State of health in South Africa

The Use of Health Facilities and Levels of Health Conditions in South Africa report gives insight into the state of health in the country. ISIbane reporter and photographer **Mbongiseni Mndebele** reports

A report into the use of health facilities and levels of health conditions in South Africa has revealed that while White and Indian population groups used private healthcare, blacks and coloureds rely on public sector health facilities.

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) released the report at the ISIbalo Conference currently under way at Stellenbosch University in the Western Cape.

The report, titled The Use of Health Facilities and Levels of Health Conditions in South Africa, also found that whites and Indians used their own transport to reach to the health facilities blacks and coloureds walked to public clinics and hospitals.

Presenting the report, Statistician-General Pali Lehohla said it gave insight to policymakers, academia and statisticians on what needed to be done on the ground in order to improve the country's state of health.

"The expectation is that the government's National Health Insurance (NHI), which is at its pilot stage, will change the lives of all, especially in provinces where the extent of disadvantages are prevalent," Lehohla told members of the media and delegates at the conference.

According to the report, the elderly tended to report being ill or injured more than the younger population. Younger people, the report says, suffered more from communicable diseases while adults were prone to chronic conditions.

The report noted that blacks were more prone to communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS compared to 0, 1% of those were who had the dreadful disease among the white population.

Tuberculosis has remained the leading cause of death for South Africans for the past decade. Limpopo had the lowest levels of TB in the country.

The National Planning Commission has identified health in South Africa as one of the nine key continuing challenges.

While blacks were most unlikely to be asthmatic, the report found that asthma was more prevalent among the Indian population especially in KwaZulu-Natal. Lehohla attributed this trend to Durban's humid conditions.

A noticeable number of whites (19, 8%) suffered from "hypertension" compared to 12,4% which is among the black population. Hypertension was highest in the Western Cape while Mpumalanga had the lowest cases of hypertension.

Despite the rate of unemployment, levels of crime, poverty and the state of politics, the report found that only two percent of the country's population suffered from depression or mental illness.

Although there was lower level of absenteeism among black children (4,8%) in schools due to injury or illness, about 11,4% (Indians), 8% (coloureds) and 3,9% (whites) were more absent from school because of injuries and illnesses.

About 63, 7% of South Africans suffered from flu-related illness, especially among the coloured population.
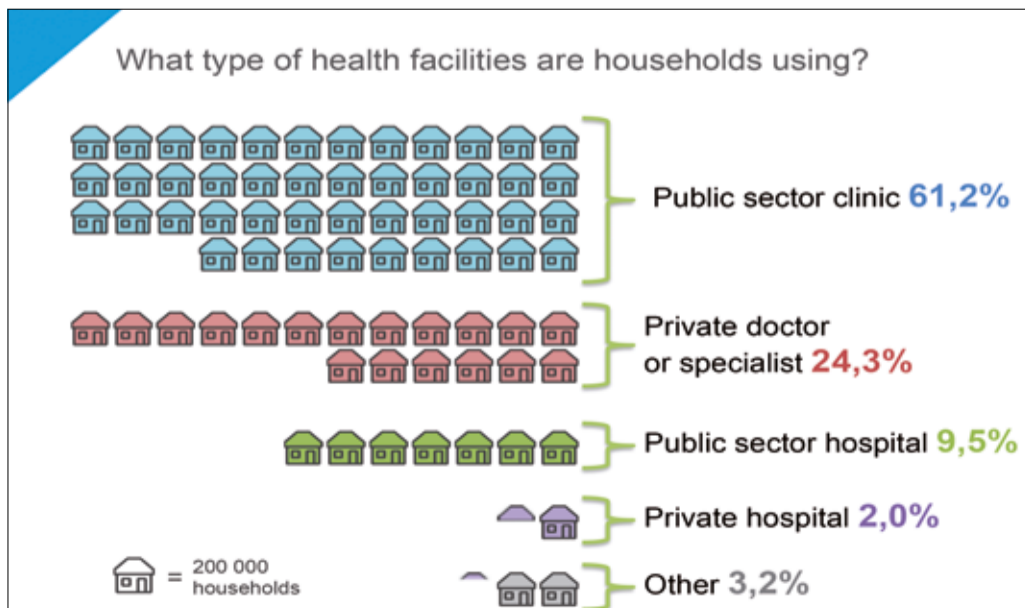
The report found that there was huge disparities in terms of medical aid coverage with the white population leading the pack with 69,6% followed by 40,6% from the Indians. Only 20, 2% of coloureds and 8,8% of blacks are covered by medical aid.

