

SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)

BETWEEN



THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

**REPRESENTED BY MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND
COMMUNICATIONS (MTC)**

AND



STATISTICS BOTSWANA

VENUE: SB EXECUTIVE BOARDROOM, GABORONE

15 FEBRUARY 2019 @ 1430 hrs

REMARKS BY: STATISTICIAN GENERAL

Dr BURTON MGUNI

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Communications

Executives and staff of the Ministry of Transport and Communications

Executives of Statistics Botswana and Staff

Members of various Media Houses

Ladies & Gentlemen

Director of Ceremony

Dumelang,

- 1.0 Let me first welcome all our visitors to Statistics Botswana and also welcome everyone to this occasion of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Statistics Botswana and Ministry of Transport and Communications.
- 2.0 The signing of the MOU demonstrates a common desire to cement cordial relations into programmatic collaboration aimed at:
 - Pursuing effective and efficient production and use of official Transport and Communications and related statistics, including data sets that are specific to the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- 3.0 Official statistics are important in providing direction and guidance to all thematic areas of the economy, in supporting national and international agenda such as the NDP11, Vision 2036, SDGs, and Africa Agenda 2063, among others. This therefore results in ever increasing demands for timely official statistics. These demands call for high innovation and use of information technology to automate data provision and access to information which can be achieved through this collaboration.
- 4.0 Pursuant to our mandate, we work closely with Ministries, Departments & Agencies (MDA's) to ensure the production of quality official statistics.

Accordingly the aim is for this collaboration to ensure production and provision of timely, accurate and relevant transport & communications and other related statistics that are vital for the nation's policy formulation, evidence based decision making and monitoring and evaluation.

Director of Ceremonies,

- 5.0 The world is making strides towards a more inclusive global information society through improved transport infrastructure and communication networks. This is indeed particularly so as the world has entered into the 4th Industrial revolution.
- 6.0 ICT continues to be a key enabler of economic and social development, bridging the digital divide and fostering an inclusive digital economy. According to the International Telecommunications Union, ITU, developing countries are home to the majority of national populations and generates about 39% of the world's telecommunications revenues. This statistic and the production of others like it based on official data are crucial to inform targeted strategies, policies and plans aimed at improving the lives of people.
- 7.0 The level of functionality of the transport system on the scale towards being world class has bearing on a country's potential for economic growth and the standard of living the people in that country. The availability, diversity and periodicity of transport statistics is important for decision making in virtually all economic, social and environmental sectors. We intend through this MOU to have more data generation so as to deliver improved wide ranging transport statistics.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- 8.0 This MoU will serve as a precursor to a whole line of activities to be carried out jointly on a collaborative basis. These activities include:
 - innovative data processing, dissemination and statistical capacity building;

- Measurement of access and usage of Transport and Communications infrastructure and Services through collection, processing and dissemination of telecommunications, ICT, road, rail, air, water and transport safety administrative data;
- production and provision of timely, accurate, and relevant Transport, Communications, and other Ministry statistics that are vital for the nation's policy formulation, evidence based decision making, monitoring and evaluation; and
- The general improvement of Transport and Communications sector statistics plans or strategies

9.0 The collaboration between SB and the Ministry is also consistent with the implementation of the Botswana Strategy for the development of Statistics (BSDS) which was launched in October, 2015 with the aim of strengthening the Coordination of the National Statistical System. It is also worth noting that the current arrangement where SB officers are attached to the Ministry is a continuation from our predecessor organisation CSO and now calls for a formalised arrangement which is articulated in this MOU.

10.0 Statistics Botswana stands committed to this collaboration and pledges its support in supporting and providing technical backstopping that will ensure adherence to internationally recognised standards in the production of official transport and communication statistics.

11.0 With these brief remarks, I look forward to good working relation between ourselves and MTC.

12.0 I thank you.