

STATEMENT

BY

THE

STATISTICIAN GENERAL

ON THE DISSEMINATION OF THE
QUARTERLY MULTI TOPIC SURVEY

LABOUR FORCE MODULE

QUARTER 3 OF 2019

AT

TLOTLO CONFERENCE CENTRE

21ST JANUARY 2020

Director of Ceremonies

Representatives of Development Partners her present

Senior Government officials

Representatives of the media here present

Ladies and gentlemen

1. It is a great pleasure to be here with you this morning on the occasion of the dissemination of the Quarterly Multi Topic Survey (QMTS) labour module statistics. Let me hasten to say that initial name for this survey was Continuous Multi Topic Household Survey (CMTHS) but we changed the name to Quarterly Multi Topic Survey to more accurately communicate the periodicity of the release of the results and the related data collection period.
2. The survey is part of a wider effort by Statistics Botswana to avail information to stakeholders at regular and short intervals. The institution of these quarterly surveys follows intense feedback from stakeholders in demanding employment information at increased periodicity. This is a ground breaking survey for us as it allows us for the first time to provide on a quarterly basis information relating to employment creation and other changes in employment across the entire economy. Previously we were only able to do so for the formal

sector on the basis of the enterprise based Formal Sector Employment Survey.

3. The first quarter over which this survey was conducted is July to September 2019. This is quarter 3 of 2019. The field work covered a selected sample households in all the districts. Field work for the next quarter which is Q4 2019 (October to December) was commenced accordingly and it is planned that the results for that quarter and subsequent quarters will be released within a period of no more than 2 months following conclusion of the fieldwork.
4. While the survey focuses primarily on the labour force information, from time to time the survey will include a second module on a rotational basis depending on the availability of resources. I must hasten to say that determination of modules to be included will be guided by national priorities as well as stakeholder feedback and readiness to undertake fieldwork with such expanded questionnaires. Funding support from interested stakeholders for some these second modules would also be an important consideration.
5. Examples of such second modules would be those designed to provide indicators that can only be obtained from surveys to inform on development agenda such as the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2063 “ The

Africa we want", the national Vision 2036 and national development plans, ICT and others.

6. The increased demand and use of statistics including that of employment calls upon statistics producing entities, including Statistics Botswana, to explore innovative methods of collecting, processing and disseminating surveys. In this connection, Statistics Botswana has adopted the Computer Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI) to improve on the quality of data as well as shorten the turnaround time between data collection and report production.
7. While CAPI has clearly proven to be a very good approach to data collection, there are still some challenges relating to its use that need to be addressed. The challenges are mainly with regard to internet connectivity. Statistics Botswana is currently working with mobile service providers to ensure that the challenges are minimised as we are going to use CAPI in other projects including the upcoming 2021 Population and Housing Census
8. Director of ceremonies, I am happy to say that Statistics Botswana continues to enjoy an enduring relationship with International development partners. In the case of this survey, the World Bank is providing invaluable technical advice and support. The World Bank technical advice and support so far included planning of the survey, design of the data collection tools and this is expected to be extended to in-depth analysis

of the data. We thank them for the enduring support and cooperation.

9. As we release the results of the labour force module today, we encourage users and analysts to always make reference to the definitions that we followed to collect and compile the results. These include definitions for example of “an employed person”, “an unemployed person”, “youth”, labour Force” and so on. The Statistics Act requires Statistics Botswana to use internationally adopted definitions and Frameworks and in the case of Labour statistics these would have been adopted by the UN or the International Labour Organisation (ILO). To give further guidance on these important matters a presentation on the methodology is part of today’s programme.

10. Before I present to you the key results for the Q3 2019 results, I must emphasise that any calendar year has 4 quarters and the results of any quarterly survey will usually have a seasonal component. Accordingly changes in the results from one quarter to the next do not necessarily represent a long-term trend. Such a trend is better observed from comparing year on year changes.

11. Naturally there will be interest in comparing the Q3 2019 results we are about the present with the results with the 2015/16 BMTHS survey results. When making such comparisons it is important to note that the Q3 2019 results could be affected by seasonality as the data was collected over period of 3

months while the 2015/16 indicators were from data collected over the whole year and would therefore not be affected by seasonality. In Botswana it is safe to assume that in a non-drought year seasonal agricultural activities would affect labour statistics from one quarter to the next with the highest positive seasonal impact expected during the harvesting and selling of produce quarter.

12. I now move to present to you the key Q3 2019 results. These are as follows;

- i) Unemployment rate (15 & above): 20.7%
- ii) Youth unemployment rate (15-35): 26.7%
- iii) Employment to Population ratio : 47.4%
- iv) Youth not in Employment, not in Education or Training (NEET): 47.4%
- v) Average earnings were estimated at P5,404 per month

These are just selected the key results. A presentation on the rest of the results is going to be given today.

13. As I conclude my remarks, I wish to wholeheartedly thank all respondents in the various households who welcomed our teams of enumerators and provided the important information that has enabled us to provide these important results. The panel survey design is used for this survey, meaning that there will be repeat visits in the next quarter to some households which were visited in the last quarter. We therefore call on respondents in those household that will be revisited to be

patient with us as these revisits are important to ensure accuracy and reliability and general quality of the data form one quarter to the next.

14. Ladies and gentlemen, as I said this is the beginning of this very important continuing survey. We welcome feedback from stakeholders on any aspect of this survey so that we can continuously improve, which we believe would be for the benefit of this country.

15. **I thank you.**