

Vote of Thanks

By

The Statistician General

Dr B.S. Mguni

At the Launch of

'The Botswana HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis Survey'

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019

Honourable Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr Alfred Madigele  
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health and Wellness, Ms Ruth  
Maphorisa

Coordinator of the National AIDS Coordinating Agency

Representatives of the Development partners here present

Distinguished Guests

Representatives of the Media fraternity here represented

Ladies and gentlemen

1. I am very happy to be here on this occasion of the launch of the BAIS V and TB survey. This launch marks a very point for the survey and the country as it points to readiness to collect the all-important data of this very complicated and ground breaking survey. The world shall surely be watching how Botswana pulls off this combination of HIV and Tuberculosis. I have no doubt that we shall provide important lessons to those wishing to emulate the combination of the two diseases in a single household survey.
2. Let me start by thanking all of you for attending this launch and in particular, thank the Honourable Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr Alfred Madigele, for having spared time in his busy schedule to officiate in the launch of this survey. Your presence sir, is a testimony of the importance that you personally attach to data collection on HIV and AIDS and tuberculosis to help inform decisions directing the country's

and indeed the world's fight against HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

3. Over the years Statistics Botswana and the National AIDS Coordinating Agency (NACA) have carved an important enduring relation to obtain and disseminate survey data on HIV and AIDS. It started with BAIS I and we are now at BAIS V. The obtained data has informed many important interventions over the years which have been instrumental in the fight against the pandemic as evidenced by declining rates of HIV and AIDS related morbidity and mortality for sometime now.

#### **Director of Ceremonies**

4. As has been said by the other speakers, this is not your usual and straightforward survey. NACA and Statistics Botswana as the main technical partners have had to work tirelessly in strict coordination to ensure that we find ourselves where we are today. One of the main challenges we faced was the development of a Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) system for data collection. This had to have functionality to capture data at three categories of households, HIV only, TB only and HIV and TB, transmit, have the data from the household transmitted to the labs and allow for the capture of data at the labs. The development and functionalisation of this system necessitated the pooling of professional resources from Statistics Botswana, the National

AIDS Coordinating Agency with support from the other collaborating partners. In this regard a special mention is deserved for the system development team from Statistics Botswana who worked tirelessly under very tight time constraints to develop the survey data collection system. There is obviously a need for them to keep the same momentum into survey fieldwork.

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

5. This survey was ably guided by a multi sectoral Reference Group which provided policy direction in its preparation. I wish thank the Reference group for the work it has done and will continue to do. Let me also thank the technical working group which provided the much needed technical input and roll out of this project. The group which comprised of persons with expertise in different areas did a sterling job pulling all the resources together to ensure that all the necessary technical and logistical inputs are availed for this survey.
  
6. Director of ceremonies, conducting a survey in an inherently expensive exercise both in terms of time and resources. In this regard we appreciate the support received from a number of organisations that have involved in this survey from the very beginning. These include the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Centre for Disease Control (CDC), KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation, the Global Fund and PEPFAR. We

thank all of these for their varied support up to now and up to ensuring that the data is fully used in the continued fight against these diseases.

7. As I conclude I would like to thank those who organised this event and once again I thank you all for attending this important event.

8. Thank you