



## **NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LABOUR COUNCIL**

### **SUMMARY REPORT ARISING FROM THE DIALOGUE SESSION WITH STATISTICS SOUTH AFRICA (STATS SA) ON THE CENSUS 2022 HELD 04 OF FEBRUARY 2022 11h00 – 13h00, MICROSOFT TEAMS (Virtual Platform)**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. The Department of Statistics South Africa (StatSA) advised that it was preparing for the Census 2022, to be conducted in February 2022, and thus requested to engage Nedlac social partners on this process. The dialogue session on Census 2022 was therefore convened by the Development Chamber, to afford the StatSA with an opportunity to formally present to the Nedlac social partners, on the importance of conducting the census and to engage them on the processes, procedures, and challenges encountered in preparing and conducting the Census.
- 1.2. The session was facilitated by Ms. Tsholo Lelaka, Acting Senior Manager for Labour and Development Unit. Apologies submitted for Ms. Lisa Seftel, Nedlac Executive Director, Ms. Nobuntu Sibisi, Nedlac Executive Manager: Programmes, Mr. Herman Tsebe, Mr. Thembinkosi Josopu, and Ms. Laura Kganyago from community constituency, as well as Mr. Godfrey Selematsela from organised Labour who were unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments.

#### **2. PRESENTATION FROM STATS SA IN CONDUCTING CENSUS 2022**

- 2.1. The Statistician General (SG) Mr. Risenga Maluleka, made a presentation and stated that the Statistics South Africa Act No 6 of 1999 mandated the Department of Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) to conduct census every five years.
- 2.2. Stats SA conducted census in 2001 and in 2011 however, the same could not be conducted in 2006 due to financial constraints. The costs for conducting census were estimated around R3 billion. This process provides for a total count of the population whereby all people including children, babies, homeless and foreign nationals within the borders of the country are counted. It also collects data about the country's socio-economic dynamics. Census data assist government departments and research institutions to make decisions based on empirical evidence.

- 2.3. The presentation on census 2022 focused on the process of census undertaken by Government and its constitutional mandate and objectives. The details of how this project will be rolled out this year were tabled, and it included safety measures of the field workers, general public, resources allocation, technological issues including social media and publicity channels.
- 2.4. The census played a significant role as it measured the impact of policies such as industrial development.
- 2.5. The application for data collection process, applications of field workers and human resources system of paying field workers were developed locally. This was the first time an African country had utilized a locally developed application for data collection. Countries such as Namibia were already showing interest in obtaining the developed application.
- 2.6. Other countries within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) had collaborated with the Department to observe the process.
- 2.7. The Department encouraged everyone to be counted and indicated that those who refuse to cooperate with the field workers to be counted may be jailed or be fined for such act. The detailed presentation by the SG is available as Annexure 1 of this report.

## **2.8. Input from Labour**

- 2.8.1. Labour sought clarity on how the Department envisaged dealing with child headed households whereby children from certain households have assumed adult responsibilities and have no form of identification or any record of birth registration and in some instances the country of origin is unknown.
- 2.8.2. It sought clarity on security measures which have been put in place by the Department to ensure that the census officials were protected when carrying out their tasks of conducting the census, given the high crime rate, particularly in the hijacked buildings in Johannesburg which are controlled by crime syndicates.
- 2.8.3. In addition, it sought clarity on whether Government had considered issues of access to farms and other remote areas to conduct the count for the farm dwellers, and dwellers from the new informal areas that have recently emerged.
- 2.8.4. It sought clarity on whether the Department would conduct site visits to workplaces with the view of conducting the head counts as this would also reinforce work done by field workers.
- 2.8.5. It recommended that people should be encouraged to file their registration online as this will complement the work done by the Department.

## **2.9. Input from Community**

- 2.9.1. Community supported the input made by Labour on the child-headed households, and requested the Department to elaborate on processes to be followed in conducting the counts in the informal settlements.
- 2.9.2. It inquired if it was necessary to count every individual in the country or whether the counting would be undertaken on a selected sample.
- 2.9.3. It further sought clarity on how individuals would receive confirmation on whether they have been counted.
- 2.9.4. It requested Government to elaborate on the meaning of self-numerator and steps to be followed by individuals after receiving a pin. Furthermore, it asked Government to confirm the expiry date for registration and what plans were put in place to curb poor registration.

