

work programme

2009/10



Preferred supplier of quality statistics



To outline Stats SA's key priorities in the work programme for 2009/10 in line with its 2004/5-2009/10 Strategic Plan

- What are some of the key challenges
- Strategic overview
- Binding principles and legislative mandate
- Key strategic priorities
- Activities to realise priorities
- Competencies
- Challenges
- The future
- Full implementation of the Act

“A legacy for statistical development”

Challenges posed to the South Africa's Statistics Profession by Minister Manuel in 2003

- **Challenge 1:** How do we restore trust in official statistics?
- **Challenge 2:** Noting that there are too few South Africans who have a passion for Statistics, how do we increase statistical literacy and restore numeracy in South Africa?
- **Challenge 3:** In the absence of sufficient discourse on methodology and outcomes, what measures can be taken to address this?
- **Challenge 4:** How do we pace ourselves relative to our capacity, deepening the skills base whilst engaging in a process to determine how much we can realistically undertake?
- **Challenge 5:** What gets measured and who determines that?

Stats SA's role in society

➔ Strategic importance of statistics

- For evidence based decision making
- Managing for development results
- For deepening transparency
- Measuring performance on national priorities
- Measuring performance on international priorities

➔ Stats SA's Mandate

- To provide the state with information about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation in the country

Statistics towards evidence-based decision-making

Society needs basic macro economic and social information to:

- ➔ Understand
- ➔ Inform itself

Decide on public and private choices and actions in respect of:

- ➔ Economic growth
- ➔ Price stability
- ➔ Employment and job creation
- ➔ Life circumstances, service delivery and poverty
- ➔ Demographic profile and population dynamics

Stats Act is based on UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Principle 1. *Information for a democratic society and impartial compilation and dissemination to honor citizens' entitlement to public information.*

Principle 2. *Trust through scientific principles and professional ethics*

Principle 3. *Transparency of scientific standards sources and methods*

Principle 4. *Entitlement to comment on misuse of statistics.*

Principle 6. *Confidentiality and exclusive use for statistical purposes.*

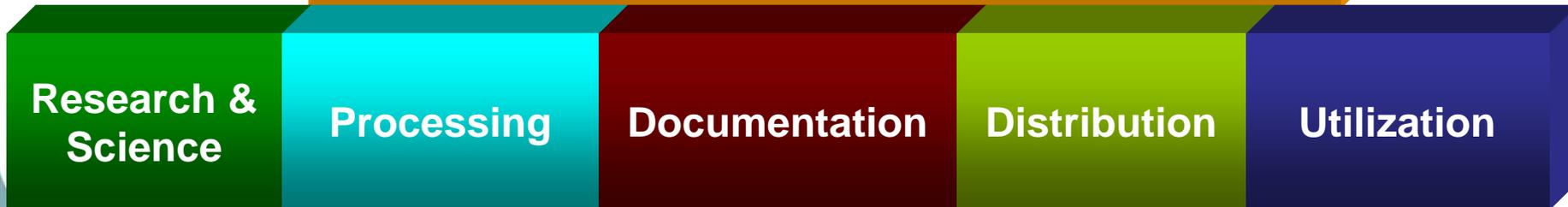
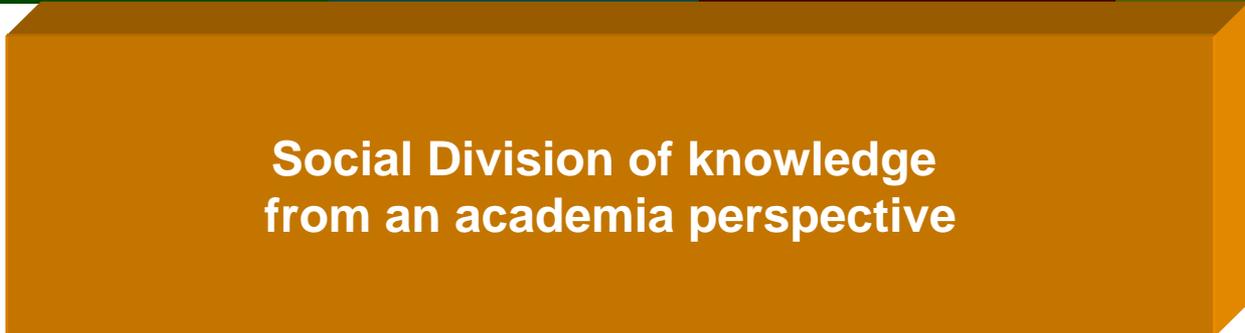
Principle 7. *Statistical legislation and regulations to enforce principles*

