# AN OVERVIEW OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES, WHAT DATA SERIES ARE AVAILABLE AND HOW RELEVANT THEY ARE FOR POLICY MAKING – THE NIGERIAN CASE

## 1.0 Introduction:

Economic Statistics can be defined as an historical record of economic activity which is capable of guiding the understanding of an economic system and also guide the formulation of policy outside that system. Economic Statistics are readily obtained from economic surveys and Censuses, and through the system of Administrative Statistics. They include Prices Statistics, External Trade Statistics, System of National Accounts; Government Revenue and Expenditure; Interest/Exchange Rates, etc. Our focus in this paper is basic economic statistics derived from Censuses and Surveys e.g. Manufacturing; Mining and Quarrying; Building and Construction; Wholesale and Retail; Hotels and Restaurants; Organised Road Transport; Private Professional Services, Agriculture etc.

## 2.0 Sources of Economic Statistics In Nigeria

Economic Surveys are executed by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) using the system of National Integrated Survey of Establishments (NISE).

The major Surveys under NISE are:

> The Quarterly Establishment Surveys

> The Annual Establishment Surveys

> Prices Statistics Survey

## 2.1 The Quarterly Surveys

The quarterly surveys have been on–going for years since 2004, in collaboration with Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). In the 2005 and 2006 Collaborative survey with Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the National Communications Commission (NCC), the following economic sectors and sub–sectors were covered, namely:

(i)      Agriculture Hunting and Forestry

(ii)     Fishing

(iii)    Manufacturing

(iv)    Building and Construction

(v)     Wholesale and Retail

(vi)     Hotels and Restaurants

(vii)    Transport Storage and Communication

(viii)   Mining and Quarrying

(ix)     Financial Intermediation

(x)      Health and Social

(xi)     Electricity, Gas and Water

(xii)    Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities

(xiii)   Public Administration and Defence

(xiv)    Other Community, Social and Personal Services


The 2006 Quarterly surveys were streamlined into the following economic sectors/sub-sectors:

(i)      Manufacturing

(ii)     Agriculture (Modern Agricultural Holdings)

(iii)    Hotels and Restaurant

(iv)     Wholesale and Retail Trade

(v)      Building and Construction

(vi)     Mining and Quarrying

(vii)    Organised Private Transport

(viii)   Private Professional Services

(ix)     Petroleum sector Statistics.


## 2.2    THE ANNUAL SURVEYS

The annual survey of establishments was conducted last in Nigeria in 1996 with the year 1995 as reference period. It is usually a comprehensive survey satisfying virtually all economic date needs and indicators for planning and decision making.  The scope and coverage is usually very wide spanning virtually all economic sectors and sub-sectors of International Standard of Industrial Classification (ISIC). I t satisfies various data needs.

The Annual Establishment survey is designed to cover all business and industrial establishments throughout the Federal that employs ten (10) persons above, as well as, registered private professional services e.g. Financial Intermediation Health and Social works, REAL estate, renting and Business Activity not else where classified; organised Road Transport Operators employing less than ten (10) persons. The data gaps experienced over the year are as a result of non–conduct of the Annual surveys.

The following economic sectors/sub sectors are scheduled for coverage:

- (i)     Manufacturing
- (ii)    Building and Construction
- (iii)   Wholesale and Retail Trade
- (iv)    Hotels and Restaurants
- (v)     Mining and Quarrying
- (vi)    Private Professional Services
- (vii)   Electricity, Gas and Water etc.

## 2.3   NATIONAL CENSUS OF INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESSES (NICB)

The National Census of Industries and Businesses was first conducted in 1988, which frame was used for the conduct of the Annual survey of 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, and 1994.

Another National Census of Industries and Businesses was conducted in 1996/97, which the frame was used for annual survey of 1995. Till today none has been executed due to problem of funds.

It is currently in the programme of NBS to commence planning for NCIB this year to be executed in the year 2008/09.

