholders worked tirelessly to resolve the compensation issues faced by field staff.

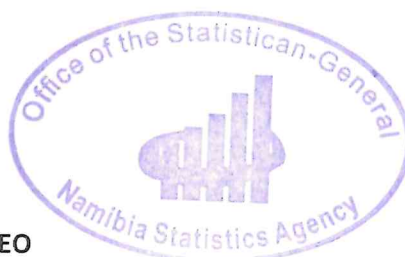
13. Amid the challenges, particularly payment delays to the enumerators, the Agency recruited additional HR temporary staff to speed up the verification process. Upholding accuracy, though the verification process was lengthy, the Agency made sure that all payments are done according to goods and services provided during the census enumeration. NSA is are happy that we have managed to pay the enumerators and vehicle owners and we are glad we did so with the utmost diligence.
14. Moreover, enumerators encountered many challenges during data collection, such as difficulties accessing farms due to locked gates and household members not being at home, resistance from some members of the public. We are also glad that such issues were often resolved.
15. To address field challenges like accessing farms, partnerships with NamPol and Neighbourhood Watch groups were fostered for safety reasons. Extending the enumeration period was necessary to account for households unavailable during the actual phase. Additionally, those vehicles that were not selected were designated as reserves by the Agency. Despite these hurdles, the NSA remained persistent to navigate through these challenges.
16. The NSA would like to take this opportunity to thank and appreciate the cooperation of the nation that ensured that the census enumeration was run successfully. It is the mandate of the NSA to ensure that statistics for development is available and we can only appreciate the efforts of our people for granting us the opportunity to receive information from them. The preliminary census results will be available in the first half of 2024, whilst the main report towards the second half of the year. The public will be informed of the exact month of release before time.
17. For more information and updates on the 2023 Population and Housing Census, please visit our official website at www.nsa.org.na or contact our office at 061 431 3200 or email to 2023-census@nsa.org.na

I thank you.



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Media Release



About Us

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

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