



Wednesday  
18 January 2012

Cape Town  
South Africa



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# Back in the Mother City!



*The ASSD journey continues ...*

Cape Town's majestic Table Mountain voted the natural 7<sup>th</sup> Wonder of the World in

Welcome to Cape Town, Mother City of Africa, and an ideal holiday destination throughout the year. The Western Cape is regarded as one of the most beautiful regions in the world. So, relax you are on our shores at the best time of the year. The great thing about a new year is that sense of new beginnings. All seems possible and we invariably allow ourselves to dream. And Cape Town is a perfect fit to an African dream. It's one of the continent's ultimate dream cities and the most vibrant city in Mzansi (as South Africa as often referred by locals) as well as the legislative seat of government.

This city was the first to host the Africa Symposium on Statistical Development in 2006 and in the next couple of days you'll understand why. Cape Town is a leader in African hospitality and can simply be labelled as larger than life. This city boasts a multitude of entertainment, ranging from outdoor activities and adventures in the sun to a roaring nightlife under

neon signs. Let's quickly take a "Sho't Left" at some of the locations this city has to offer. However, there are a plethora of locations and activities in and around Cape Town, so we'll just mention but a few.

For the next few days you'd be waking up to the impressive presence of Table Mountain, one of the new provisional Seven Wonders of the World. With or without its puffy white table cloth it takes one's breath away.

Along the Cape Peninsula lies Cape Point, which is a unique destination where you can place your feet in two oceans, the Atlantic and the Indian, at the same time.

Recently, the African National Congress celebrated its 100 years of existence and Robben Island is worth visiting. The island was, for many years, home to South African's political prisoners including the iconic father of the nation, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

If you are looking to spice up your visit in the city with some local flair, then visit Kwa-Mzolis in Gugulethu, a 20-minute drive on the outskirts of the city. Principally a popular day and night spot Kwa-Mzolis is a butchery where meat and music fuse together in harmony, as well as being a place to hang-out in the township.

This proves the city offers both best sites and history and the good news is you don't have to break the bank when you travelling to Cape Town, it's quite affordable.

From the landmark beaches of Clifton and Camps Bay to the vibrant V&A Waterfront, Cape Town city centre and the award-winning wine farms of Stellenbosch and Franschhoek - time spent in CapeTown will not be forgotten. As we always say in Cape Town, sun, sand and see you soon.

# The Importance of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

“To make people count, we first need to be able to count people,” said Dr. Lee Jong Wook, former Director-General of the World Health Organisation in 2003. The demographic incidents of births and deaths are the two most fundamental milestones of human lives. These form vital statistics and are, arguably, the key indicators of a nation’s health system.

Vital Statistics data are useful in providing health information for small geographic areas. They are advantageous to government in providing continuous and complete information on births and deaths, including causes of death.

According to the United Nations, civil registration is “the continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal recording of the occurrence and characteristics of vital events pertaining to the population as provided through decree or regulation in accordance with the legal requirements of a country”.

In simple terms civil registration is a system that assists with providing information that enables governments to plan services for the population.

It is prudent that citizens are recorded. “We want to register children,” Statistician-General Pali Lehohla said. “Knowing that you exist is a basic human right.” With the absence of civil registration a number of rights cannot be

claimed. This means the state should make birth registration accessible and available to all children, including asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants.

In Sudan and South Africa, a child cannot go to a school without a birth certificate. In Tanzania a birth certificate is required for university enrolment. In Cameroon, to be admitted to a school, each child needs a birth certificate carrying their name and proving their age. These are a few examples of how crucial civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) are.

Organisations such as the World Bank, the World Health Organisation, the Health Metrics Network, UNICEF and the United Nations Statistics Division are among those that have recognised the need for vital statistics in developing countries.

CRVS assist in the better management of a state. “We need to know and understand what we are working with,” Lehohla said. It is important to recognise the unique role that CRVS plays for individuals in recording important life events, providing identity and for accessing services.