## 2.4   OTHER SECTORAL AGENCIES IN NIGERIA THAT PRODUCE ECONOMIC STATISTICS

These agencies produce mainly administrative statistics and the range of data they produce are those falling within their functions. Some of them like the Central Bank of Nigeria, the different Planning, Research & Statistics Depts. (PRSDs) in the line ministries/parastatals undertake survey programmes most of the time in collaboration with the NBS. Such collaborative surveys have been established between NBS and the following agencies:

- ➢     Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the National Communication Commission (NCC) {2004, 2005 and 2006}.
- ➢     The State Statistical Agencies (SSAs)
- ➢     The Federal Ministry of Agriculture
- ➢     The Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC)
- ➢     Central Bank of Nigeria alone e.g. Export Commodities Survey, Prices Survey etc.

The agencies that produce economic statistics include:

- The Central Bank of Nigeria
- PRSDs in the line Ministries and parastatals including those of states and local governments.
- The State Statistical Agencies
- Federal Research Institutions
- Raw Material Research and Development Council
- Nigeria Customs Service
- Nigeria National Petroleum Cooperation (NNPC).

Economic Associations that keep / produce economic statistics:

- Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN)
- National Association of Chamber, Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA)
- Nigeria Association of Small–Scale Industries (NASSI)
- Nigerian Employers Consultative Association (NECA)
- Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN)
- Nigeria Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME)
- Association of Nigerian Exporters (ANE)
- Association of Nigeria Licensed Customs Agents
- Association of Nigeria Co-Operative etc.

## 3.0    ECONOMIC STATISTICS (DATA TYPES) / SERIES AVAILABLE

Data types in Economic Statistics evolve from sample surveys and censuses, and through systems of Administrative Statistics (SAS). There are numerous data types of economic statistics available at the NBS and the major ones are:

(i)     Transport Statistics; Land, Rail, Water and oil freight services etc.
(ii)    Agricultural Statistics: Crops, Livestock, Poultry, Fishing and Forestry
(iii)   Money and Banking Statistics
(iv)    Electricity, Gas and Water Statistics
(v)     National Accounts Statistics
(vi)    Hotels, Restaurants and Tourism Statistics
(vii)   Housing, Building and Construction Statistics
(viii)  International Trade Statistics; Import/Export Statistics
(ix)    Employment and Labour Statistics; Unemployment rates in Nigeria by Location and Gender
(x)     Employment generation by economic sector and year (1999 – 2005).

## LIST OF DATA SET AVAILABLE

| S/NO. | NAME OF SURVEY | YEAR(S) |
|-------|----------------|---------|
| 1. | Quarterly Surveys | 1994, 1995, 1996, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 |
| 2. | Annual Survey of Establishment | 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995 |
| 3. | National Census of Industries & Businesses (NCIB) | ~~1997, 1998~~  1996, 1997 |
| 4. | Quick National Employment Generation Survey (QNEGS) | 1999 – 2005 |

## OTHER DATA TYPES

➢ VALUE OF SHIPMENT RECEIPTS FOR SERVICES AND OTHER REVENUE

➢ PURCHASES OR RECEIPTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES

➢ VALUE OF STOCKS

➢ INDIRECT TAXES AND SUBSIDIES

➢ CONSUMPTION OF FIXED CAPITAL, ETC.

## 3.1    SOME EXISTING DATA GAPS

The issue of very low response even among the data items has created numerous gaps especially in the NBS/CBN/NCC Collaborative surveys from 2004 to 2006.

In view of the non–conduct of the annual surveys since 1995/96 relevant data through surveys are not available, for example:

➢ **HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS**

- Authorized paid–up capital by Nigerians and Non- Nigerians
- Employment by categories of persons engaged
- Wages and Salaries paid to different categories of persons employed
- Staff training and development
- Types of accommodation facilities
- Recreational facilities (such as)
- Swimming pool
- Conference hall
- Sport facilities etc.