## **2.10. Response from the Department of Stats SA**

- 2.10.1. In terms of child-headed households, the Department stated that it targeted the eldest person in the household who could answer questions on behalf of other household members. The field workers aim to gather as much information as possible for that particular household. The Department also tried to use historical information such as events, as the base for this process to assist them in answering the questions, e.g. Soccer World Cup. The answers provided by respondents are therefore captured on the system.
- 2.10.2. The Department confirmed that hijacked buildings would be visited particularly during the process of the numeration of the homeless, as there are people residing in some of the highjacked buildings. In this regard, the field workers would be accompanied or assisted by security personnel in gaining access to these buildings.
- 2.10.3. The Department would not visit workplaces; however, it planned to leverage on leaderships of society to assist in terms of disseminating information in various work areas. A Government Communication Information System (GCIS) was used to share census information with sister Government Departments, to ensure that relevant Constituencies were informed about the census processes.
- 2.10.4. A memorandum of understanding had been signed with the gated communities with controlled access.
- 2.10.5. On access to farms and security, the Department had presented to the National Coordinating Committee which consists of the clusters of security in the country and shared the plans of census rollout in order to enhance security measures.

- 2.10.6. Various engagements had been convened with the Agricultural formations to share the approach that would be suitable for specific agricultural or farming communities. The invitation was also extended to farming communities where engagements were convened annually and quarterly on the information about this new collection modes which promotes remote completion of data and engagement. Government further took cognizance of the fact that farm workers may not have a luxury of using some of these modes. Therefore, appointments had been arranged with the farm owners to gain access on the farms and to agree on appropriate time to conduct the count.
- 2.10.7. In terms of growing informal settlements, Government stated that in its preparatory work, it received the updates on new developments of informal areas in the country. A process to subdivide the vacant pocket areas would be undertaken closer to the census, the information would then be verified whether those areas were still vacant or there were new developments. In instances where there were new developments, Government would recruit and deploy field workers to visit those areas.
- 2.10.8. In terms of self-numeration process, Government encouraged the members of the public to register online. Once the process has been completed, the system would therefore generate the one-time pin (OTP), thereafter the users would be issued with a link that would prompt them to complete an online questionnaire. Once the online questionnaire has been completed, the system would issue the user with a reference number to serve as evidence that the self-numeration process has been completed. The reference number would be sent to the user's mobile device or any means of preferred communication that has been registered by the user. This reference number could be used post self-numeration as evidence that such household or member of the public has been counted.
- 2.10.9. Post-numeration, Government would conduct the survey after a field activity has been concluded, to determine undercounting as well as possible overcounting. In addition, international consultants were working both with Stats SA and Stats Council to evaluate the veracity of information gathered in this regard.
- 2.10.10. Government confirmed that there were two important dates and activities to note, namely:
- 2.10.11. Completion of the online registration for households should be done by 05 February 2022.
- 2.10.12. Completion of the online questionnaire by 09 February 2022, by registered individuals who would have received the link. Beyond this date the online completion will be suspended to enable the other two modes of conducting the survey to remain in place i.e. the telephonic and personal interview modes.

- 2.10.13. The Department does not interview all members of the household, instead only one adult would be identified to respond on behalf of all members of the household.
- 2.10.14. The people in the informal settlements would be counted by Computer Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI) where a field worker would be available to conduct a door to door count. It was important to note that the data recently received, indicated that some households in the informal settlements had registered to complete the online questionnaire.
- 2.10.15. The Department was increasing publicity on the registration of citizens online. In this regard, an engagement was convened with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), and they were provided devices to assist with the registration process. In addition, various strategies to encourage the youth to register and partake in the census 2022 process had been put in place. The youth was expected to assist the field workers whenever they are in their communities.
- 2.10.16. Government confirmed that it envisaged releasing the results of census in the next 12 months.

## **2.11. Possible partnership with the Nedlac social partners to promote the census 2022**

- 2.11.1. The Department requested assistance from the Nedlac social partners in terms of publicizing census 2022. Government indicated that a tool kit had been developed for this process and it would be shared with social partners for further distribution to their Constituencies and sectors, to ensure that members of the public were aware of the census 2022.

## **3. CONCLUSION**

- 3.1.1. Social partners appreciated the information shared by the Department and committed to utilise various avenues, including their social media platforms to publicize the census. The Department would share the tool kit and a video (data free) which provides guidance on online registration.
- 3.1.2. Social partners looked forward to the Census 2022 and the release of the results once all the necessary processes had been finalised.
- 3.1.3. Government welcomed an opportunity to engage with Nedlac social partners in future on the Departments legislation and policies applicable to the Development Chamber.
- 3.1.4. This report concludes the engagements on the dialogue session on Census 2022.

**ATTENDANCE REGISTER - ENGAGEMENT WITH STATISTICS SOUTH AFRICA (STATS SA) ON THE CENSUS 2022  
HELD 04 OF FEBRUARY 2022 11h00 – 13h00**

<b>BUSINESS</b>	<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b>LABOUR</b>	<b>GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>SECRETARIAT</b>
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