Principle 8. *Coordination among statistical agencies within countries*

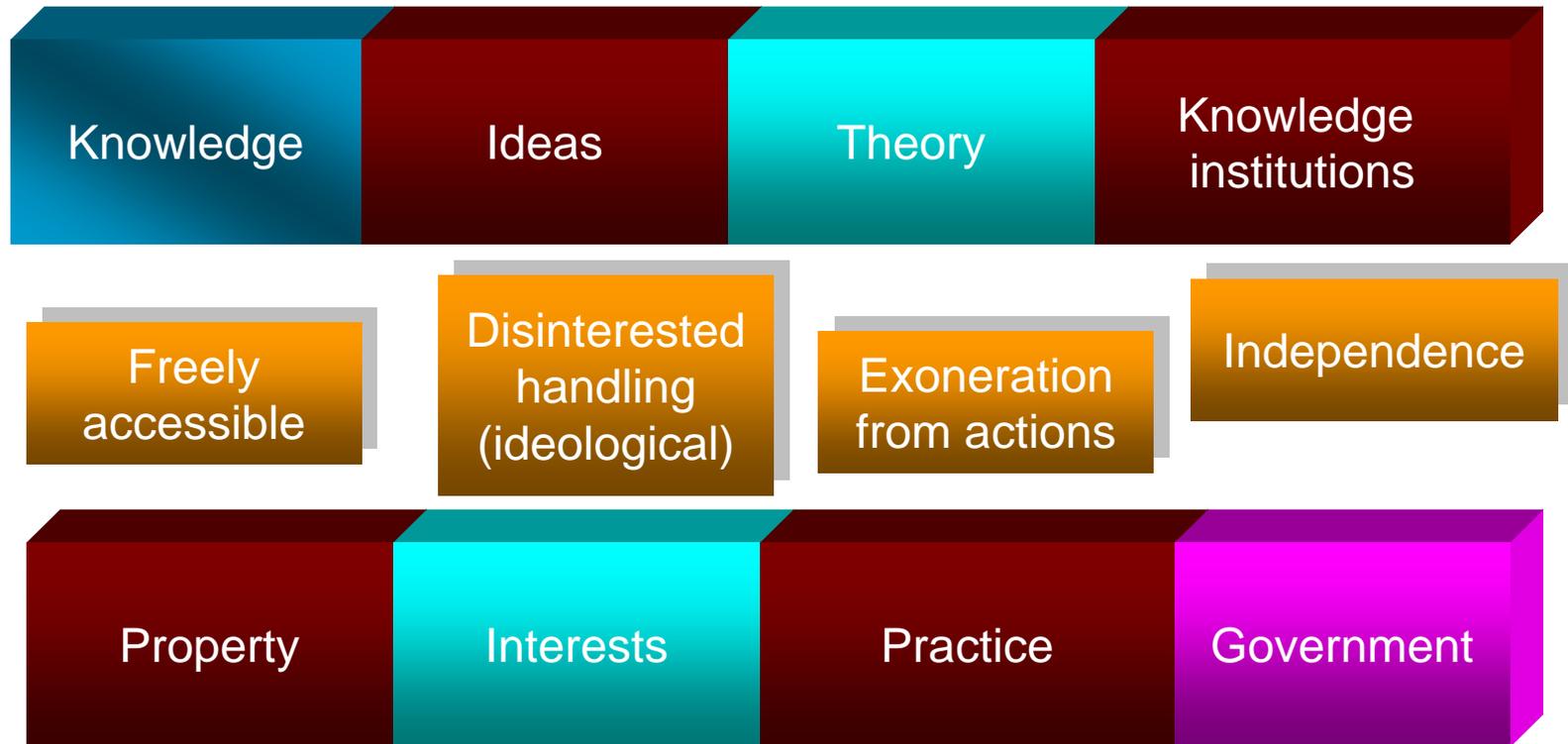
Principle 9. *Use of international concepts, classifications and methods*

Principle 10. *International cooperation for enhancing official statistics*

Context for professionalism and autonomy
Social Division of knowledge
from an official statistics perspective



Order Policy of Knowledge & the Need For Separation



Role of the Minister

Section 5(1) of the Statistics Act (Act No. 6 of 1999) says the Minister must:

- on the recommendation of the Statistician-General, and
- on advice of the Statistics Council,

Prioritise the work programme of Statistics South Africa, in accordance with the purpose of official statistics and the statistical principles.

