



**WELCOME REMARKS TO THE
DISSEMINATION OF THE POVERTY RESULTS
OF THE BOTSWANA MULTI TOPIC HOUSEHOLD SURVEY**

JANUARY 18, 2018, WOOD LANE HOTEL

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Representatives from the different Government Ministries and Departments

Representatives from parastatal Organisations

Representatives from the private sector

Representatives from Non-Government Organisations

Development Partners here present

Members of the media

Statistics Botswana Management and staff

Ladies and Gentlemen, a very good morning to you all!

1. Ladies and gentlemen, Statistics Botswana is honored by your presence at today's dissemination workshop of the poverty results from the Botswana Multi Topic Household Survey, commonly known as BMTHS. The BMTHS was conducted in 2015/16 as part of the Statistics Botswana program of surveys and censuses carried out in between the population and housing censuses.
2. Statistics Botswana has over a period of time collected information related to poverty. In 1974/75, a Rural Incomes Distribution Survey (RIDS) was conducted. This was followed by the 1985/86 Household Incomes and Expenditure Survey (HIES), the 1992/93 HIES, the 2002/3 HIES, the 2009/10 Botswana Core Welfare Indicators Survey (BCWIS) and the 2015/16 BMTHS. I am happy to announce that Statistics Botswana has responded to your request for poverty related information to be availed on a more regular basis. While the Organisation has reduced the period between these surveys, there are intentions of

conducting poverty as well as economic activity related surveys on a more regular basis, annually.

3. The Botswana Multi-Topic Household Survey was a year- long survey. The reason for conducting the survey over a long period was, among others, to ensure accurate estimation of indicators that are highly affected by seasonality such as poverty and employment measures. The objective of the survey was to provide a comprehensive set of household level indicators for poverty and the labour market such as the poverty incidence, employment and unemployment levels, among others. Statistics Botswana had adopted to release the results on a modular basis. You will recall that the economic activity results were released in August 2017.
4. Director of Ceremonies, allow me to give our audience a bit of background information about the survey; this was a national sample survey covering a total of 7, 188 households from cities and towns, urban villages as well as rural areas. Households were visited over a period of 2 weeks and in addition to general interviews covering the household demographics, education, health, labour, and agriculture among others, households were required to keep a 14 day diary of data on food consumption, food and non-food purchases.
5. I am happy to announce that the survey fieldwork operations were a success and the participation of respondents was very good. The survey had an over 98 percent response rate.

6. Ladies and gentlemen, it is important that we are familiar with the different poverty related concepts and definitions as well as methodology used for the conduct of this survey. Some of the information will be shared with you during today's workshop. I urge you to go through the documentation and contact Statistics Botswana for any additional information.

7. Statistics Botswana will continue to work on the data and produce additional information following conclusion of analysis. I trust that you will find the preliminary poverty results which are to be disseminated today useful.

8. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Management of Statistics Botswana and the entire staff to welcome you to today's dissemination. We are honoured by your presence and know we can always count on you as partners in our work. I recognise the different stakeholders with us today, representatives from the different Ministries and Departments, Parastatal organisations, private sector, non-government organisations, development partners, the media and of course management and staff from Statistics Botswana. You are most welcome to this dissemination and a very good morning to you all.

9. Thank you