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- ➢ MANUFACTURING
  - ▪ Account for the period of inactivity
  - ▪ Authorised paid up capital by Nigerian and non Nigerians
  - ▪ Employment by categories of person engaged
  - ▪ Wages and salaries paid to different categories of persons employed
  - ▪ Staff training and Development
  - ▪ Gross addition to fixed assets
  - ▪ Sales of fixed assets and depreciation
  - ▪ Industrial cost
  - ▪ Non – Industrial cost
  - ▪ Raw materials used
  - ▪ Main products
  - ▪ Receipt from non–industrial services
  - ▪ Water sources
  - ▪ Industrial waste disposal

- ➢ WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE
  - ▪ Number of month operated within one year
  - ▪ Account for the period of Inactivity
  - ▪ Authorized capital paid up by Nigerians and non Nigerians
  - ▪ Employment categories of persons engaged
  - ▪ Wages and salaries paid to categories of persons employed
  - ▪ Staff training and development
  - ▪ Description of goods purchased for sale commissions.

- ➢ PRIVATE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.
  - ▪ Authorised paid up capital by Nigerians and non-Nigerians
  - ▪ Employment by categories of professionals engaged
  - ▪ Wages and salaries paid to categories of professionals employed
  - ▪ Staff training and Development etc

## 4.0 RELEVANCE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS FOR POLICY MAKING IN NIGERIA

The Economic Statistics produced in the country have been very relevant in satisfying the following needs of various users:

## 4.1 Formation of Economic Policies of Government:

Data obtained from our industrial surveys in Nigeria is of utmost importance in the formulation of economic policies of all tiers of government: Federal, State and Local governments. Consider for example, the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) – 2015; the NEEDS, SEEDS and LEEDS programmes of the federal, state and local governments respectively.

Many states and local government are in daring need of industrial development to reduce unemployment/poverty, crime, generate revenue, etc. These cannot be achieved without consistent, timely and qualitative economic statistics.

## 4.2 Monitoring Growth In Industrial Activities:

The growth of industrial activities in a country has always been accompanied by a demand for facts about the structure of these activities, the nature of their current status as well as changes that have taken place in them.

The Federal Government, States, Local Government and Private Sectors need to be kept informed of the changes in the status or movement in industries, shifts in inputs and output; demand / sale, availability of credit, etc.

## 4.3 Invaluable To Investors:

Right from the inception of democracy in 1999 the president has been visiting many foreign countries in the developed economies soliciting for economic investment in the country.

A few years later, the federal government established the Nigeria Investment Promotion Commission, supervised directly by the presidency. This was primarily to encourage/promote investors, facilitate discussion on investment and reduce the incidence of Advance Fee Fraud popularly called '419' in Nigeria. In the commission is an NBS desk/section to provide all needed data for investors both local and foreign.

## 4.4    Meet Needs Of The Business Community And Industrialists.

. The business community in Nigeria are the principle suppliers on industrial activity in the country.
They are as well the principal users of such data. It is through statistical economic surveys and
compilation that industrialists obtain information that will meet their needs.  Such information / data
must be sufficiently reliable, timely and comparable among firms from one period to another.

## 4.5    Service Industries:

Economic statistical information is also useful to other firms performing one services or another for
particular industries. For example, transportation, communication companies, as well as trade and
service operators could plan better if they had good knowledge of the structure and location of knits
involved in manufacturing or other economic activities.

## 4.6    Other Particular Uses of Economic Data

4.6.1  **Labour Disputes:**  Industrial arbitrations tribunals/panels use data on labour force to
arbitrate between management and workers. They are used also to formulate and
administer labour laws and negotiations regarding wages and salary of employees.

4.6.2  **Gross / Output and Input:** Economic data on the quantity and value of particular
commodities are required for supply and demand analysis. These help to determine
national policy in foreign trade methods and studying the relationship of industrial activities
to the National economy. Statistics on the consumption of specific materials distributed by
an industry are of great significance to industry management in sectors where the
materials originate. Economic data are also useful in dealing with surpluses or deficits in
the supply of commodities and related price problems.

4.6.3  **Input–Output Tables:** Data on the value of goods and services produced as well as the
cost of the goods and services consumed in production are required for input–output
tables. These tables are very important in economic planning and programming.