Section 5, subsection 1, clause d, where the Minister is expected to approve or disapprove statistical initiatives by another Minister or state organ other than Stats SA

Role of the Statistics Council

Section 13, subsection 1, clauses a-c, which prescribes advice by the Statistics Council in respect of statistical production and the elimination of unnecessary overlapping or duplication with regard to the collection or publication of statistics by organs of state;

Section 13, subsection 2, clauses b and c, which prescribes for the Council to promote and safeguard co-ordination of statistical activities and an environment which is supportive of the collection, production, dissemination and use of official statistics;

Role of the Statistician-General

Section 7 prescribes that the Statistician-General must, after receiving advice from the Council, make recommendations to the Minister on the policies and priorities of Statistics South Africa;

The Statistician-General determines, and exercises final responsibility regarding the implementation of the work programme of Stats SA

Section 14, subsection 5, prescribes that the Statistician-General should be consulted by heads of organs of state on initiatives they take regarding statistical coordination in their organs;

Section 14, subsection 6, requires of the Statistician-General to give advice to organs of state on application of standards, including elimination of duplicate activities;

Section 14, subsection 7, gives the Statistician-General authority to designate as official statistics any statistics produced by other organs of state

What we have and should have

- Intellectual competence
- Technological competence
- Political understanding of the environment
- Logistics competence
- Administrative competence

News

Statistics South Africa and The Star reach a settlement

September 09, 2008 *Edition 1*

Statistics South Africa and The Star have reached a settlement resolving the complaint lodged by Stats SA with the Press Ombudsman in relation to a report published on 8 January in The Star, The Mercury

and The Pretoria News, appearing in some issue headline "R600m State Survey Bungle – Stats Ridden Data cannot be used to set future p

Various editorials based on that artic'

Independent Newspapers publications.

The headline of the articles claimed that the

Council – the statutory body which has an advis

oversight role in respect of statistics produced by Sta on 24 October 2007 made statements in its report on Community Survey to the effect that the survey data were "ridden" and could not be used to set future government pu

Headlines in certain issues claimed that this amounted to

a "R600 m State Survey Bungle".

Stats SA complained to the Press Ombudsman that this

content contravened various provisions of the Press Code, inter alia because in its view the articles, headlines and editorials included inaccuracies and distortions.

The Star argued that it had a right to publish the concerns that the Statistics Council had expressed, as these emanated from an official document, and dealt with matters of public interest.

The Star acknowledges, however, that the Statistics Council did not make the statements attributed to it in the headlines and the first paragraph of the article. The Star afforded Stats SA a right of reply to the article (which was published the following day).
 Stats SA accepts the right of The Star to publish the cautionary remarks made by the Statistics Council, but it pointed out in its reply that these remarks were cautionary notes typical of international best practice in relation to the normal limitations associated with producing statistical data.
 It further pointed out that there was no justification for the newspapers (both in the headlines and the first paragraph of the articles) to portray the cautionary remarks of the Statistics Council as if it had stated or implied that the Community Survey data were "error-ridden", "unreliable" and could not be used to set future policy".
 The inaccurate headlines to the story caused Stats SA and the Stats Council inconvenience and embarrassment.
 This is regretted by The Star.
 • This statement is being repeated because of a text omission in yesterday's edition. We apologise for the error.

PRETORIA NEWS
Friday, 5 June 2009, p. 3

We will down tools, threaten Stats SA field workers

BARRY BATEMAN

Stats SA field workers in Tshwane and Ekurhuleni are threatening to stop work unless management reconsiders a new transport policy implemented this week.

On Monday all hired vehicles were

recalled and the organisation's transport arrangements reorganised.

