

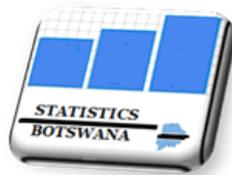


STATISTICS BOTSWANA

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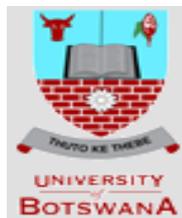
SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)

BETWEEN



STATISTICS BOTSWANA

AND



UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA

VENUE: WOODLANE HOTEL, GABORONE

26 JUNE 2018

REMARKS BY: STATISTICIAN GENERAL

Dr BURTON MGUNI

Director of Ceremony

Vice Chancellor of the University of Botswana, Professor David Norris

Executives of University of Botswana and Staff

Executives of Statistics Botswana and Staff

Members of the 4th Estate, the Media

All invited Guests

Ladies and gentlemen good afternoon,

- 1.0 I want to extend a warm welcome to all of you present here today to witness the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between Statistics Botswana (SB) and the University of Botswana (UB). I thank you all for honouring our invitation.
- 2.0 The Memorandum of Understanding we will sign here today is the beginning of what I believe to be a long-term partnership which will strengthen our cooperative statistical and academic pursuits.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- 3.0 This signing is not only an excellent example of the strength of cooperation between our institutions, but is also a clear indicator that our institutions are committed to both the production of quality official statistics, and statistical development in general. I know that my colleagues and I share the same excitement and optimism when we think of the wonderful possibilities that can come about as we enter into this historic partnership.
- 4.0 At first glance, Statistics Botswana and the University of Botswana may not seem to have much in common but in

fact we do. Built into both our DNAs is a commitment to innovation on data collection and analysis as well as the spirit of pioneering new ways of better developing statistics and its use in research and decision making in the country.

- 5.0 The Botswana Strategy for the Development of Statistics (BSDS) visualises the synergy between data users and data producers. It is therefore important that statistical capacity building in the country be dependent upon an effective system that trains the required manpower to handle the entire gamut of statistics in the way statistics is supposed to be produced and used. The UB is a key player in this regard as it provides training, capacity building, also does research in the field of statistics and all other disciplines such as Economics, Environmental Science and ICT that are all critical for the production of statistics by Statistics Botswana and resultant use of such statistics.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- 6.0 As you may be aware, statistical information has become an indispensable factor of production and the resource of the modern age in the era of Big Data. It is part of the knowledge assets that have become key drivers of national development and drivers of innovation, learning and wealth. Data will become increasingly important as the country moves forward in its chosen path to become a knowledge based economy.

As it is commonly said today, “data is the new gold”.

- 7.0 Statistics have come to be recognized as part of enabling infrastructure for development. They act as a stimulant to public action, a catalyst for change and an input into making development programmes work. Among other things, statistics provide a basis for the formulation of good policy and decision-making.
- 8.0 Please be made aware that the Statistics Act of 2009 recognises the National Statistical System (NSS) and the

coordination of the same by Statistics Botswana. The effort that we are celebrating today is directed towards the need to work closely with other entities in the production of statistics to enhance evidence-based decision making processes as well as planning.

Ladies and gentlemen,

9.0 The signing of this MoU is a huge incentive to both SB and UB as it aims to strengthen our collaboration mainly in the areas of:

- Training and capacity building through exchange programs, attachments, enhancement of officers and students skills, exposure on various statistical areas including census/survey/research methods as well as continuous refresher courses, etc.;
- Development of systems for specific statistical data processing applications;
- Conduct of joint surveys/researches on identified subject areas and guide each other on analysis and presentation of census/survey/research results;
- The general use of facilities for training purposes, advocacy for and dissemination of statistics shall also be considered; and most importantly,
- Collaboration in community education to increase mathematical, statistical and research awareness and knowledge to the public shall be our top priority.

10.0 This component of the MoU has been thoroughly interrogated and agreed upon and acceptance to these key elements cements a start to our partnership. Worth noting is that the MoU on its own is just a framework and it is

my belief that relevant structures will be set up to ensure that the MoU is implemented.

11.0 I would like to express my sincere gratitude to UB as their insight and goodwill have made the signing of this MoU a reality. We will continue the strategic dialogue on our joint priorities, at all levels, so that we can complement and leverage each organization's comparative advantage to the benefit of our country's development. I commit that Statistics Botswana will think of this signing not only in terms of what we will be able to achieve in terms of collaboration but in a much wider context of generally developing official statistics and its position in the development of our country.

12.0 I would also like to thank both SB and UB staff for the commitment in initiating and arranging to formalize collaboration between our two prominent and prestigious organisations.

13.0 We look forward to translating the words of this MoU into action.

Thank you for your attention.