

# **MEDIA RELEASE BY MR TOM ALWEENDO, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION, ON UPCOMING 2011 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES**

Date: August 2010  
Place: WINDHOEK

Ladies and Gentlemen from the Media

1. This afternoon I would like to provide some information with regard to the 2011 Population and Housing census. This will be our third post-independence census, to be held in August 2011. The exact date is still to be determined. The census will give the actual count of each individual member of the population and their demographic and socio-economic characteristics. The last such count in Namibia was carried out in 2001.
2. For more than a year, the Central Bureau of Statistics has been fully engaged with the preparatory activities for the 2011 census. One of the major preparatory activities is census mapping. Census mapping is undertaken with the objective to ensure a complete count of every individual person within the country and that there are no omissions or duplications in counting such people. The result from such mapping is the division of the whole country into small geographical areas called enumeration areas that will each be assigned to individual enumerators to count the people in houses, institutions and everyone within the borders of Namibia during a specified period of time, normally two a weeks period.
3. Unlike in previous mapping exercises, this time technology has been enhanced to digitally capture dwelling units frame in addition to infrastructure related attributes. Information will be captured for all dwelling structures in the country. This is done for a number of reasons. One reason is to improve data collection by capturing all housing units as an important component of the exercise. Secondly, this approach enhances the dissemination of data at different geographical boundaries and the time series analysis thereof. The dwelling frame will enable construction of Master Sample Frame based on dwelling units instead of enumeration areas as has been the practice before.
4. Mapping officials are currently deployed in six northern regions with a view to ensure that coverage is completed in these high densely populated areas before the onset of the rainy season particularly in flood prone areas. The mapping exercise will also collect and update information on physical and social infrastructure such as education and health facilities, police stations, conservancies etc. The end result will be an information system that will for example enable quick responses during disasters such as floods or droughts. The mapping exercise is envisaged to be completed by May 2011.
5. The extent to which the mapping exercise is properly executed has a bearing on the accuracy of data collection by increasing the coverage rate. During the 2001 Population and Housing Census the coverage rate was a remarkable 98 percent which is high by international standards and it was the highest coverage recorded in Africa by then. As a country, we should commit ourselves to do even better this time, that is, to make sure that everyone who resides within the borders of Namibia on the census reference night is counted. For this to be realized, we need to mobilize and muster resources for this important national endeavor.
6. It is standard good practice for undertakings of this magnitude to pretest the data collection instruments which are going to be used. These are the questionnaire, instruction manuals, census maps, and all the

logistics. We will therefore carry out Pilot Census as close as possible to the anticipated period of enumeration for which training is currently going on and the deployment of staff thereafter. This will be conducted on a small scale in selected areas in all regions and awareness campaigns will be specifically focused on these areas.

7. While the census exercise is an important part of our planning process, it is unfortunately expensive. While the National Planning Commission pledges to do everything possible in its mandate to ensure that enough resources are mobilized, I wish to underscore the need for all stakeholders to play their part. At some point institutions will be required to provide resources for example availing personnel and vehicles for census enumeration activities. Equally media institutions will be encouraged to disseminate information to the public on this very important national exercise to ensure that everybody is counted.
8. Given that some of the information to be collected as part of the census can be regarded as confidential, I want to ensure you that the confidentiality of all information collected is well protected by law. For example, census officials are not allowed to reveal or discuss any information collected with unauthorized persons. In addition, all officials are required to take the Oath of Secrecy before they get involved in data collection activities.
9. Members of the public are also encouraged to report any misconduct or abuse of government property by census officials to our office, the Namibian Police and the ACC. The officials will be clearly identifiable and are obliged to carry such identification at all times. We have ensured that officials have been trained sufficiently to be good ambassadors of the National Planning Commission throughout this exercise.
10. Last but not by any means least important, I want to thank all the institutions and individuals who provided support to the NPC in conducting the last census. Some institutions provided materials, financial or technical support, while others mobilized their communities to cooperate and provide the information required. The media institutions assisted in disseminating census information to the public.
11. We hope that we can continue to rely on your support and cooperation during the implementation of these important preparatory activities for the 2011 Population and Housing Census. We request all members of our society to give your cooperation and support. I would now want to publicly announce that the mapping exercise is now officially launched.

**I THANK YOU.**