"This caused widespread dismay among field workers, who now have to rely on public and government transport to reach the enumeration areas."

A Tshwane field worker who did not want to be identified, said the new

arrangements would compromise the accuracy of their surveys, including the monthly consumer price index, the Quarterly Labour Force Survey and the Living Conditions Survey.

In a letter sent to Stats SA management, Ekurhuleni field workers said they did not know why the changes

were being implemented and they were not consulted.

They said using public transport to reach their enumeration areas posed risks. "The equipment we carry attracts attention, which could lead thugs to attack us. Who will be responsible for the equipment if it is taken?"

PRETORIA NEWS
Thursday, 4 June 2009, p. 3

Stats SA staff grounded, projects on hold as transport is reorganised

BARRY BATEMAN

THE RE-ORGANISATION of transport arrangements at Stats SA has field workers questioning the future accuracy of their surveys, most importantly the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

A field worker, who did not want to be identified, told the Pretoria News that as of Friday there was a national recall of all field workers and all projects were on hold.

"Nobody in office looked at the economic nationwide. Everything from the CPI and Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) to the Living Conditions Survey (LCS) has been put on hold," he said.

Stats SA spokesman Trevor Oosterwyk denied that any of the survey's work had been compromised.

"We have withdrawn all hired vehicles from the field and reorganised the transport arrangements. We asked the provincial

heads to find alternative ways to change the driver per car ratio. Eventually it was economically unviable," he said.

Oosterwyk said Stats SA hired about 800 vehicles across the country.

He said they would now use a fleet – a government transport initiative to shuttle groups of field workers working on various surveys to their locations.

But the field workers said this meant they would not have enough time and the resources to carry out their normal duties, which would ultimately impact on the data they collected and the information produced by the statisticians.

Oosterwyk said Stats SA would ensure its field workers and their respondents and produced the quality data necessary for their surveys. But conceded there might be hiccups in the implementation.

"There will probably be a two-week-to-a-month period when

there is still confusion and time problems."

"But the bulk of people are on the road and being taken to the enumeration areas and households," he said.

Alan Jarmine, chief economist at Econometrica, said there was cause for serious concern if the surveys were compromised.

"That would be disastrous. Monetary policy, wage negotiations and pricing by companies would all become extremely subjective. There would be no benchmark with which to gauge any of these facts," he said.

Jarmine said that if the CPI was compromised it would destroy confidence in South Africa and have major repercussions for attracting investment.

"One reason people are confident and buy bonds in SA is that they are led to believe our monetary policy processes and fiscal policy processes are based on very sound stats."

"This could throw the financial markets terribly," he said.





Opinion & Analysis



NEWS WORTH KNOWING SINCE MAY 1, 1985

Say that again?

End of 2008 labour survey just has to

It's not too late for Statistics SA to admit that something is very wrong with its new quarterly labour force survey—and, more importantly, do something about it.

Experts say job stats are puzzling

According to Stats SA unemployment fell by

KEA' MODIMOENG

STATISTICS South Africa has released what economists and traders regard as the most "surprising" results in the fourth quarter Labour Force Survey. According to the results announced today, the number of

The report number of disempowered increased compared to the previous quarter. Fanie Louw, Chief Executive Officer of the Efficient Group, said the decline in the number of disempowered is a positive sign. He said that the 9 percent increase in discouraged job seekers is a concern.

'Stats SA jobless figures are a joke'

Experts say 97 000 have stopped hunting

GERSHWIN WANNERBURG
Business Writer

ECONOMISTS have, not for the first time, cast doubt on employment figures, after Statistics SA reported a huge jump in jobs in the fourth quarter of last year.

The Western Cape ranked as the top job creator during the quarter, while construction, community and social services

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make economic sense. With all the people who got retrained during that period, I would have expected the figure would go up. It's almost a joke this figure."

Stats SA has reported a huge jump in employment figures in the fourth quarter of last year, but economists say they should not be taken at face value as they do not include the 97 000 people who have stopped looking for jobs

Stats SA data is going to not

Surprise and disbelief at jobless rate plunge

1.9% in fourth quarter

Odd numbers

StatsSA blames shifting survey

Economists expressed surprise at the South African's latest quarterly unemployment rate, which fell from 21.9 percent in the third quarter to 20.4 percent in the fourth. Statistics SA attributed the drop to changes in the population survey methodology.