The CRVS are used for

- Policy-making, for example, to form the basis for policy guidance, planning and projections
- Administration, to monitor demographic trends and action programmes
- Research, to support the scientific study of the interrelationship between fertility and mortality trends and socio-economic development

Complete civil registration allows governments to effectively respond to citizens’ needs in the case of natural disaster, conflict, internal displacement and refuge.

It will also allow better analysis of and policy formulation to address issues of marginalisation and social exclusion of certain groups in society.

## The Editor

Welcome to the first edition of the ISlbane Daily Symposium Newsletter. ISlbane means “light” and through this tool you will be informed daily on important developments as they unfold here at the 7<sup>th</sup> ASSD in Cape Town.

South Africa is honoured to be hosting the ASSD for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time since its inception six years ago ... The symposium has exceeded everyone’s expectation and as the Mother City welcomes back the ASSD to South Africa, it is with great anticipation that we kick start the next phase of the ASSD Journey 2011 - 2016.

In this first edition we bring you important announcements on programme changes as well as information on various committee and other meetings that will take place during the conference week.

ISlbane serves as a critical tool in keeping the ASSD community and StatsCom Africa informed and enlightened on events as they unfold. Should you wish to share any important announcements or any stories regarding specific activities, you can contact the ASSD editor via e-mail: [sivuyilem@statssa.gov.za](mailto:sivuyilem@statssa.gov.za) or pay us a visit at the The Speakers Preparation Room (156) or contact the secretariat team for further information.

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## The long road to Cape Town

As leading statisticians and demographers descend on Cape Town this week from around the continent, ISlbane looks back previous meetings, which focused on the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses.

“During the August 2005 meeting in New York, the Expert Group Meeting on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses was concerned by the lack of progress and preparation at the African level. It resolved that a meeting of census experts be organised to prepare the report in time for submission to the UN Statistics Commission in March 2006,” says Risenga Maluleke, Statistics South Africa Deputy Director-General for Corporate Relations. Thus the process of mobilising African countries to undertake population and housing censuses had begun.

It was in Yaoundé, Cameroon, during November 2005 that African countries mandated South Africa to coordinate the continent’s contribution to the United Nations 2010 Population and Housing Censuses. From that, the ASSD was born, and it continued to meet annually to deliberate on issues around the 2010 round of censuses.

At the past ASSD held in Cairo, a new strategic direction emerged as most African countries had concluded their censuses. A resolution was taken in Cairo to promote civil registration and vital statistics for the next five years. “These sets of statistics play a prominent role in the socio-economic development of a country,” says Maluleke.

The Africa Symposium on Statistical Development holds its seventh meeting from January 18 to 23 in Cape Town, South Africa, with the theme: “Improving Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Institutional and Human Infrastructure”. The objective of this meeting is to address institutional and human infrastructure challenges faced by the member states in improving the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems.

As the 7<sup>th</sup> ASSD kicks off there is continent-wide optimism that Africa is moving forward in matters statistics as the successful completion of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses has demonstrated. “The governance of statistics in Africa is getting stronger as frameworks and mechanisms are developed,” said Maluleke.

# The 7<sup>th</sup> ASSD: Improving Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Institutional and Human Infrastructure in Africa



Cape Town • South Africa



## Strategic Thrust

The inaugural objective of the ASSD in 2006 was to strengthen collaboration in the mobilisation of African countries to conduct population censuses in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses (RPHC).

The objective has subsequently evolved to encompass the broad scope of African statistical development to fill the glaring data gaps that limit Africa's ability to monitor progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, hence the change of focus for the next five years (2011-2016) to Improving African Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems (CRVS).

## ASSD Achievements in First Five Years (2006-2011)

Six symposia held with themes covering the entire census value chain.

Initial mandate achieved with 31 countries having conducted population censuses and 22 committed to do so in 2010 RPHCs.