The report is based on information collected from people who participated in the General Household Survey conducted by Stats SA in 2011. The National Planning Commission has identified health in South Africa as one of the nine key continuing challenges.
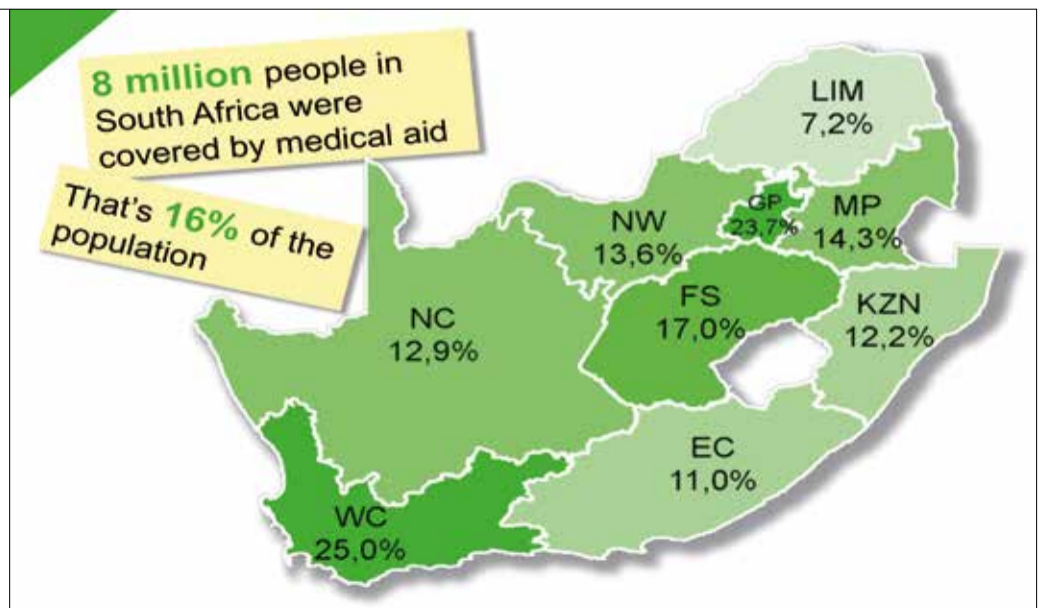
What type of health facilities are households using?

- Public sector clinic **61,2%**
- Private doctor or specialist **24,3%**
- Public sector hospital **9,5%**
- Private hospital **2,0%**
- = 200 000 households
- Other **3,2%**

Most households use public clinics for their health care needs.

8 million people in South Africa were covered by medical aid

That's **16%** of the population

LIM 7,2%
NW 13,6%
GP 23,7%
MP 14,3%
NC 12,9%
FS 17,0%
KZN 12,2%
EC 11,0%
WC 25,0%

Eight million South Africans were covered by medical aid.

Comments on the conference

Rodgers Vukeya finds out how the delegates experienced the conference
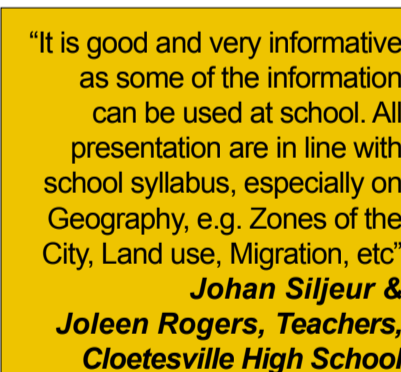
"The conference is very fascinating and informative. I am glad to hear that it is going to be a yearly event."
Carol Lombard
Department of Social
Development

"Very informative workshops on how statistics affects our country and its people, and some ideas on how specific problems can be solved."
Mlunghisi Biyela
Parliament-Research Unit

"Interesting as it is all about statistics. As a planner it compliments my profession. I wish there had been more practical demonstrations of on how to source and use data. I also think the sessions should have been organised better."
Anneke Muller
Stellenbosch University

"It is good and very informative as some of the information can be used at school. All presentation are in line with school syllabus, especially on Geography, e.g. Zones of the City, Land use, Migration, etc"
Johan Siljeur &
Joleen Rogers, Teachers,
Cloetesville High School

"It marks an important milestone in the development of statistical products that are relevant to all spheres of government that are requisite to the advancement of the NDP. Some of the key observations that emerged are such that it provides a broader debate and needs to be entrenched in dialogue necessary for attainment of our country's vision".
Mr Ben Mphahlele
Member of Statistic Council

Mother City uses stats for planning

The city is using statistics in planning its human settlements, writes **Aneen Jordaan**

A one-size fits all housing solution is a thing of the past, if City of Cape Town planning is anything to go by. The City of Cape Town's Human Settlement Directorate uses census information to identify different types of housing needs.