4.6.4  **Stock / Value Added:** Data on stock are very useful in economic analysis. The ratio of
stock of materials on the one hand to production or sales are useful indication of the
development of the trade cycle in a country. In addition, changes in inventory levels
between the beginning and end of the survey year are necessary for the computation of
value added.

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**4.6.5 Fixed Capital Formation:** The level of fixed capital formation is an indicator of changes in activity in the manufacturing sector. Therefore, current information on investment in plant will be of great interest to industrialists.

## 5.0 CONCLUSION:

In this paper we have seen the general overview, need, uses of economic statistics in Nigeria, and various data types currently available. Very serious efforts have been made to develop data gathering in that area in view of its relevance to various goals, policy formulation and planning needs of the government. The govt. has set a number of targets/goals to repair the economy. These are short term or long term goals. Considering the different needs these data may be put, data currently available are not in a position to meet these needs. Data available are either limited in scope, not representative due to poor respondent's attitude or non-response, insufficient funds to carry out a comprehensive survey; Un-updated / highly defective frame, etc. Numerous gaps exist between data items and surveys. Because of the non-conduct of the annual surveys many data series are not available. The present management has done a lot, and is still doing, to address these problems.

# LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FOUNDATIONS OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS IN NIGERIA: ISSUE AND POLICY OPTIONS

## 1.0  INTRODUCTION:

Nigeria, like many developing countries, faces major technical, organizational and Management problems in developing relevant timely and comprehensive data which is a fundamental requirement for designing a well–articulated development strategy for sound economic management

Statistical economic data are currently being generated in the country from two main sources:

> ➢  Censuses and Surveys
> ➢  Administrative records of government institutions and private establishment

The above two sources are complimentary but differ significantly in the method of data collection. Economic statistics, the focus of this paper, is no difference in sources of generation with similar legal and Institutional Foundations for all categories of data produced in the country.

Generally, government departments/institutions are set – up to provide services related to needs of specific sectors of the economy or meet special needs. However, government institution offering similar services should generate similar data, but in practice the range and quality of data they generate vary significantly among them due to the adoption of different concepts, definition and methods of extraction/procurement of the data. Institutional standardization of the processes become a necessity.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) by relevant acts of law conducts censuses and surveys as the Nigerian apex agency.

There are still other government agencies that conduct economic censuses and surveys e.g. Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) mostly in collaboration with NBS. For a well coordinated Planning and monitoring of sectoral and national programmes for good results and achievement of set targets a sound legal and institutional foundations/framework is necessary.

**2.0 Organization of Statistical Systems in Nigeria**

Statistical organisation is one of the most challenging tasks to any Central Statistics Office.

In organising a statistical system the following issues should be taken into consideration:

- ➤ The issue of decentralization/Centralisation
- ➤ Coordination of statistical activities within the system in addition to other National Agencies involved in data production within the system
- ➤ The legal framework for the functioning of the system and
- ➤ The Manpower Development of the different offices of the National Statistical System.

Nigeria runs a Federal system of government, and a decentralized statistical system.

There are three (3) levels of governments: Federal, State, and Local governments. Each level of government runs its own statistical service. At both the Federal and state levels each ministry or parastatal has an independent statistical unit with a local unit for coordination.

**3.0 Legal Frame works For Compilation of Economic Statistics in Nigeria**

## 3.1 The Statistical Act of 1957

The first comprehensive legislation on Statistics in Nigeria is the statistical Act of 1957. The Act empowers the chief statistician of the Federation to collect, compile, analyse, and publish statistical information relating to commercial, industrial, agricultural, mining, social, economic and general activities and conditions of the inhabitants of the Nigerian Federation. It also provides that the Chief Statistician collaborates with relevant departments of Federal, state and local Governments in the collection, compilation, analysis and publication of the statistical records of Government institutions and generally, to organize and coordinate social and economic statistics relating to the Federation. This ordinance was amended in 1979. The role of the Chief Statistician then is today discharged by the Director General of the National Bureau of Statistics.