### Proposed Broad Theme/ Focus Area

- Improving Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Institutional and Human Infrastructure in Africa
- Standardisation of Causes of Death Classifications and Statistics in Africa
- Promoting Use of Civil Registration Records in Support of Advancing Good Governance in Africa
- Evaluating the Application of UN Principles and Recommendations on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in the African Region
- Promoting Use of Information Technology (IT) Solutions in Improving CRVS in Africa

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# 7<sup>th</sup> ASSD kicks off

"Civil Registration and Vital Statistics" has been placed firmly on the African agenda as the 7<sup>th</sup> Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD) kicks off in Cape Town today.

South Africa is hosting its second ASSD, following a resolution that was adopted at the 6<sup>th</sup> ASSD held in Cairo, Egypt, in 2010, which shifted the focus of the symposia from population and housing census to civil registration and vital statistics systems, beginning in 2012.

The Minister in the Presidency: National Planning Commission, Trevor Manuel, will deliver a keynote address via a recorded message, as will Minister of Home Affairs Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma.

The African Development Bank, the African Union Commission, Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund play a seminal role in estab-

lishment of official statistics in Africa and will present key papers at the 7<sup>th</sup> ASSD.

The Health Metrics Network will deliver a paper on the causes of death, a topic in Africa where HIV/Aids pandemic, malaria, diabetes were often cited as major killers on the continent.

Statistician-General Pali Lehohla says, "**Acknowledgement of a person's existence by government through civil registration is not a numbers game, but a human rights issue and has to be given the serious attention. Africa does not have a system that matches the demand of the modern world as far as civil registration is concerned.**"

Civil registration is a system through which government records the vital events of its citizens and residents thus creating legal documents that are used to establish and protect the civil rights of individuals and to create a data source for the compilation of vital statistics, which government uses for planning for development.

An effective and efficient approach to civil registration and vital statistics will add value to the historic records of Africans, because at present states often only become aware of some citizens' existence when they register at school for the first time or when they die - this battle can be won because South Africa has improved its civil registration.

Civil registration is the conventional source for the generation of continuous and complete vital statistics.

This provides key health and demographic statistics, produces various legal and administrative documents that are the basis for acknowledging and safeguarding basic human rights, as well as critical information required for the implementation of decentralisation and democratisation in most African countries.

The aim is to create a knowledge base and to understand what is required to implement an effective civil registration that mobilises society for that change.

## Wednesday Programme



### Day 1 Wednesday, 18 January 2012

Programme Director: *South Africa*

08:00 – 09:00	<b>Arrival and Registration</b>		
09:00 – 12:00	<b>Session 1: Opening Session</b>	Venue: <i>Plenary Room</i>	
	Joint Opening of 7 <sup>th</sup> ASSD and StatCom-Africa III Meetings		
09:00 – 11:30	<b>Opening Session 1:</b>		
	1. Welcome and introductions: <i>Programme Director</i>		
	2. Statements: <i>ECA, AUC, AfDB</i>		
	3. ASSD/StatCom-Africa Chairpersons statement: <i>ASSD and StatCom-Africa Chairperson</i>		
	4. Ministerial address: <i>Minister in charge of Planning in Angola</i>		
	5. Ministerial address: <i>Minister in charge of Civil Registration in South Africa</i>		
	6. Opening address: <i>Minister in charge of Statistics in South Africa</i>		
11:30 – 12:00	<b>Session 1.2: Awards Ceremony</b>	Venue: <i>Plenary Room</i>	
	1. Certificates of Recognition: <i>Ministers/StatCom-Africa Chairperson</i>		
	2. Acceptance Statements: <i>Award winners</i>		
12:00 – 12:30	<b>Tea/Coffee Break</b>		
12:30 – 13:30	<b>Session 2: ASSD Secretariat's Report</b>	Venue: <i>Plenary Room</i>	Chair: <i>Ghana</i>
	1. ASSD Secretariat's Report: <i>ASSD Secretariat</i>		
	2. South Africa's Census 2011 Observation Report: <i>Young African Statistician(s)</i>		
13:30 – 14:30	<b>Lunch Break</b>		
14:30 – 16:00	<b>Session 3: 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses: Success lessons learnt (2005 -2011 Cadre)</b>	Venue: <i>Plenary Room</i>	Chair: <i>Kenya</i>
16:00 – 16:30	<b>Tea/Coffee Break</b>		
16:30 – 18:00	<b>Session 4: 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses: Challenges, threats, risks and proposed solutions (2012 - 2014 Cadre)</b>	Venue: <i>Plenary Room</i>	Chair: <i>Sierra Leone</i>
18:00 – 18:30	<b>Session 5: Bonus session for Day 1</b>		
	Presentation on African Census Analysis Book Projects by <i>Prof Odimegwu</i>		
18:30 – 19:30	<b>Getting ready for Welcoming Cocktail</b>		
19:30	<b>Social Programme: Welcoming Cocktail</b>	Venue: <i>Lagoon Beach Hotel Roof Top</i>	Dress Code: <i>Smart Casual</i>
	<b>End of Day 1</b>		