Gone are the 30 square meter Reconstruction and Development Programme houses as an only option.

"Housing opportunities are provided to families to address and best solve their particular needs," said Cape Town city's Trevor Mitchell.

Knowing the different household incomes in the areas needing housing is important.

"In the past building as many houses as possible was the goal. The issue of affordability was not taken into regard. Now the type of housing and affordability is a major consideration," said Mitchell, who was representing the city's research and policy unit.

The city is increasingly using statistics for key policy decisions.

Mixed income developments are being built. Rentals, social housing, building for their needs and the option to buy are now provided. Human Settlements is responsible for developing sustainable integrated human settlements.

According to the City of Cape Town's Human Settlement Directorate, Statistics South Africa's (Stats SA) data is used to inform everything it does in its business. Stats SA's data is used as a standard.

The data is used constructively as a source of factual data. The verifiable data provides assurance. It is deemed an acceptable information source for auditing requirements. It shows were the growth and needs are.

"From planning to decision-making, development of policies and determining where the need is for service delivery," said Mitchell.

The nature of Human Settlements business is people and their needs. Data is important to meet these needs. Projects can be prioritised due to Stats SA's data.

It is known in which areas the need is greatest. Census data provides this information. Census 2011 ward information shows the South East Metro of Cape Town is the area with the greatest need.

This consists mainly of Khayelitsha and Mitchell's plain.

The use of statistics within the Human Settlements goes beyond planning. The five year integrated plan is evaluated and adjusted according to latest statistics. The use of statistics is engrained in every process and daily operations.
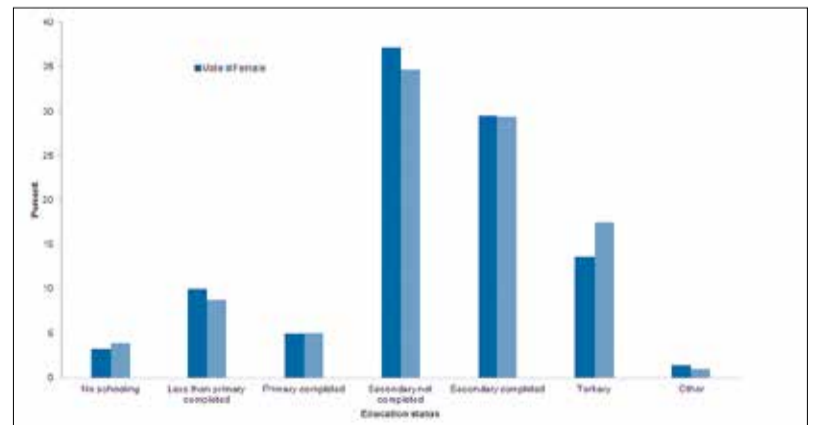
Women still looking through glass ceiling

The glass ceiling is cracked but not broken, with men still more likely to be in employment than women, according to a study conducted on gender mainstreaming in the workplace by Stats SA's Yakubu A. Yakubu and Moses Mefika Sithole from the Human Sciences Research Council.

"The major finding of this study is that there is a higher male than female participation (gender gap) in the labour market," they reported.

Speaking from Stellenbosch, Yakubu and Sithole said that: "females have entered the labour market to almost reach the same proportions as males in most education categories, and have even exceeded male proportions in the 'no schooling' and tertiary' categories".

Using the Quarterly Labour Force Survey as a data source, the researchers "reflected on a gender gap in the South African labour market as an indicator of female participation in the labour force in achieving women empowerment as an implicit/explicit focus of development goals including the UN MDGs (2000)".

For research purposes the original labour market categories - (1) Unemployed, (2) Employed, (3) Not Economically Active and (4) Discouraged Job Seeker - were regrouped

Gender labour market participation by education status

to form the labour force participation status variable - (1,2) = 1 (participate), (3,4) = 2 (Not participate).

