



STATISTICS BOTSWANA

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RE: AFRICAN STATISTICS DAY CELEBRATIONS

African Statistics Day 2018 will be celebrated across the continent on 16th November 2018. Each year Africa celebrates this day to raise public awareness about the importance of statistics in all aspects of socio-economic life. The theme of the day this year, **“High-quality official statistics to ensure transparency, good governance and inclusive development”** The theme is intended to raise awareness on the important role official statistics play on the fight against corruption among government officials, decision makers, technical and financial partners, data producers, researchers, and the general public.

The theme of ASD 2018 also aligns with the African Union 2018 Summit theme “Winning the fight against corruption: A Sustainable Path for Africa's Transformation,” as agreed by the African Statistical Coordination Committee meeting in Nouakchott, Mauritania.

Corruption is associated with lack of transparency, weak governance and non-inclusive development and has a negative effect on national development through:

- a. Undermining the mobilization of government revenue;
- b. Jeopardizing the implementation of investment projects;
- c. Discouraging the development and growth of the private sector;
- d. Contributing to a misallocation of human resources;
- e. Contributing to worsening income distribution.

Empirically, high levels of human development are associated with low levels of corruption. Corruption jeopardizes inclusive social, environmental and economic development and growth. Good governance is one of the necessary preconditions for a prosperous and peaceful Africa and is at the heart of Agenda 2063 of the African Union, as stated in its third aspiration: *“an Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law”*.

Statistics Botswana will commemorate Africa Statistics Day at Tlotlo Hotel and Conference Center, Gaborone on 16 November 2018. Like other national statistics offices in Africa, Statistics Botswana will spend the day raising awareness about statistics and its importance. A key highlight of the day will be a stakeholder consultative workshop on the newly developed Data Quality Assurance Framework which outlines procedures for designating statistics as ‘official statistics’ and provides a rational, transparent and sustainable methodology for quality assessment of statistical products and services. Implementation of this framework will yield quality official statistics for all sectors.

For more information Contact:

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