

SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)

BETWEEN



**MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY &
SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

AND



STATISTICS BOTSWANA

VENUE: MELSD 7th FLOOR CONFERENCE, GABORONE

6 AUGUST 2018 @ 1430 hrs

REMARKS BY: STATISTICIAN GENERAL

Dr BURTON MGUNI

Director of Ceremony

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Employment, Labour Productivity and Skills Development

Deputy Permanent Secretaries

Executives of the Ministry of Employment, Labour Productivity and Skills Development and Staff

Executives of Statistics Botswana and Staff

Members of the Media Houses

All invited Guests

Dumelang,

- 1.0 Let me start by saying that, it is my singular pleasure to attend this momentous occasion that marks the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between Statistics Botswana and the Ministry of Employment, Labour Productivity and Skills Development. This MoU formalises the partnership between our two organisations ensuring the availability of official Employment, Labour Productivity and Skills Development statistics.
- 2.0 The signing of the MoU today reflects a belief in the importance of joining efforts to overcome the obstacles that we are facing in the production of official economic, socio-demographic, environmental, governance and other statistics as well as strengthening administrative support and capacity building to meet the increasing demand for the statistics.
- 3.0 As you may be aware, the two organisations coming into this mutual understanding endeavour to start collaborating in

producing the Employment, Labour Productivity and Skills Development statistics ; the statistics will serve as a major source of data for supporting the National Development Plan (NDP11) for tracking Botswana's attainment or otherwise of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as updating indicators sector specific ones such as Goal 8 "Decent Work and Economic Growth"; Goal 10 "Reduced Inequalities"; Goal 9 "Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure"; and Goal 4 "Quality Education".

Ladies and Gentlemen

- 4.0 As all of you would know, employment creation is one of the national priorities. Therefore statistics on employment and unemployment levels are of national importance as they inform on decisions, policies, programmes and interventions to create and diversify employment opportunities. Statistics Botswana has placed great priority on increasing the periodicity of producing employment and unemployment rates and other labour statistics to move from every 5 years to every quarter of a calendar year starting possibly in the first quarter of 2019. In this regard we expect that the employment data obtained directly by the Ministry to be used to complement and quality assure the survey data collected by Statistics Botswana.
- 5.0 I wish to express my appreciation on the fact that the National Statistical System sector led by this Ministry is one of those that have been enrolled early into, the Botswana Strategy for the Development of Statistics (BSDS) 2015-2020. It is thus a real partner in facilitating the development of official statistics and enhancing use of official statistics in the country.
- 6.0 I see the signing of this MoU as a huge catalyst to both SB and Ministry of Employment, Labour Productivity and Skills Development in the production of official Employment,

Labour Productivity and Skills Development statistics as it aims to strengthen our cooperation mainly in the areas of:

- Collaborating in the innovative data processing, dissemination and statistical capacity building;
- vital operations such as business data collection including expenditure, income and employment data which are used for statistical operations and compilation;
- production and provision of timely, accurate, and relevant Employment, Labour Productivity and Skills Development and other Ministry statistics that are vital for the nation's policy formulation, evidence based decision making, monitoring and evaluation; and
- The general improvement of Employment, Labour Productivity and Skills Development sector statistics plans or strategies.

7.0 Through a cross-examination; the MoU has been thoroughly harmonised in accordance to key elements cementing a start to our partnership. Following the signing of these MoU relevant structures will be put in place to ensure implementation.

8.0 With these brief remarks, I thank you all for honouring our invitation to this signing ceremony and look forward to good working relations between ourselves and MELSD.

9.0 I thank you.