



STATISTICS BOTSWANA

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STATEMENT AT THE LAUNCH OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT & RURAL DEVELOPMENT SECTOR STATISTICS STRATEGIC PLAN

7 DECEMBER, 2018

BY DR BURTON MGUNI, STATISTICIAN GENERAL

Honourable Ministers of Local Government & Rural Development

Permanent Secretary

Senior Government Officials

Representatives of the Media

Ladies and Gentleman;

All protocol observed; Good morning

1. Let me start by congratulating the Ministry for organising today's event. I am happy that we are here today to participate in the building of another part of the road that will lead us to the production and use of relevant quality statistics in the area of local Government and Rural Development. In general, when one wants to for example go and collect some items, he or she needs to know how many of the items there are, where they are, what size they are and other relevant information. Without this knowledge one may find themselves bringing for example a small car instead of a horse trailer or sack instead of a drum. It is therefore important in undertaking any task, to have data to inform the decision on what tools are needed and what methods should be employed and so on. That is why reliable statistics

are a crucial prerequisite for evidence-based planning and policy formulation; at both national and local levels.

2. The demand for good statistics is increasing because for example of the development initiatives, such as Vision 2036, National Development Plan, Africa Agenda 2063 as well as the Sustainable Development goals require high-quality statistics for monitoring and evaluating of the progress being made. Such monitoring and evaluation requires data and the relevant data can only be best produced by those doing or are close to those doing the work targeted towards achieving the Goals of these sustainable development agenda. Thus, the launching of the National Statistical System (NSS) strategy in October, 2015 was an important milestone towards the development of a comprehensive and well-coordinated NSS for producing, processing and disseminating official statistics.
3. This NSS strategy which is also called the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) has adopted a framework of ensuring that sectors/Ministries, Agencies and Departments (MDA's) develop their sectoral statistical systems which serve as building blocks for development of the NSS Statistics strategy. These have been done by enrolling various sectors including the Local Government & Rural Development Sector amongst others. The strengthening of collaboration with other producers of statistics, will assist the NSS to be restructured such that it becomes more responsive to efficient production and usage of statistics.

4. Let me assure the Ministry of our continued commitment in support of implementation of the Sector Statistics plan as well as the Memorandum of Understanding through provision of technical advisory services towards the development of the sectoral statistical system. Statistics Botswana is in the process developing the NSS Capacity Building program as well as the Quality Assurance Framework which are some mechanisms of ensuring production of quality data within the NSS. These also will be implemented to ensure that the produced statistics is of acceptable quality and fully compliant with the International Standards and classifications.
5. Local Government & Rural Development has always been and continues to be is a key stakeholder in the production of statistics in Botswana, particularly with respect to the undertaking of the Population & Housing Census. The MoU that is to be signed today serves to confirm the importance of this sector and provide greater clarity on the relationship so as to give both parties enhanced opportunities to leverage on the available resources to ensure the delivery of the 2021 Population & Housing Census and other statistical work.
6. While it is important to match the pace of change and new developments in data management, doing so also represents new challenges for the National Statistics System in Botswana such as budget constraints, big data management or the consolidation and compilation of data across multiple sources. The need to have an effective NSS cannot be overemphasized as it will foster Coordination, standardization and harmonization thereby avoiding duplication and overlapping of activities amongst data producers. It is, therefore, our intention to ensure that the NSS is well positioned to meet the requirements of users and producers of statistics.

Director of Ceremonies

7. On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Statistics Botswana, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our cooperating partners especially the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development who over the years have assisted in the development of statistics in the country. We are looking forward to the continued collaboration for the development of our country.

I thank You.