### 3.2 National Population Commission Decree 23 of 1989

The Decree 23 on National Population Commission was promulgated in 1989. This Decree makes the National Population Commission responsible for the production and publishing of population and related data.

### 3.3 The Civil Service Re – Organization Decree No 43 of 1988

The Civil Services (Re – Organization) Decree 43 of 1988 provides for the establishment of many agencies for statistics production in a decentralized and sectoral basis for the three tiers of governments in the country, namely, Federal, States and Local governments. Specifically, it provides for the establishment of the Planning, Research and statistics Departments (PRSD) in each of the Federal, state Ministries and parastatals as well as the Local Governments. The provisions of the decree have fully been implemented, at these three levels despite staffing problems especially at the local governments.

### 3.4 The National Bureau of Statistics Act 2007

This Act was signed into law by the President and Commander-in–Chief, Federal Republic of Nigeria on 25th May, 2007. The provisions of the Act are presently at the Ministry of Justice for gazetting.

### 3.5 The National Policy on Micro Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (MSME)

The National Policy on (MSMEs) is anchored on the National Economic Empowerment and Development strategy (NEEDs) and State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (SEEDs), whose main thrusts include growing the private sector and making MSME more globally competitive. There are a number of policies that impact on the development of MSMEs in Nigeria. They are:-

- ➤ The National Industrial Policy
- ➤ The New Agricultural Policy
- ➤ The IT Policy
- ➤ The Energy Policy
- ➤ The Microfinance Policy
- ➤ The Trade Policy etc.

MSMEs are central to the achievement of the goal of reducing poverty by half by the year 2015. This is because MSMEs constitute the largest single employer of labour and the primary source of incomes for the bulk of the population. Reducing poverty necessitates promoting output,

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productivity, income and sustainable growth of MSME. Standardisation of concepts and definitions; data generation and access to information are part of the policy objectives.

## 4.0 Legal Institutions for the Promotion and Production of Economic and other Statistics

### 4.1 Data Banking:

The National Data Bank (NDB) was established with the assistance of UNDP in 1987. It was meant to offer date base facilities for acquiring, storing updating, processing and retrieving statistical or other types of data. It is the Central Data Bank in Nigeria.

The council of Ministers approved its establishment in 1986 in addition to the establishment of other four (4) Sectoral Data Banks (SDB). These SDBs are based in:

> Federal Ministry of Industries and Technology (FMT)

> Federal Ministry of Agriculture (FMA)

> Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Rural Development (FMWRRD) and

> Federal Ministry of Education and Youth Development.

Later, the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Services (FMASS) developed it's own.

These data banks are not to be involved in primary data collection but they are to acquire secondary data from producing agencies.

The National Data Bank (NDB) is now part of the National Bureau of Statistics, Abuja.

### 4.2 Federal Institutions/Associations

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), formerly Federal Office of Statistics (FOS) up to 2005, is the lead/Apex Agency for Statistical data production in Nigeria. Because it lacks the capacity to provide all the Statistics and information services required by the National Statistical and Information System (NSIS), other agencies/ Economic Associations producing economic statistics, include:

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- Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)
- Planning Research and Statistics Departments (PRSD) in all Federal/State Ministries e.g Finance, Commence, Industries, Aviation, etc.
- The State Statistical Agencies (SSA).
- The Nigeria Customs Service
- The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC)
- PRSDs in All Federal /State parastatals
- All Federal Research Institutions
- All Private/Public (Economic) Establishments.
- The Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN)
- National Association of Chambers, Commence, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA).
- All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN).
- Nigeria Association of Small Scale Industrialists (NASSI)
- Small And Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN)
- Association of Nigeria Licensed Customs Agents
- Nigeria Association of Small and Medium Enterprises.
- Association of Nigeria Co – operative
- Association of Nigeria's Exporters etc.

## 5. 0  Role of International Agencies / Experience

Some International Agencies have been very helpful to the country in the following areas:

- Strengthen coordination in the production of economic statistics through the Sstem of Administrative Statistics
- Training
- Capacity Building
- Infrastructure
- Sponsoring Surveys etc.
- Analysis / Clearing of Back-log

They are UNDP, DFID, Economic Reform and Governance Programme (ERGP) of the World Bank, European Union (EU), etc.