The results of the study showed that a higher proportion of males (53.2%) participated in the labour market than females (40.1%). Overall, males were 1.7 times more likely to participate in the labour market than females.

However, female proportions in the labour market have increased and have reached the corresponding proportions of males in most education categories, the researcher reported. "Interestingly, the female proportions have even exceeded the male proportions in the 'no schooling' and 'tertiary education' categories."

Based on the study, the researches recommended that policies be strengthened to empower females to participate in the labour market and that affirmative action be implemented so that South Africa is able to achieve MDG 3 (promote gender equality and empower women), among other goals.

Cheryl Taylor

New varsity brings opportunity

Will a University have a major impact on Northern Cape demographic indicators? **Shirazaan Taylor** reports

A new varsity in Kimberley is likely to lead to a demographic and economic dividend in the Northern Cape, Stats SA official Deon Kleinsmith said.

The Northern Cape is the least populated province in South Africa and has struggled to attract in-ward migration into the province.

Mr Kleinsmith said the construction of a new university would bring impact to population size, increase migration, and hasten secondary effects of demographic changes in the province.

Without doubt, the university construction will yield positive economic benefits for the Northern Cape. "The construction phase of the university is likely to impact positively on the local community and businesses as some building materials are purchased locally and contract workers are employed from the local area, even though some will come from outside the Kimberley area. Studies has revealed as much as 80% of the local people could be used for the

construction phase" says Kleinsmith.

This blends well with National Development Plan's goals on improving education, training and innovation.
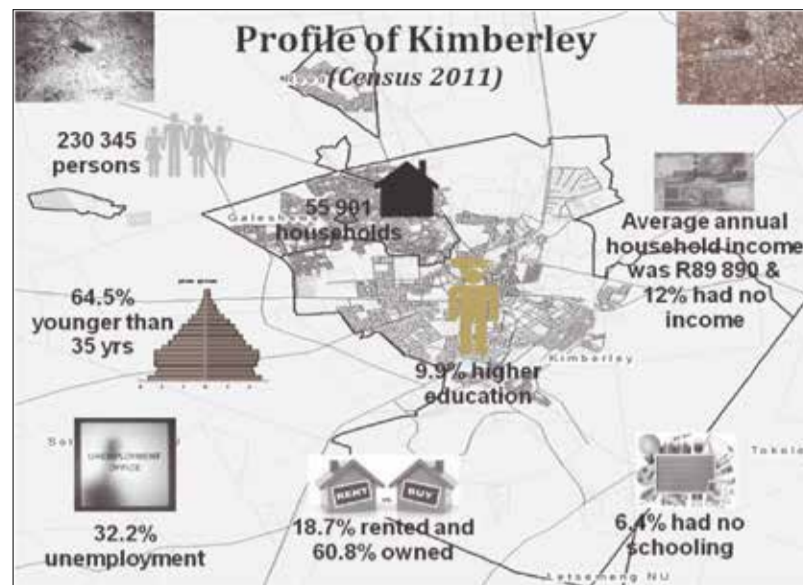
The vision (2030) is to increase enrolment in universities by at least 70% by 2030. Work towards achieving this vision as part of government's broader infrastructure plan, is well underway with the first post-apartheid university for Northern Cape, scheduled to open its doors in 2014.

Located in Kimberley, this higher education institution is expected to augment the offering of the more than 20 other higher education institutions across the country. It is hoped that this new university, which plans to enroll at least 5000 students in its first intake, will provide capacity in meeting the growing demands for higher education

Such a capital investment could, however, have both positive and negative implications for university host cities and affected societies.

Studies indicate that such a new development will have a definite impact on the demographic, socio-economic surroundings.

"There is no doubt that institutions of higher education make a valuable contribution to soci-

ety in terms of education and research. They do, however also perform much broader functions and can contribute towards the general well-being of an area and potentially influence a number of other factors" says Kleinsmith.

Universities also create both direct (employment of university staff) and indirect (additional employment through operations) employment.

One is also likely to see an impact in the spending patterns of students and a greater demand for goods and services (for example, rental accommodation, transportation, books and stationery, retail, banking and entertainment), which may have an impact on the consumer price index (CPI) for that region.

"High enrolment numbers alone, may not necessarily lead to a more vibrant local economy, rather spending power, would be a positive growth indicator" says Kleinsmith.

It is important to note that the estimations on student spending only consider new cash injections into the area. This means that only spending by students from outside the area of study is considered. The assumption is that local students would have spent their money in the area anyway, irrespective

of whether they attended the university or not.

