



REPORT

**DIALOGUE SESSION ON THE INCOME & EXPENDITURE SURVEY 2022/23,
HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2022 FROM 13H00-14H00**

PLATFORM: MICROSOFT TEAMS (VIRTUAL)

Chairperson: Ms Nobuntu Sibisi (Nedlac Secretariat)

1. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE SESSION

- 1.1. The Chairperson provided a brief background and indicated that the purpose of the dialogue session was to allow the Department of Statistics South Africa (StatsSA) to share information with the Nedlac social partners on the 2022/2023 Income and Expenditure Survey, its value, processes followed by the Department in collating the information and the role that can be played by social partners in this regard.

2. PRESENTATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS SOUTH AFRICA (STATS SA) ON THE 2022/2023 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SURVEY

- 2.1. Mr. Werner Ruch, Project Director for Income and Expenditure Survey in the Department highlighted the key factors of the survey as follows:
 - 2.1.1. The Income & Expenditure Survey (IES) is a household-based sample survey conducted by the Department of Statistics South Africa (StatsSA). Over the next year, information would be collected from around 32 000 households living in South Africa on all purchases, consumption, spending, and income earned by households.
 - 2.1.2. Detailed information was provided on the IES conducted in 2010/2011. During this period there were budget cuts and the Department optimized how it conducted the survey to improve productivity and improve output. It required a shorter diary-keeping period and adopted a new structure on the fieldwork approach.
 - 2.1.3. Stats SA conducts two household expenditure surveys as part of its household survey programme namely; the Income & Expenditure Survey (IES), and Living Conditions Survey (LCS) last conducted in 2014/2015. Due to funding limitations, Stats SA was unable to conduct the LCS and there was a 7-year data gap in this regard.

- 2.1.4. In 2018, Stats SA planned to conduct the survey but due to budget limitations it was unsuccessful. However, between 2017 and 2021 it looked at ways to modernize its processes and transitioned from the traditional paper-based approach to a digital approach to collecting information. In this regard it transitioned to “Cappy”, which was a face-to-face interview with a handheld device or “Kathy”, which was through the telephone.
- 2.1.5. Funding was secured from the National Treasury to conduct the survey. The IES 2022/23 was aligned with the four strategic outcomes (i.e. insightful data, agile operating model, inter-connected statistical systems and transformed capability) and was in pursuit of transforming the statistical landscape in the country.
- 2.1.6. Stats SA remains aligned with the 2030 vision of the National Development Plan (NDP) as the plan envisioned to eliminate levels of poverty, specifically below the lower band poverty line by 2030, and reduce inequality as measured by the Gini coefficient targeted at 0.6 by 2023.
- 2.1.7. The survey will be updating and reweighting the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket of goods and services, providing a profile of the household economy and input for the development and maintenance of National Accounts. In addition, the survey will provide an update of money-metric, multidimensional and subjective poverty profiles and update the inequality profile of South Africa.

3. INPUTS BY CONSTITUENCIES

3.1. Business Constituency input:

- 3.1.1. Business requested a brochure or a poster to share with its Constituency for broader distribution.
- 3.1.2. It needed clarity on the number of households that are engaged in the survey.
- 3.1.3. Business wished the Stats SA team good luck in their task ahead as it seems difficult to undertake.

3.2. Community Constituency input

- 3.2.1. Community thanked the Stats SA detailed presentation and appreciated the work done by the Stats SA, and that the Department dealt a lot with soliciting knowledge that would later inform the development of policies for the country. This was commendable.
- 3.2.2. It raised concerns about the adequacy of the samples and it suggested having further discussions with Stats SA about the methodologies applied in improving the sample numbers to get a fair representation.

- 3.2.3. The continuous growth in poverty and inequality numbers in the Republic was a concern to Community Constituency.
- 3.2.4. Community welcomed the use of an APP as it will be another option to have every household participate to make the sample broader.
- 3.3. Labour Constituency input:
 - 3.3.1. Labour thanked and acknowledged the presentation from Stats SA and was optimistic to have further engagements with Stats SA.
- 3.4. Stats SA responses to input raised by the social partners:
 - 3.4.1. It committed to making available the digital brochures to Secretariat for a broader distribution to Nedlac social partners.
 - 3.4.2. Stats SA agreed with Community that the whole process was about closing critical gaps that exist in society. It was aware that poverty and inequality were the biggest problems facing the country and in the absence of this critical information to be surveyed it will be difficult to put systems in place to remedy the situation.
 - 3.4.3. The samples designed were developed from the Stats SA master frame, and these samples were designed to produce adequate and reliable statistical estimates at national, provincial and metros.
 - 3.4.4. Funding was a key challenge for the survey. The main objective of Stats SA was to provide data at a lower level by including the district level in reporting estimates as in line with the Presidential District Development Model.
 - 3.4.5. Stats SA welcomed the input and it will consider the online tool for data collection.
 - 3.4.6. Approximately 1230 households have done the survey. Four survey periods were currently active.
 - 3.4.7. Stats SA was happy to have further engagements with Labour and Community or any other social partners.

4. WAY FORWARD

- 4.1.1. It was agreed that Government will share the digital brochures with the Secretariat for a broader distribution to Nedlac social partners.
- 4.1.2. It was agreed that Secretariat will assist in organizing any bilateral meetings between Government and any Constituency should a need arise.

**ATTENDANCE REGISTER FOR THE DIALOGUE SESSION ON SESSION ON THE OVERVIEW OF THE INCOME & EXPENDITURE
SURVEY 2022/23**

Business	Community	Labour	Government (Stats SA)	Nedlac Secretariat
Siobhan Leyden Annelize Crosby Sanelisiwe Jantjies Fani Xaba Kgauhelo Qwabe Theo Boshoff Vitor Ferrao Happy Khambule Deidre Penfold Martin Ginster Chris Schmidt Chris Campbell	Lucas Qakaza Lawrence Bale Laura Kganyago Puleng Tsebe	Matthews Parks Boitumelo Molete Sipho Ndhlovu Brenda Modise Ruby Oliver	Werner Ruch Thabo Manchidi Patrick Kelly Wele Kalaote Cheryl Taylor Judas Ngobeni Khathutshelo Mathelemusa Prudence Nkonyane Tlou Mokgehle	Nobuntu Sibisi Priscilla Mashabane Bongani Mahlalela