## 9.0   Conclusion:

Need for production of economic statistics in the country has been on the increase in view of government efforts to revamp the economy, through some initiated economic programmes. The private sector, investors and other users with pressing need for data have given rise to multiple and sometimes overlapping sectoral agencies involving in data production. This requires a National strategy for sound economic Management, legal and institutional frameworks.

The involvement of many agencies in data production are strong cases for streamlining these agencies and their roles by establishing an effective coordination mechanisms at all levels of government as sectors of the economy where economic and other data are collected.

The network and functions of these agencies are getting more complex and therefore the need to strengthen the necessary legal framework to enable the National Statistical System achieves set goals and objectives.

## MAIN PROBLEMS AND POSSIBLE WAYS TO IMPROVE
## ECONOMIC SURVEYS IN NIGERIA

### 1.0  INTRODUCTION:

Data production is a very costly and tedious task; especially when it comes to economic data production which is fraught with so many problems. The problem commences at the planning stage when the issues of procurement of the study units constitute the initial problems.

### 2.0  MAIN PROBLEMS OF ECONOMIC SURVEY:

The problems of economic surveys in Nigeria can be classified into two broad areas:
- Planning and Implementation problems
- Analytical problems

### 2.01 PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION:
Prominent among these problems are:
- Inadequate frame
- Very low response rate
- High level of unanalysable returns due to omissions on the part of respondents or poor record keeping, e.g. a retrieved Wholesale and Retail questionnaire without sales and purchases, etc.
- Apathy on the part of respondents
- Inadequate funding / resources
- Data gaps due to discontinuity in surveys
- Too many call-backs
- Inadequate supervision, editing and scrutiny
- New technology yet to be accepted by respondents, e.g. scanning rules in completion of questionnaires, etc.

### 2.02 ANALYTICAL PROBLEMS INCLUDE:
Inadequate infrastructure to support these facilities, e.g. electricity, air conditioners, etc.

### 3.0 FEASIBLE SOLUTIONS:

### 3.1  The Issue of Frame:
A near perfect frame is a good asset in any economic survey. It has a serious effect on the economic indicators. Once the frame is defective the indicators cannot be reliable. The raising factors used, cannot yield good results. The establishment directory used in the National Bureau of Statistics, is the "Quick listing of establishments – 2004". A total of about 92,256 establishments, those employing one (1) and above out of which about 28,919 were those employing 10 and above persons. Even though there have been too many changes in the economy, the frame have not been updated to date, due to lack of funds. It is still being used for all economic surveys in the country. Nevertheless, in the frame we have a lot of unclassified establishments in terms of:
- Main Activity Status
- Employment Size / Band
- Insufficient information in terms of Name, Physical Location Address, Local government Area, etc.

The above Quick listing of Establishments was funded by DFID, which also assisted in a greater measure in terms of capacity building and training

### 3.1.1 Short-Run measures adopted to Improve the directory:
After the quick-listing of 2004, the following economic surveys have been conducted:

- NBS/CBN/NCC collaborative survey 2004 (conducted in 2005)
- NBS/CBN/NCC collaborative survey 2005 (conducted in 2006)
- Quick National Employment Generation Survey 1999 – 2005 (conducted in 2006)
- NBS/CBN/NCC collaborative survey 2006 (conducted in 2007)

Current survey:
- NBS/EFCC (Economic and Financial Crimes Commission) survey 2006.

This survey is sponsored by the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Fieldwork is scheduled between July / August 2007, as all necessary preparations have been concluded.

At the end of analysis of each of the above surveys, the completed questionnaires were used to update the records in the directory. We also demanded for the records of some other economic statistics producing agencies, like CBN, and used their records to compare with our own. This was very useful in classifying some of our own into sub-sectors, and at product level in the case of Manufacturing. NBS frame had always been better because it contained "employment size", unlike others. On the other hand, we asked for the endorsed sample frame form the different states after the field exercise, and used them too.

