



SIGNING OF Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

BETWEEN

STATISTICS BOTSWANA AND NBIFIRA

MASA SQUARE HOTEL

1400 hrs MARCH 15, 2017

REMARKS BY: ACTING STATISTICIAN GENERAL

DR. B. MGUNI

Director of Ceremony

Chief Executive Officer of NBFIRA and staff

Executive of Statistics Botswana and Staff

Members of the Press

All invited Guests

Ladies and gentlemen good afternoon,

1.I am pleased that today Statistics Botswana and the Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA) are signing a Memorandum of Understanding, to formalize partnership and collaboration between the two organisations.

2.On behalf of Statistics Botswana, I would like to take this opportunity to thank NBFIRA for seeing value in jointly formalizing this collaboration between our two institutions, a collaboration that will go a long way to deliver on the different mandates of our institutions.

3.Today is yet another special day in the development of statistics and most importantly in the strengthening of collaboration with our key stakeholder, NBFIRA.

4.Ladies and gentlemen, be made aware that the Statistics Act of 2009 recognises the National Statistical System (NSS) and the

role that Statistics Botswana as part of the NSS play in working with the entire NSS. The partnership that we are celebrating today is directed towards the need to work closely with other entities in the production of statistics to enhance decision making processes as well as planning.

5. Statistics have come to be recognized nationally and internationally as part of enabling infrastructure for development. They act as a stimulant to public action, a catalyst for change, and an input into making development programme work. Among other things, statistics, provide a basis for good policy and decision-making.

6. It is critical that we are cautious of the quality of statistics that we produce. Different agencies generate different statistics and, therefore, there is need for data exchange protocols across sectors. I would like to congratulate NBIFIRA for seeking to partner with Statistics Botswana in an effort to deliver on its statutory mandate. The recognition of the service that both agencies provide to Botswana goes a long way in the wider development of statistics in our country and will continue to place Botswana in a better position in terms of progress made on the development of quality statistics.

7. You may remember that Statistics Botswana is mandated to ensure a coordinated production of quality official statistics using international best practices. The signing of this MOU will

therefore provide a clear framework for the two parties to cooperate and communicate constructively in order to improve the breadth and quality of data collected by the two agencies. The partners will also strive for improved data standards to support more robust macroeconomic and non-bank financial surveillance.

8. The components of the MoU between the two parties have been interrogated and agreed upon and that acceptance to these elements cement a start to our partnership. The needs of the two parties have been specified and it is my belief that these will go a long way in assisting the two parties deliver on own mandate.

9. It is my commitment and that of the Statistics Botswana that we shall do all we can to assist and share information required by NBFIRA, depending on its availability. I need to however point out that this data exchange protocol has to be in accordance with the provisions of the different Acts, in particular the Statistics Act provides for confidentiality and protection of the data providers.

10. We will continue the strategic dialogue on our joint priorities, at all levels, so that we can complement and leverage each organization's comparative advantage to the benefit of our country's development.

11. Lastly, let me conclude by once again expressing our appreciation for the opportunity to enhance and strengthen collaboration between ourselves, as Statistics Botswana, and NBFIRA.

12. Thank you.