



**STATISTICS BOTSWANA**

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**SPEECH BY DEPUTY STATISTICIAN GENERAL  
STANDARDS AND TECHNICAL OPERATIONS**

**MALEBOGO KEREKANG**

**AT AFRICAN STATISTICS DAY COMMEMORATION**

**17 NOVEMBER 2017**

**GALO MALL, FRANCISTOWN**

**STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY STATISTICIAN GENERAL (STO) AT THE ASD  
2017 COMMEMORATION EVENT HELD ON 17 NOVEMBER 2017 AT  
GALO MALL, FRANCISTOWN**

**Director of Ceremony**

**Ag. Director-Stakeholder Relations,**

**Statistics Botswana Regional Office Coordinator,**

**Invited Guests from the Public and Private Sectors, as well as  
Academia and Civil Society,**

**Members of the 4<sup>th</sup> Estate, the Media,**

**Statistics Botswana Members of Staff,**

**Distinguished guests,**

- 1.0 I am very pleased to welcome you to the 2017 African Statistics Day celebrations. Your attendance is testimony to the importance that you attach to the importance of statistics in the planning, monitoring and evaluation of Botswana's development in the medium and long term.
  
- 2.0 Each year Africa celebrates this day to raise awareness of the importance of statistics in all aspects of social and economic life. The theme for this year is "**Better lives with better economic statistics**", and it focuses on the critical role economic statistics plays in underpinning economic governance that leads to durable growth, and linking economic growth with better lives and better status for all citizens of Africa.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

- 3.0 The availability and appropriate use of good economic statistics can translate into better lives for people through providing evidence as a base for policy and decision making by businesses, households and citizens.
- 4.0 Statistics is crucial as it provides information for monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the progress in meeting the goals and targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as a basis for effective economic governance to promote the welfare of a nation.
- 5.0 The achievement of the SDGs which are packed with tremendous promises of better quality of life for all, is to be owned, especially by African countries, where poverty continues to strike the lives of a large group of people.
- 6.0 It is therefore of paramount importance that the SDGs implementation take a methodical approach starting with understanding the functioning of the economy-whereby economic statistics play a cornerstone role-to designing the most appropriate economic development strategies and policies.

## **Director of Ceremonies,**

- 7.0 Economic statistics across the continent at large require strengthening in order for it to provide information for monitoring, evaluation and reporting on progress in meeting the goals and targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and a basis for effective economic governance to promote the welfare of the nation.
- 8.0 The power of economic statistics equates that of the information at hand to guide suitable decisions. The more complete the statistics, the more powerful they are.
- 9.0 I have to underscore that the development of good quality economic statistics is a matter of public choice and forms part of the investments that lead to fast and inclusive prosperity for countries and their citizens.

## **Director of Ceremonies**

- 10.0 The importance of statistics in understanding and using economic information for planning and policy design cannot be overstressed. For instance all key macroeconomic variables such as national accounts, savings and investment, employment, interest rates and inflation and other microeconomic variables such as poverty, inequality, social income indicators are based on statistics.

11.0 Good government financial statistics help to improve the transparency and good governance of the economy and thus the betterment of the wellbeing of the people.

12.0 Financial and Trade Statistics boost the economy, which in turn benefits the market, households and individuals. For instance financial markets usually bring together the supply of savings and the demand for money to finance businesses and consumer spending.

13.0 I also want to underscore the fact that using statistics we are able to know the sectoral composition of and trends of the economy and therefore policies for growth and transformation can be designed. For instance, agriculture makes up a large portion of economic activity in most developing economies and creates jobs and improves livelihoods of the rural populations.

14.0 So, sectoral statistics which comprises agriculture, energy, industrialization, transportation and tourism provide opportunities and foster growth.

**Ladies and gentlemen, before I conclude,**

15.0 I wish to use this opportunity to thank you for the support you provide to the development of statistics by giving us Statistics Botswana enumerators or data collectors information during our surveys and

censuses. It is important for all persons, households and businesses to understand that it is your responses that enable us to produce quality official statistics that can be used for decision making at various levels.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

16.0 I also must point out that all individuals, households and businesses operating in Botswana are required by law, the Statistics Act of 2009, to provide true information at the time it is requested. Failure to comply can result in legal consequences.

17.0 In conclusion Ladies and Gentlemen I thank you for your kind attention and invite you to participate in the celebration of the African Statistics Day today and champion the improvement of economic statistics for better lives for all.

18.0 I also hope that from today you will always be eager to learn about the importance of statistics. Our doors at Statistics Botswana are wide open, you can visit our offices here in Francistown or in Gaborone, and utilize our website and portals to learn more about our mandate, products and services.

**Pula Bagaetsho!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**NDA BOKA!!!**