

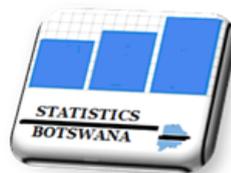
**SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
(MoU)**

**BETWEEN**



**MINISTRY OF BASIC EDUCATION**

**AND**



**STATISTICS BOTSWANA**

**VENUE: MOBE 5<sup>th</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE, GABORONE**

**10 SEPTEMBER 2019, 14:30 Hours**

**REMARKS BY: STATISTICIAN GENERAL**

**Dr BURTON MGUNI**

**Director of Ceremony**

**Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Basic Education**

**Deputy Permanent Secretaries**

**Executives of the Ministry of Basic Education and Staff**

**Executives of Statistics Botswana and Staff**

**Members of the Media Houses**

**All invited Guests here present**

**Ladies and gentlemen good afternoon,**

1.0 I am very happy to be here today on this occasion of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Statistics Botswana and Ministry of Basic Education. The working relationship between Statistics Botswana and this Ministry has existed for a very long time as it is a continuation of that between the Central Statistics office and the then Ministry of Education. This collaboration has since the beginning, facilitated production and dissemination of official education statistics.

2.0 As we all know, the predecessor Ministry being the Ministry of Education and Skills Development was split into two ministries of Basics Education and Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology. Naturally the collaboration has continued with both these successor Ministries. As regards tertiary education we have an ongoing MOU with the Ministry and the bulk of education statistics are produced in

collaboration with the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) with whom we also have an MOU.

**Ladies and Gentleman,**

3.0 The MoU we signing today builds to the development and maintenance of an effectively coordinated Education Statistical System in line with the Botswana Strategy for the Development of Statistics (BSDS), of which the Ministry is a key stakeholder. Through this collaboration, the parties have a dual role of producing and disseminating quality basic education statistics and coordinating and monitoring the sector statistical system.

4.0 It is crucial that we are strengthening our collaboration to meet the ever increasing demand for data in many areas including informing and tracking national, regional and international development frameworks such as NDP11 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which has many of you know include Goal 4 “Quality Education”.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

5.0 The fourth industrial revolution upon us. This revolution like all previous revolutions has positives to harnessed and negatives to be mitigated and managed. For example, wider application of automation technology will lead increased efficiencies in service provision including remote self-service.

6.0 It however also carries the risk of making some jobs redundant and thus job losses. The education system is seen as a corner stone for every country's to find its unique path for success through the revolution.

7.0 Improved education data and statistics will be key to inform decisions on national strategies on re-shaping the future of education to meet the demands of the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial revolution such as growth in artificial intelligence and requirements for re-skilling workforce.

### **Director of Ceremonies,**

8.0 This MoU is intended to be a catalyst for improvement to the production of official basic education statistics as it aims to strengthen our cooperation mainly in the areas of:

- Timeliness and quality of basic education statistics
- Collaboration in interfacing management information system to promote seamless sharing of education data and statistics, innovative data processing, dissemination
- Statistical capacity building; and
- General development and implementation of the basic education sector statistic plans or strategies.

### **Ladies and gentlemen,**

9.0 One of the challenges that is often experienced with the many well intended MOU's is lack of or weak follow up in terms of implementation.

We thus have to work deliberately to ensure that this MOU does not fall into this category of MOU's. As a start, I implore the work teams on both sides to have the relevant implementation structures put in place as soon as possible to enable implementation without much passage of time.

10.0 It is my firm belief that our collaboration as further conformed by this MOU will strengthen our capacity as a country to continue to improve on quality and use of official basic education statistics.

11.0 With these few remarks, I thank you all for your kind attention.

**Thank you**