

- 1.A] When I joined the Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics [FIBOS] in 1988 there were only six [6] Personal Computers being used for data processing using the earlier version of spreadsheet – Lotus 123 etc. Report writing was done using also earlier version of word etc.

Major complex data processing like surveys [household and others] population and housing censuses were carried out at the government center [ITC] then the Electronic Data Processing [EDP] center using mainframe computers IBM and VAX environment.

To date there are 70 personal computers and 10 laptops all connected to a Local Area Network [LAN]. All but one official Statistics are processed in house using the standard Microsoft excel, word etc software. The main processing software at FIBOS is the SAS for household surveys, household and population census establishment survey and others.

The enhancement of the Information and Communication Technology [ICT] in FIBOS has strengthened its functions in particular the readily availability of Internet access.

- B] A new innovation on ICT is the usage of the Global Positioning System [GPS] that will be used in the imminent housing and population census 2007. The SAS software that will be used to process the 2007 census has been up graded continuously as it is license based.
- C] The prioritising of ICT projects depends very much on the timeliness of the release dates of the official Statistics.
- D] The office uses an intranet to improve its intelligence.

- 2.A] As a computer programmer and system analyst, I use these skills to evaluate the effectiveness of FIBOS investments and expenses.

- B] FIBOS has an Information and Technology unit as well as a geographical information system [GIS] unit which are used to meet the growing demand for official statistics.

- 3] Fiji government has a central Information Technology Centre [ITC] where other departments data processing needs are carried out. FIBOS uses ITC only for the Immigration and Visitors Statistics as the system belongs to the Department of Immigration.
- A] Fiji has a numerous ICT training facilities where ICT personal are trained
- B] These training is only beneficial to the use of Microsoft application. For the more comprehensive and complex application FIBOS trains its ICT personnel internally in the use of SAS.
- 4] The major obstacle in the use of ICT is the funding of its maintenance.