There is a critical shortage of student accommodation around higher education institutions. Kimberley University (according to the Department of Higher Education and Training, 2012) will only be able to accommodate 80% of the student population. This means that the balance would need to be sourced from the private rental market.

According to Kleinsmith studies have shown that the presence of universities impacts the neighbourhood's housing market in several ways "students tend to stay together with roommates and can afford to pay a higher rental price by pooling resources; students and university staff prefer to stay within close proximity of the university which causes price increases by landlords; and through simple factors of supply and demand".

The presence of a university could have a negative effect on property prices as student areas have been associated with many social problems such as increased noise levels, alcohol abuse and other social ills.

"This phenomenon, known as "studentification" particularly in the UK has witnessed a decrease in property values" says Kleinsmith

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Transforming SA's settlements

If South African cities are to transform, planners will have to acquire a new set of skills. A new approach to dealing with urban planning was needed, said CRUISE researcher Dr Danie du Plessis at the 1st ISIbalo Symposia on Evidence Based Decision Making.

There is startling new data on mega trends sweeping through South Africa.

A comparison of the 1994 and 2009 models confirmed that the distance from the city centre to the breakpoint has remained largely unchanged over this 15 year period.

Emerging trend of more decentralised urban structures around secondary urban nodes. No significant changes in the overall intensity of land use mix between 1994 and 2009.

He mentions that there has been significant change in a positive manner to policies and plans.

His research is aimed at the relationship between urban form elements, spatial planning principles/concepts & spatial development

indicators, namely focusing on 3 components eg.

Growth rates of the residential built-up footprint generally far exceeded the growth of the total built-up footprint and continued to increase as a proportion of the total footprint.

Areas of most rapid physical growth at distances between 20km and 30 km from the city centre.

Physical growth of intermediate sized cities largely concentrated at the peripheral locations of the urban structure.

Notable increases in land use mix in historical low income suburbs traditionally typified by largely homogeneous residential dominated land use patterns.

Cape Town represents the highest overall levels of land use mix ranked first on most of the intensity and pattern based land use mix indicators and maintaining that position between 1994 and 2009. Johannesburg showed the biggest increases in overall land use mix.

Vanessa Mostert

Census data helps cities

Ordinary South Africans might find some census questions invasive, but Human Sciences Research Council researcher Dr Jacqueline Borel-Saladin believes the data is critical for planning.

But now, with data released to its lowest level, the value of these questions can been seen.

"Questions such as where you were born and currently live as well as access to service delivery helps in the effective planning and management of areas," says Dr Borel-Saladin.

Rapidly growing cities across South Africa makes the need for detailed data for new merging trends.

Economic and social development is dependent on the continued development and sustainability of the cities in South Africa.

Census 2011 showed that just over 50% of South Africa's population growth happened in the four largest metros in the country. This puts tremendous strain on resources.

The HSRC identified a list of ideal indicators to show the sustainability of a city. This data was then collected from the Census 2011 data and analysed to show how a city is doing. This also helps to inform decision makers on planning for the future while giving policymakers ability to forecast resource use.

The study focussed on the eight metros in South Africa. Gauteng is home to the three largest namely City of Johannesburg, Ekhuruleni and City of Tshwane. The other metros are City of Cape Town, Nelson Mandela Bay,

Buffalo City and Etikweni.

As migration to cities increase, so does the demand for employment, housing and service delivery. The study showed that employment in the eight metros grew on average by 45% compared to the 30% growth in the rest of South Africa.

It also showed that informal dwellings in theses areas also grew. The biggest contributor to this growth was backyard shacks.

\These types of dwellings can have both a negative and positive impact. On the positive side, it could be easier to provide service deliver to these areas a the dwellings are in close proximity to each other.

It also provides extra income to the family in who's backyard the dwelling is and it could give the person living in such dwelling better access to more employment opportunities. On the negative side, this could put further strain on already overloaded service delivery systems that could result in a total collapse.

Dr Borel-Saladin also added that an increase in services such as flush toilets might not always be a good thing as this could put pressure on the sustainability of water sources. Alternative options could also be viable.

The increase in urbanisation raises the pressure on municipalities to increase their service delivery. This increases the likelihood of protests that often turns violent.

Therefore it is important to use Stats SA data and is freely available and easy to access assisting in preparing city plans for the future.