### Jour 1 Mercredi, 18 Janvier 2012

Directeur de Programme : *Afrique du Sud*

08:00 – 09:00	<b>Arrivée et inscription</b>		
09:00 – 12:00	<b>Session 1.1 : Ouverture</b>	Lieu : <i>Salle des plénières</i>	
	Ouverture conjointe du 7 <sup>ème</sup> Symposium Africain sur le Développement de la Statistique (SADS) et de la 3 <sup>ème</sup> Commission Statistique des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique (StatCom-Afrique III)		
09:00 – 11:30	<b>Ouverture :</b>		
	1. Mots de Bienvenue et Présentations : <i>Directeur de Programme</i>		
	2. Allocutions : <i>CEA, CUA, BAD</i>		
	3. Allocution du Président du SADS/StatCom-Afrique : <i>Président de SADS/StatCom-Afrique</i>		
	4. Discours Ministériel : <i>Ministre chargé de la Planification de l'Angola</i>		
	5. Discours Ministériel : <i>Ministre chargé de l'état civil de l'Afrique du Sud</i>		
	6. Discours d'ouverture : <i>Ministre chargé des statistiques de l'Afrique du Sud</i>		
11:30 – 12:00	<b>Session 1.2 : Cérémonie de distribution de Prix</b>	Lieu : <i>salle des plénières</i>	
	1. Certificats de Reconnaissance : <i>Ministres/Président de StatCom-Afrique</i>		
	2. Déclarations des Lauréats		
12:00 – 12:30	<b>Pause thé/café</b>		
12:30 – 13:30	<b>Session 2 : Rapport du Secrétariat du SADS</b>	Lieu : <i>Salle de plénière</i>	Présidence : <i>Ghana</i>
	1. Rapport du Secrétariat du SADS : <i>Secrétariat SADS</i>		
	2. Rapport d'observation du Recensement de la Population de 2011 en Afrique du Sud : <i>Jeune(s) Statisticien(s)</i>		
13:30 – 14:30	<b>Pause déjeuner</b>		
14:30 – 16:00	<b>Session 3 : Cycle des Recensements Généraux de la Population et de l'Habitat des années 2010 : Les bonnes Leçons apprises (2005 - 2011)</b>	Lieu : <i>salle des plénières</i>	Présidence : <i>Kenya</i>
16:00 – 16:30	<b>Pause Thé/café</b>		
	<b>Session 4 : Cycle des Recensements Généraux de la Population et de l'Habitat des années 2010 : Défis, Menaces, risques et solutions proposées (2012 - 2014)</b>		
	Lieu : <i>salle des plénières</i> Présidence : <i>Sierra Leone</i>		
16:30 – 18:30	<b>Session 5 : Session supplémentaire Jour 1</b>		
	Présentation des Projets de Livre sur l'Analyse des recensements africains par <i>Prof. Odimegwu</i>		
18:30 – 19:30	<b>Préparation pour le cocktail de bienvenue</b>		
19:30	<b>Programme social : Cocktail de Bienvenue</b>	Lieu : <i>Terrasse de l'hôtel Lagoon Beach</i>	Tenue vestimentaire correcte
	<b>Fin Jour 1</b>		

