

Challenges Facing the Creation of a Standard South African Address System

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SUMMARY

Statistics South Africa is charged with collection of data, statistics and running of censuses and surveys. Currently enumeration areas are used to collect information. Enumeration areas are whereby the country is divided up into small portions, which a person taking a survey or census is able to walk door-to-door collecting information. Enumeration areas require constant maintenance (i.e. splitting and merging) owing to population dynamics in the settlement areas during the intercensal period. . It is therefore important to have a reliable address system in South Africa. Having a good address system will ensure information collected in the field can be tied to each individual address and essentially improving the management of enumeration area maintenance processes.

South Africa is divided into four settlement types, which are urban (formal) areas, informal areas, traditional areas and farm areas. Each of this have their unique set of challenges and address formats.

Most of the urban formal areas have a relatively structured form of addressing. But have a few problems like where streets exist but do not have names, cadastre may be reflected differently on the survey plans, missing or wrong addresses and addresses associated with the wrong parcel of land (cadastre).

The main challenge lies in the traditional settlements, informal settlements and farms.

Informal areas are unplanned settlements, which in most cases do not have streets, and the dwellings are haphazard. In traditional areas settlements are not in a structured format; some settlements are far from each other and make sequence numbering difficult. The farm areas pose a different challenge in that one farm may cover an extensive area. Thus a suitable address system has to be formulated to cater for the uniqueness of the different settlement types.

The paper explores challenges encountered by Statistics South Africa in standardizing the national address system and register for South Africa, by creating a spatially referenced address frame that can be used for censuses and surveys, by consolidating and integrating governmental addressing initiatives and related projects through standardizing concepts, data models and methodologies.