Vienie Botha

Mental illness among SA workforce

Just how sane are South Africans of working age? A study by Dr Tshepo Mabela from Stats SA seeks to find answers to this, and other questions around the mental well-being of South Africans.

Mental well-being is important as the labour force (persons aged 15 to 64 years) as it impairs the ability of a person to be active in the workforce. It also affects every area of an individual's life.

Through her research, Mabela concluded that the biggest predictor of mental health illness was employment to gender, education, age and province over the years, 2004 to 2008.

"The relative risk for reporting single or multiple types of mental health illnesses relative to no mental health illnesses for persons who are not employed increases relative to those that are employed," she said.

Using Stats SA's General Household Survey as a data source, Mabela used three self-reported mental health indicators - depression, alcohol and drug abuse, behavioural problems which could be associated with psychological disturbances and physical factors – in her study.

Mabela then used two models to create an index.

The first model gives the relative risk ratios of scoring 1 on the mental health index (i.e., suffering from one mental health illness identified in the study) relative to scoring 0 (reporting no incidence of mental health illness) for each predictive variable.

The second model on the other hand, gives the relative risk ratios of scoring two or more on multiple illnesses on the mental health index.

In her analysis Mabela discovered that "when controlling for other variables in the model, the relative risk for females relative to males reporting one or multiple types of mental illness relative to no mental health illness is expected to decrease in the five year period when looking at the dependent effect.

"The risk however drops even lower compared to reporting more than one type of mental illness (i.e., decrease of 0,49% for females reporting multiple illnesses compared to a decline of 0,26% in the likelihood of reporting one type of illness in 2008)," said Mabela.

In terms of race, coloured persons were most likely to report one type of mental health illnesses, over the five year period when using model 1. There was a slight difference among those reporting multiple illnesses.

"For example, while in 2004, white people reported higher incidences of multiple illnesses, this had declined by 2008, with Indians more likely to report multiple kind of mental illness, followed by coloured people," said Mabela.

When looking at the breakdown of mental illnesses according to age, "the relative risks of reporting mental health illness relative to no mental health illnesses were consistently higher for persons between the ages of 35 and 54, relative to those aged 15 to 24," said Mabela.

The study also showed that those with tertiary education were much more likely to suffer from mental illnesses compared with those who have no or very little education.

However Mabela urged caution when looking at the results as "how mental health is defined is different among cultures. The accuracy of questionnaire answers could also depend on how the fieldworker explained the question to household," said Mabela.

She said that in some communities mental health issues carried a stigma, which may make people reluctant to reveal their status.

Cheryl Taylor

Programme: Day 3

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, 17 JULY 2013			
08h00 - 09h00	Registration & Tea		
09h00 - 10h15	**Breakaway 15: Space Economy and Analysis**		**Breakaway 16: Spatial Planning and Analysis**
	Sampling methodology and field work changes in the October Household Survey and Labour Force Survey (Dr A Kerr: DataFirst, UCT)		A needs assessment to determine an optimal output geography for Census 2011 (Ms H Verhoef: Stats SA)
	Earnings in the post-Apartheid period (Prof M Wittenberg: DataFirst, UCT)		Measuring dead capital in the City of Johannesburg (Dr M Mohale: Stats SA)
	Transforming national statistics into official statistics in SA: SAPS case study (Mr H Thema: Stats SA)		Bloemfontein's level of compactness in 2011: evidence from population censuses (Ms N Chobokoane: Stats SA)
	The analysis of disaggregated subpopulation migration trends in SA: statistical and spatial techniques (Mr H Geyer: CRUISE)		Spatial socio-economic modelling - filling the data gaps (Mr G Bijker: IHS)
	Venue: Auditorium 1	Chairperson: Mr T Mohoto	Venue: Auditorium 2 Chairperson: Mr N Mukwevho
10h15 -10h45	Morning Tea Break		
10h45 -12h30	Spatial Variation in School Performance explained by Geographical Weighted Regression (Dr A Naidoo: Stats SA)		
	A Centenary of statistics I South Africa 1914-2014. Tracing the relationship between statistics, politics and policy. (Dr M Mafafo, Department of Public Works)		
	Resolutions		
	Closing remarks and the way forward, (Mr P Lehohla, Statistician-General)		
	Venue: Auditorium 2	Chair: Mr T Oosterwyk	
12h30 -14h00	Lunch and departure		

Conference in pictures

Photos by **Mbongiseni Mndebele**