

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

**BETWEEN**



**STATISTICS BOTSWANA (SB)**

**AND**



**BOTSWANA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
(BOCRA)**

**VENUE: BOCRA, GABORONE**

**DATE: 05 JUNE 2019**

**REMARKS BY: STATISTICIAN GENERAL**

**Dr BURTON MGUNI**

**Thank you Director of Ceremony.**

**Chief Executive Officer of Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA), Mr Martin Mokgware**

**Executives of BOCRA and staff here present,**

**Executives of Statistics Botswana and staff present here,**

**Members of the fourth estate, the Media**

**All invited Guests**

**Good morning,**

- 1.0 I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Chief Executive (CE) and Executive Management of BOCRA for their tireless efforts towards establishment of this partnership between Statistics Botswana (SB) and BOCRA. I thank you for the thoughtful arrangements you and your staff made to make the signing of a MOU between our organizations a possibility.

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

- 2.0 The importance of ICT statistics in the development of any country cannot be over emphasised. ICT statistics are key in the overall monitoring and evaluation of ICT developments, and market analysis to inform policy formulation and decision making. They are critical in tracking regulatory measures and greatly informing investors.
- 3.0 I want to announce that during the 16<sup>th</sup> World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium of December 2018, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) released the ICT Development Index (IDI) which is the global benchmarking tool that tracks countries' progress in the development of their information societies. The IDI 2017 edition of the Measuring the Information Society Report (MISR) assesses IDI findings at the regional and global level

and highlight countries that rank at the top of the IDI and those that have improved their position in the overall IDI rankings most dynamically since 2016. Botswana was ranked five (5) out of thirty-eight (38) African countries at regional level, and 105 of the 176 countries globally (*Measuring the Information Society Report, 2017 Vol. 1*). I would like to highlight that about 180 telecommunication/ICT indicators were included in the World Telecommunication database in June 2018. Such indicators included telephone subscriptions, active mobile-broadband subscriptions, internet use, prices of one minute call nationally, regionally and internationally, and investment in telecommunication services, just to mention but a few. ([www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Documents/events/wtis2018](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Documents/events/wtis2018)).

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

- 4.0 You will agree with me that collaboration between our agencies came at the very right time as the growth and demand in such global telecommunication indicators calls for development of official data nationally to support world indicator ratings.
  
- 5.0 I reiterate that we live in demanding times and I can assure you that without evidence of where we stand, we cannot confidently map our future and our way forward in supporting and realising the national, regional and international agendas such as the National Development Plan (NDP) 11, Africa Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As you may be aware, the Sustainable Development Goal 9 calls for economies to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation. This goal therefore calls for strengthening development of

telecommunication/ICT statistics to support its monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

6.0 Gladly today, we cement our partnership which is aimed at particularly strengthening production of ICT statistics so that in the end we will be able to effectively report to the aforementioned development agendas. Through this collaboration, we intend to:

- cooperate to carry out joint ICT researches/ surveys and subsequently produce statistical data, information and reports on ICT statistical variables and indicators as may be required;
- share expertise in various areas within the statutory limitations and obligations imposed by relevant legislation as governed by the Statistics Act of 2009 and the Communications Regulatory Authority Act of 2012; and
- provide technical support to each other on the development of ICT research studies/surveys and any other related activities.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

7.0 On behalf of Statistics Botswana, I once more wish to pronounce our gratitude to be the technical partners in support of BOCRA's mandate and intention to produce quality official telecommunications/ICT statistics. It is my intention and hope that this agreement will drive us to our desired destination of a well-developed, knowledge based economy as a result of ICT and innovation. The Memorandum of Understanding will further assist us to align our organizational activities, review and strengthen capacity of ICT specialists and related industry players, and therefore mutually achieve beneficial results of quality official ICT statistics.

8.0 I commit and stand ready to work with you Mr Mokgware to make this MOU a reality to everyone present here, and indeed to all our stakeholders.

9.0 With these brief remarks, I thank you all for honouring and gracing this signing event.

10.0 Thank you