Lies, damned lies and statistics

A cynic would say the employment figures released by Statistics SA at the beginning of the month were aimed at the upcoming election. That's because the finding of a meaningful drop in the unemployment rate just doesn't gel with other economic statistics and with the numbers in the country. It is looking again at the analysis to see if there's anything wrong. It might win our sympathy to keep us posted and wouldn't be a bad idea if it was in constant contact with the views on the survey.



Stats SA's labour survey figures not so far off the mark

AT FIRST glance, the latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey could be dismissed as ludicrously out of touch. It finds that employment rose in the last quarter of 2008, even as the GDP shrank 0.5% in annualised terms. This seems a perfect illustration of the old lament: lies, damned lies, and statistics.



Neva Makgetla
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A bigger concern is that the survey shows growth in formal employment, specifically in mining and manufacturing. That is undoubtedly peculiar. After all, mining's contribution to the GDP remained virtually unchanged in the last quarter of 2008, while manufacturing output shrank some 6%.

residential construction grew from 28% of total investment to 35%. In short, the survey's data are more reasonable than they initially appear. They suggest that the national response to the global economic downturn, which emphasises public investment, is on the right track. Already the expansion in public investment has had some

these circumstances can lead to major. Despite these shied away from understand real. Nonetheless, presentation of figures of the most

These GDP data make the employment... 189 000

Surveys tell same story different ways

Statistics SA released the results of the fourth quarter (QES), shortly after the quarterly labour force survey (QLFS) for the same quarter. The results of the QES show that jobs grew by 0.3 percent quarter on quarter; the QLFS shows a 1.2 percent increase in construction services.



inmyVIEW

Labour market statistics received uninformed and unwarranted criticism.

Statistics SA continues to confidently provide information that's rational and defensible, thus enabling policymakers to at least make informed decisions and see things for what they are. Statistics SA becomes the more important, especially in these times when panic and irrational exuberance almost become the order of the day. It's important in times like these that leadership has quality information to make quality decisions.

Unfortunately, the choice of publication would still like to cast aspersions on the QLFS, including attributing the methodological weakness or been on record in the Financial Mail.

ESTABLISHED IN 1914, Statistics South Africa is one of the institutions of State with a considerably long and recorded history, especially in products. The focus of my piece isn't going to be the past three years and I'll discuss what's been done and the challenges going forward, particularly in the context of the financial and economic crisis also afflicting SA.

it out
Statistics SA

STATISTICIAN-GENERAL
PALI LEHOHLA
STATISTICS SA

concern and economic crisis also afflicting SA. PPI as was given to the CPI. It's going to take us some years to get PPI to the required level of quality. Our next big task is the PPI. The DDG economic statistics will issue a technical paper with which he'll engage experts. Pali Lehohla is Statistician-General of Statistics SA. This article was written at the request of Statistics SA in response to a report that appeared in Finweek (12 March) entitled "Lies, damned lies and statistics".



key priorities

Key priorities for 2009/10:

- Benchmarking and rebasing the GDP
- Reviewing PPI
- Conducting the Living Conditions Survey
- Piloting Census 2011
- Compiling Geo-referenced dwelling frame
- Developing a National Strategy for Development of Statistics
- Hosting the ISI

Strategic priority	Activities
Economic growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •GDP •Suite of economic short-term indicators •Large sample surveys on various economic sectors •Financial information on various economic sectors
Price stability –	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •CPI •PPI •Income and Expenditure Survey (pilot 2009/10)
Employment and Job creation –	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Quarterly labour force survey •Quarterly Survey on Employment and Earnings
Life circumstances, service delivery and poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •General Household Survey •Living Conditions Survey •Municipal census
Demographic profile and population dynamics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Population Census in 2011 (pilot in 2009/10) •Midyear population estimates •Vital registration information

“Monitoring the behaviour of the economy”

- Aim: To provide information on the level and growth of economic activity
- Benchmark and rebase annual GDP estimates every 5 years – process of changing the reference period
- Benchmarking will be done based on the SNA93
- Include estimates based on the IES and Community Survey
- Reference period for benchmarking is 2005

