

## Provincial Statistics (Part 3) - Northern Cape

1995

Embargo: 08:00

Date: 9 January 1997

Read the following [notice](#) with regard to the eleven official languages

### **NORTHERN CAPE HAS LARGEST AREA YET SMALLEST POPULATION IN SA**

Bordering the cold Atlantic Ocean, the Northern Cape is a province of extremes: the lowest and highest temperatures in the country, the lowest rainfall, the smallest population (1,8% of the total of the RSA), and the lowest population density (2,0 persons per km<sup>2</sup>). But its surface area (361 830 km<sup>2</sup>) is the largest of the nine provinces comprising 29,7% of the total area of the country (1 219 090 km<sup>2</sup>).

According to the report, the Northern Cape is one of two provinces where Blacks are not in the majority (the other province being the Western Cape) - 53,5% of the inhabitants are Coloureds (397 200), compared with 29,9% Blacks.

Another interesting characteristic of the Northern Cape is that the home language of 66,0% (475 842) of the population is Afrikaans. Setswana is second with 19,0% (136 985) and isiXhosa third with 6,2% (44 700) being the most commonly spoken languages.

The inhabitants of the Northern Cape have the third highest life expectancy of all the provinces, after the Western Cape and Gauteng. This is according to the Human Development Index (HDI) which was calculated by the Central Statistical Service (CSS) for the RSA and the provinces for the years 1980 and 1991. The index is a measure of people's ability to live a long and healthy life, to be able to communicate, to participate in the life of the community and to have sufficient means to afford a decent living. The life expectancy for the inhabitants of the Northern Cape is calculated to be 62,7 years of age compared with a national average of 62,8, while the Western Cape has a life expectancy of 67,7 years and Gauteng has one of 66,0 years. This index also indicates an adult literacy rate of 79,8% for the Northern Cape in 1991, compared with 82,2% for the RSA as a whole. (Adult literacy refers to persons of 15 years and older who can read, write, and speak their home language.) On the relative ranking of the HDI, the Northern Cape compares well with countries such as Mexico and Romania.

The October Household Survey (OHS), a survey with a sample of approximately 30 000 households conducted by the CSS in 1994, is the source of a number of very interesting indicators of social development. This survey shows that:

\* in the Northern Cape only 29,2% of households in the Coloured community have access to tap water in the dwelling, compared with 98,9% of White households;

\* only 45,5% of households in the province have electricity in the home to utilise for cooking, lighting and heating purposes;

\* the total unemployment rate (expanded definition) in the province for 1994 was 32,5% - 24,5% of males and 44,8% of females are unemployed.

The average per capita income of the Northern Cape is R9 971 per year for 1993, the third highest in the country after Gauteng (R19 261) and the Western Cape (R13 490), and above the average of R8 704 for the RSA. The inflation rate for the Northern Cape for 1995 is 8,7% - the same as that for the RSA.

Although the main contributor to the Gross Geographic Product (GGP) of the Northern Cape is still mining and quarrying, sectors such as the commerce and the accommodation and catering services industries are playing an ever increasing role in contributing to the economy of the province. After Gauteng with 159 mines the Northern Cape has the second largest number of mines in the country, namely 145.

THIS MEDIA RELEASE WAS ISSUED BY THE SUBDIVISION COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS OF THE CSS, PRIVATE BAG X44, PRETORIA, 0001. THE REPORT CAN BE PURCHASED AT A COST OF : R20,00 ; OTHER COUNTRIES R21,00 FROM THE CSS HEAD OFFICE OR FROM THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING WORKS, PRIVATE BAG X85, PRETORIA 0001 OR PHONE (012) 323-9731.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE STATSSA USERS INFORMATION SERVICES AT (012) 310-8600, OR FAX INFORMATION REQUESTS TO (012) 310-8500. QUERIES CAN ALSO BE E-MAILED TO [INFO@STATSSA.PWV.GOV.ZA](mailto:INFO@STATSSA.PWV.GOV.ZA)

PRETORIA DATE: 9 January, 1997

EMBARGO: 08:00