



STATISTICS BOTSWANA

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SPEECH BY STATISTICIAN GENERAL

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AT AFRICAN STATISTICS DAY COMMEMORATION

16 NOVEMBER 2018

TLOTLO HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER

Director of Ceremonies,

Statistics Botswana Executive,

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

Members of the 4th Estate, the Media,

Statistics Botswana Members of Staff,

Distinguished guests,

I greet you all.

- 1.0 I am very pleased to welcome you to the 2018 African Statistics Day commemoration event and the Data Quality Assurance Framework workshop. 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.
- 2.0 Each year Africa celebrates this day to raise awareness of the importance of statistics in all aspects of social, economic and environment dimensions impacting on the quality of life of its people.
- 3.0 The main objectives of the celebration of African Statistics Day are to:
 - a. increase awareness of Official statistics, availability and accessibility,
 - b. create a dialogue between Producers and Users of official Statistics,
 - c. engage the public and private sector in production, dissemination and use of official statistics,

- d. enhance the capacity of academicians, local government and media to access and use official statistics for evidence based decision making and reporting,
- e. Disseminate statistical publications.

4.0 The theme for this year is **“High quality official statistics to ensure transparency, good governance and inclusive development.”**

5.0 The theme is intended to in particular raise awareness on the important role official statistics can play on the fight against corruption. 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.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

- a. Undermining the mobilization of government revenue for appropriate and effective use to improve the quality of lives of members of the society;
- b. Jeopardizing the implementation of investment projects;
- c. Contributing to a misallocation of financial and human resources;
- d. Contributing to worsening income distribution and inequalities.

7.0 Empirically, high levels of more inclusive human development are associated with low levels of corruption. As I have said, 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, and respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law”*.

8.0 High-Quality statistics can be expected when agencies responsible for the production of official statistics adhere strictly to the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and comply with the African Charter on Statistics. In addition to abiding by professional standards, applying scientific principles, observing professional ethics and complying with the rules of confidentiality, and in order to produce high-quality data, national statistics offices need to ensure that their approach is informed by characteristics of: Relevance, Sustainability, Accuracy and Reliability, Continuity, Coherence and Compatibility, Timeliness, Topicality, and Specificity. Statistics Botswana subscribes to these principles.

9.0 It is also essential that the production, dissemination and use of official statistics are backed by robust national statistical legislations. In Botswana, we have the Statistics Act of 2009. This act drew a lot from the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and has led to the development and implementation of the Botswana Strategy for the Development of Statistics (BSDS) for 2015-2020 which applies to the entire National Statistical System. This strategy although not without challenges is progressively enhancing capacity in many sectors of the NSS and has led to advancement of Official statistics in the country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

10.0 Production of Official statistics is based on the application of a variety of comprehensive frameworks including those designed to monitor all flows of economic, social and environmental statistics, to help track and expose illicit financial flows arising from and fuelling corruption. Another statistics based hindrance to corruption is Open access data platforms. These can help monitor

governance and improve the fairness, objectivity and reliability of official activities and enables public to have a communities to have a stronger voice in pressing for accountability from decision makers in the public, private and other sectors.

- 11.0** Most of our countries in Africa do not produce reliable and high-quality statistics on governance, peace and security. The indicators that are used and referred to are usually provided by international organisations such as Transparency International, Gallop, Afro barometer and others. While these are very are useful measures it would be good to have additional indicators which are produced within the country's national statistics system. For Botswana there are now such indicators within the NDP11 Performance Indicator framework whose data will have to be produced within our National Statistics System. In reference to one of these measures, Botswana has been Africa's least corrupt country in Africa and also favourably positioned internationally according to Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index. This result is obviously one that has been used many ways to leverage this country including in the competition to attract FDI.

Director of Ceremonies,

- 12.0 This year, Statistics Botswana has chosen to commemorate the day with members of the National Statistical System, including the media fraternity, hence your invitation; and there is a reason for this. We wanted to commemorate the 2018 African Statistics Day by sharing the Data Quality Assurance Framework with you.
- 13.0 As I stated earlier this year's theme, **"High-quality official statistics to ensure transparency, good governance and inclusive development"**. The Data Quality Assurance Framework which is to be discussed here today fits well to this theme as its purpose is to promote quality and also confirm that quality of a given set of

statistics is at particular level in the quality scale which ranges from 0 to 1.

- 14.0 Statistics Botswana, like other statistical agencies, is mandated to be the pre-eminent national agency responsible for the development and management of official statistics. In addition, the organization is mandated to coordinate the National Statistical System (NSS). Thus, Statistics Botswana has the responsibility to inform users and producers of statistics on the concepts, definitions and methodologies used in collecting, processing and analyzing data, the accuracy of the data produced, and any other features that may affect data quality. Statistics Botswana also has the responsibility to quality assure official statistics and this framework will be a very important tool in this work.
- 15.0 The organization has developed a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics in order to realize its objective on quality statistics, the results of which identified data quality, statistical capacity and advocacy gaps, among others. As part of the effort to address these gaps, Statistics Botswana embarked on the development of the Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF), which as I indicated earlier plays an important role in promoting the production of quality statistics.
- 16.0 The development of the framework was also as result of the United Nations Statistics Commission full endorsement of the generic national quality assurance framework template at its forty-third session in 2012; and had since encouraged countries to use it.

Director of Ceremonies,

- 20.0 It is worth noting that SB adopted a consultative approach in the development of the framework, where some of the sectors here present participated. The work has been concluded; and we are

sharing it with yourselves as a means to solicit comments as we move towards its approval by the Statistics Botswana Board of Directors.

21.0 The DQAF provides a rational, transparent and sustainable methodology for quality assessment of statistical products and services. This document also outlines procedures for designating statistics as 'official statistics'. According to Section 29 (2) of the Statistics Act of 2009, official statistics shall be in accordance with the standards and principles issued by the United Nations Statistical Commission. The core dimensions of quality are: assurances of integrity, methodological soundness, accuracy and reliability, and serviceability including relevance, timeliness, and accessibility.

Director of ceremonies,

17.0 It is hoped that through our collaborative efforts, implementation of the framework will bring our data quality to greater heights to support evidenced based decision making.

18.0 Before I conclude, I wish to commend the media for continuing to play their vital role in disseminating statistical information on environmental and socioeconomic development. Similarly, our media partners play a crucial role in linking data producers and users, as they promote data transparency and support good governance that will lead to inclusive development.

19.0 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 official statistics.

Pula Bagaetsho!!!!!!!!!!!!!!