Rebased estimates will be published in Nov 2009

“Prices at the factory gates”

- Aim: The PPI shows monthly movement in prices of producers for a part of the economy (excluding services)
- Re-weighting and some improvements introduced in 2008
- Methodological limitations remain
- Redevelopment required to ensure PPI on a stable footing

Planning redevelopment of PPI commences in 2009

“Counting the nation”

- ➔ Aim: Collection of comprehensive demographic information on population dynamics at all levels of society to inform social and economic development
- ➔ According to Stats Act – conduct Census every 5 years. In 2007, Stats SA conducted Community Survey
- ➔ Establishes size, nature and geographic location of a country’s population - essential for planning and monitoring purposes
- ➔ Pilot – dry run of Census 2011, testing processes and systems
- ➔ 480 enumerator areas in pilot

Pilot scheduled for November 2009

“Measuring poverty in multiple dimensions”

- ➔ Aim: Measuring the extent and distribution of household poverty and monitoring progress in poverty reduction
- ➔ Development and testing during 2008
- ➔ Data collection started in September 2008
- ➔ Data collection will end in October 2009
- ➔ Data processing will end in November 2009
- ➔ Editing and analysis scheduled for February 2010

Survey collection finalised in October 2009

“All information has a spatial dimension”

- Aim: To compile a complete, up-to-date database of all dwellings and other structures in the country
- Sampling frame for all household surveys and censuses
- Dwelling frame to be completed during 2010/11
- EA demarcation for census 2011 to be completed during 2010/11
- Intergovernmental collaboration

80% EA demarcation completed by March 2010

“Setting priorities for the NSS”

- Aim of the NSS: To coordinate statistical production in the country
- NSS aims to address the information, quality and skills gap
- Compiled NSDS framework during 2008/09
- Training stakeholders in SASQAF commenced
- Priorities: Statistical support –
 - National level – Education, Health & Home Affairs
 - Provincial level – Compiling provincial profiles
 - Municipal level – Raising awareness of statistics

NSDS by March 2010

“Hosting ISI in 2009”

- ➔ Global statistical development and learning in a competitive climate – Hosting the ISI
- ➔ SADC – towards statistical capacity building and product harmonisation
- ➔ African statistical development in an uneven political environment – ASSD towards 2010 Round of Population and Housing Census
- ➔ National and African statistical development - iSibalo programme

ISI scheduled from 16 - 22 August 2009



capacity building

“A legacy for statistical capacity building”

- ➔ Attract and retain technical skills
- ➔ Statistical capacity building initiatives – towards a Statistical Training Institute
- ➔ Leadership and management development
- ➔ ISibalo programme
 - Women in statistics
 - Young statisticians and demographers conference
 - Maths, stats and the girl child
 - Data analysis forum
 - ISibalo statistics education

TREVOR A MANUEL, MINISTER OF FINANCE **Addressing SASA Jubilee, 05 NOVEMBER 2003**

On 17 September 1953, the Minister of Native Affairs, H F Verwoerd, addressed Parliament and said, “What is the use of teaching the Bantu child mathematics when it cannot use it in practice.” Thus Bantu Education was introduced in 1954, consciously de-emphasising the teaching of Mathematics and Science.

Our TASK is to undo this profound legacy

Challenges posed to the South Africa's Statistics Profession by Minister Manuel in 2003

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- **Challenge 5:** What gets measured and who determines that?



key challenges

Strategic Risks and Challenges:

- ➔ Single integrated business registration system
- ➔ Statistical skills in the country
- ➔ Implementing an effective operating model for field operations
- ➔ Rolling-out SASQAF
- ➔ Establishing a corporate data processing centre



