



**Strengthening Economic Statistics for
Regional Integration,
Structural Transformation, and Sustainable
Development**

**African
Statistics Day
2016**



AFRICAN STATISTICS DAY

Africa celebrates the African Statistics Day on the 18th day of November every year in order to raise public awareness on the importance of statistics in all aspects of socio-economic life. This year's theme is "Strengthening Economic Statistics for Regional Integration, Structural Transformation and Sustainable Development."

Strengthening of economic statistics is important as high quality economic statistics are critical to Africa's regional integration and economic transformation, and in achieving the aims set by the United Nations in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and by the African Union in Agenda 2063- "The Africa we want. Economic statistics also play a central role in recognizing and defining development issues, informing policy design, monitoring and evaluating and forecasting future trends. Economic statistics and in particular national accounts data, provide a comprehensive assessment of the performance of a country's economy over time."

Currently there are various initiatives in the areas of economic statistics that are implemented in the continent. One of them, the African Common Project on the implementation of the 2008 United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) is making steady progress in assisting countries to improve their economic statistics. This initiative has also helped African countries to adhere to international statistical standards, and to produce timely, high quality and harmonized economic statistics and national accounts in support of good economic governance, regional integration and sustainable development.

Economic statistics also fosters regional integration and this in turn enhances economic growth and development. Regional integration is a key strategy for strengthening intra-regional trade, and is expected to produce considerable economic gains for Africa. The sustainable growth and development of Africa calls for structural transformation of its economies, therefore economic statistics are an essential tool for promoting structural transformation, tracking the re-allocation of resources from less productive to more productive sectors. Economic statistics also play a major role in boosting the contribution of the manufacturing sector to GDP, shifting traditional agriculture employment to the agro industry sector, advocating for a demographic transition from high to low birth and death rates and supporting a rise in urbanization.

We invite you to contribute to strengthening of economic statistics for regional integration, transformation and sufficient development through your support to Statistics Botswana's mandate of providing world-class quality official statistics".

For more information contact:

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