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## Statistics Council

### THE SOUTH AFRICAN STATISTICS COUNCIL

In terms of the Statistics Act (Act no.6 of 1999) the South African Statistics Council has been established. The Council consists of 25 members appointed by the Minister, from nominations obtained through public invitations and a request to the executive council of each province. The Statistician-General is by virtue of his office (after consultation with the Cabinet), a member of Council and may attend meetings of the Council.

The members of the Council possess relevant professional proficiency and interest and are broadly representatives of groups or interests concerned with the production and use of official statistics. They hold office for a period not exceeding 3 years and will advise the Minister, the Statistician-General or an organ of state that produces statistics with regard to-

- Matters referred to the Council by the Minister, the Statistician-General or the organ of the state;
- Any matter regarding the collection, processing, analysis, documentation, storage and dissemination of statistics, including the taking of a population census, which should, in the opinion of the Council, be studied or undertaken;
- The elimination of unnecessary overlapping or duplication with regard to the collection or publication of statistics by organs of state; and
- any matter considered relevant or expedient by the Council for the effective carrying out of the above-mentioned Act

The Council will meet at least twice a year and members not in full-time employment of the state will be reimbursed for travel costs and given a token honorarium.

### THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN STATISTICS COUNCIL

1. Mrs. L N N Bhengu-Baloyi
2. Prof R E Dorrington
3. Mr. L J Fouché
4. Prof J S Galpin
5. Mr. M J Jack
6. Dr S Khoza
7. Dr M A Lesaoana
8. Mr. C W Loewald
9. Mr. J M Mamabolo
10. Mrs. A M Marais-Martin
11. Mr. J D May
12. Mr. M McDonald
13. Dr C E Meth
14. Mr. N Mokhesi
15. Mr. C Morolo
16. Prof T Z Mthembu
17. Mr. R Naidoo
18. Mr. J L Ngwenya
19. Prof M E Nthangeni
20. Mr. F Y Patel
21. Prof T B Pretorius
22. Mr. J W Prinsloo
23. Prof C E W Simkins
24. Dr H A Southhall (Chairperson)
25. Mr. G E Tabane

The secretariat: Herman Riekert tel: (012)310-8019

Cebile Simelane tel: (012)310-8588

#### Activities of the Statistics Council from January- April 2001

Since its inception the new SA Statistics Council is playing a meaningful and active role in statistical matters. The Statistics Council has had 3 meetings which involved in depth discussions and making recommendations on the following:

- A. The Population Census 2001 Questionnaire**
- B. Survey of Total Earnings and Employment (STEE)**

Apart from the above-mentioned documents there are also 2 documents ("**Proposed frameworks for National Statistics System**" and "**Review of structure for Stats SA**") tabled by Stats SA at the Council meeting of 24 January 01(to be precise) which the Council is currently looking at.

Some Council members ( Dr Southall, Prof Simkins, Prof Galpin, Mr Prinsloo and Mr. Patel) had a meeting with Stats SA staff **on the 28 March for final discussion on** the questionnaire and to ensure that the Council's recommendations have been considered.

**The Statistics Council's Labour sub committee** was set up. Its membership is as follows:

1. Mr. Naidoo
2. Dr Meth
3. Prof Galpin
4. Dr Lesaoana
5. Mr. Prinsloo
6. Prof Simkins
7. Dr Southall

Some Statistics SA staff members will attend the meetings of the sub committee to co-opt necessary expertise. The purpose of Labour sub committee is to discuss Labour Statistics and to consider recommendations for Stats SA.

The Labour sub committee had its first **meeting on 6 April 01** to look at the above issues.

Furthermore , the Statistics Council Chairperson (Dr Southall) accompanied some of the Statistics SA staff members( including the Statistician General) to Uganda and Tanzania. The aim of these visits was to investigate training opportunities for Statistics SA and looking at the role of their Councils . Dr Southall has compiled a report covering these visits.