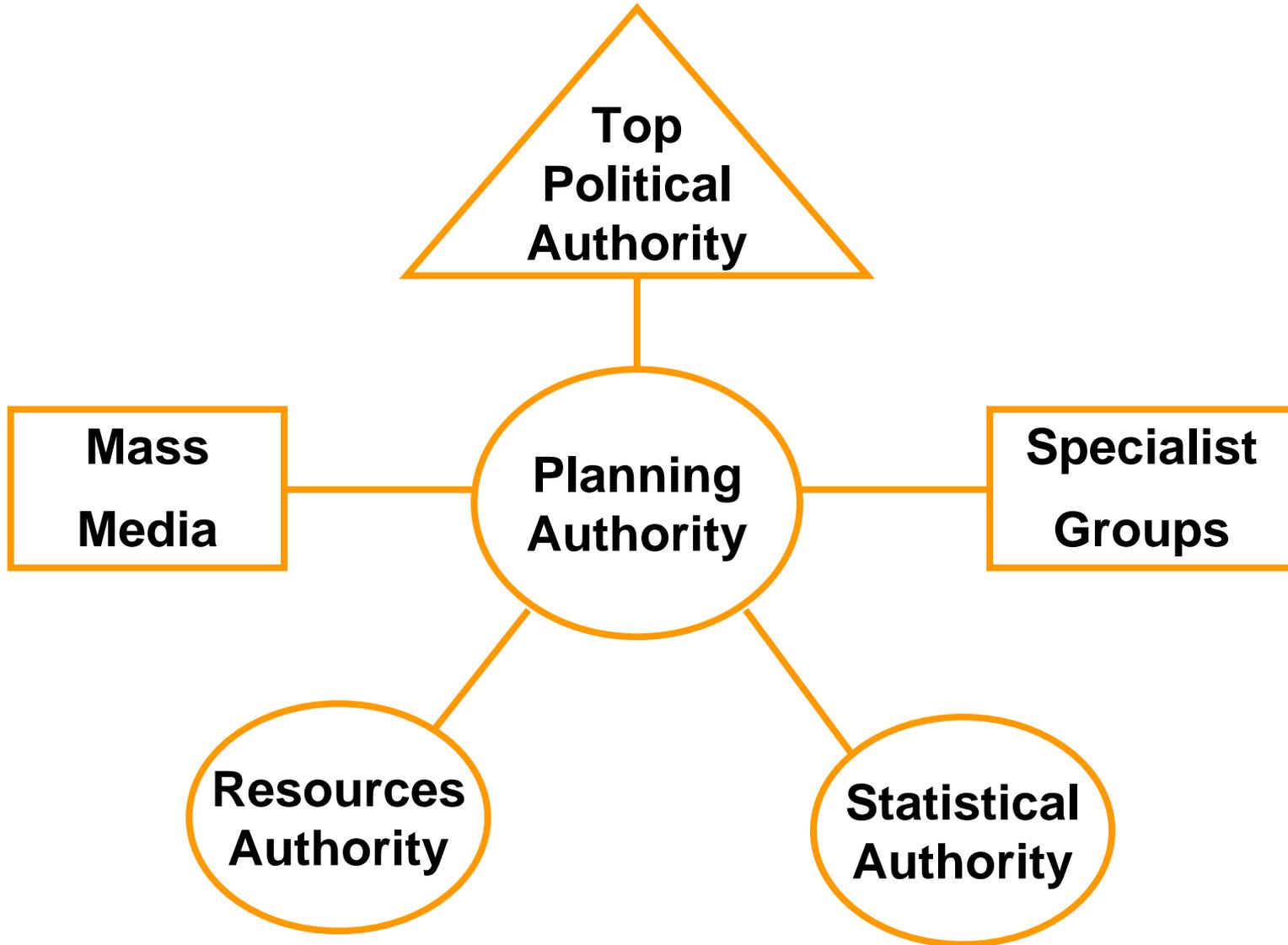
the future

Beyond 2009 -

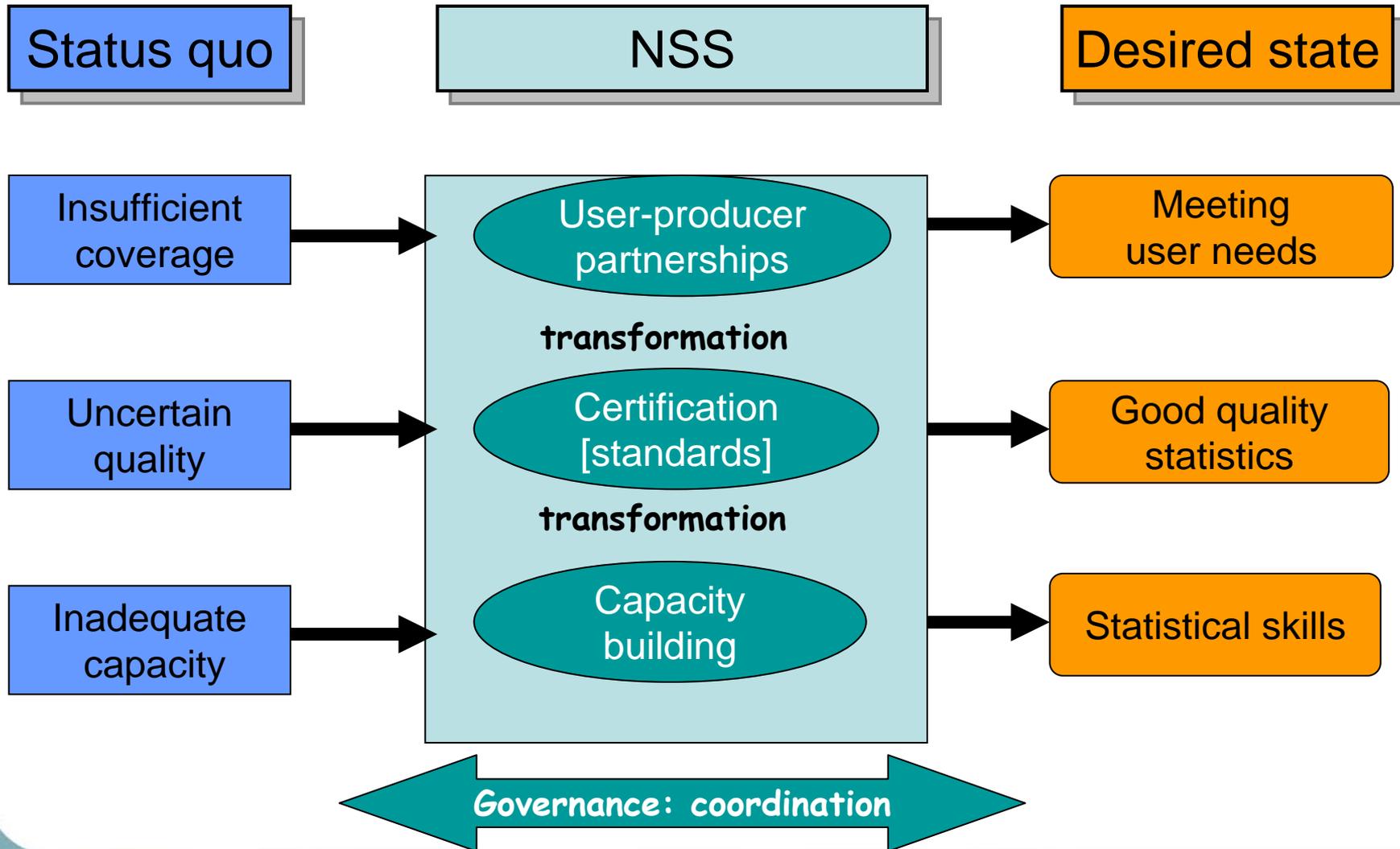
- Developing a future state for statistical production in the country
- Review baseline information in statistical system
- Strategic shifts required in terms of:
 - A national planning requirement such as structural issues in addition to markets and their failure
 - Research agenda
 - Globally coordinated statistical responses

Enabling clauses for the shift beyond 2009 –

- Section 2, clauses c and d, is on unity in action or coordination
- Section 3, clause 1, sub-clauses a-c, is on statistics for informing planning, decision-making and other actions, and monitoring and assessment of policies, etc.;
- Section 4, clause 3, which promotes co-operative government and intergovernmental per Chapter 3 of the Constitution;
- Section 7, subsection 2, clause f, where the Statistician-General is expected to provide statistical advice to other organs of state;
- Section 7, subsection 2, clause g, sub-clause ii, prescribing for avoidance of unnecessary duplication of work;
- Section 7, subsection 2, clause j, sub-clauses I and ii, prescribing for co-ordination of the statistical activities of the relevant provinces and other organs of state;



NSS: the means to the new paradigm



- Thank you -