The issues of updating are usually those that have changed major activity, e.g.:
- Closed down (Temporarily / Permanently);
- Moved away (changes in address);
- Employment size, in view of right sizing;
- Changes in Names;
- Not existing (not located); etc.

The NBS has also initiated a move to visit all economic statistics producing agencies, to access their lists.

### 3.1.2 Anticipated Long-Run Solution (Use of Templates):
The Director General / Chief Executive DR V.O. Akinyosoye, has evolved a Methodology using templates which removes the burden of updating from headquarters to the states. Field staff will have an itinerary of visiting these establishments on a regular basis, and obtain facts to update the frame using templates. The soft copy will then be sent and pooled at Economic surveys and Census Division in Abuja. It is capital intensive because it will require use of desktop computers, motorcycles, and other infrastructures including funds for logistics e.g. supervision, monitoring / quality checks, etc.

### 3.2 NON-RESPONSE PROBLEM:
The profile of our response rates since the 2005 collaborative survey with CBN, is as follows:

| SURVEY | | YEAR | RESPONSE RATE (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| • NBS/CBN/NCC Collaborative Survey | - | 2005 | 21 |
| • Quick Employment Generation Survey (QNEGs) | - | 2006 | 70 |
| • NBS/CBN/NCC Collaborative Survey | - | 2006 | 23 |

This shows a profile of very low response rates, except for the QNEGs with 70%. It was well funded, but had the least time-line of one week only, i.e. 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2007, and a sample size of 500 establishments (employing 10 and above persons) in 21 states. The Director General has approved a medium of dialogue between NBS and the organized private sector to be held three (3) times this year in Kano, Lagos and Port Harcourt. It is intended to sensitize these establishments and their associations on the need to facilitate data gathering for economic planning and decision-making; increase the response rate among all categories of establishments. Other areas of mutual discussion to promote economic surveys in the country will also form part of the deliberations.

The above arrangement, if funds are available for implementation, will also reduce the growing apathy of respondents, and numerous callbacks, and high level of unanalysable questionnaires.

It will also afford NBS the opportunity to discuss the new technology of completion and scanning of questionnaire(s).

## 3.3 ADEQUATE FUNDING:
Provision of adequate funds will drastically reduce the following problems:
- Data gaps due to discontinuity in surveys
- Inadequate supervision
- Inadequate working materials and resources.

## 3.4 TRAINING:
Regular and relevant training for field and analytical staff will go a long way to reduce:
- The problem of unanalysable questionnaires
- Poor editing and scrutiny of retrieved questionnaires
- Wrong lodgment of questionnaires
- Increase analytical capability of the staff and make more programmers available.

## 3.5 ADEQUATE PUBLICITY:
Publicity is very necessary for awareness and to increase response rates. For most of the economic surveys, enough publicity was usually not made. In the case of the QNEGs a lot of publicity was made and respondents claimed they saw the advert before the visit of the enumerators. The result gave 70% response rate.

## 3.6 APATHY OF RESPONDENTS:
These centers mostly on complaints of high tariff, incessant power cuts/failure, bad roads, etc. The problem of electricity, bad roads, etc., should be seriously addressed. Manufacturing sector is the hardest hit.

## 4.0 CONCLUSION:
The greatest problem facing Economic Statistics surveys, especially those listed in the International Standard of Industrial Classifications (ISIC), is the issue of frame and very low response rate. To continue using a frame compiled in 2004, after obvious serious changes in the economy, would not yield good results in future planning and decision making – even though capital intensive, it is suggested that everything be done including requesting for assistance from donor agencies to get an almost perfect frame. It is most desirable now that the Annual Establishment Survey 2006, and National Census of Industries and Business (NCIB) 2008/09 are at our doorstep.

The planned interaction with the organized private sector, will go a long way also to improve tremendously the present level of the response rate. Adequate funding has also been highlighted, as was the case with the Quick National Employment Generation survey (QNEGs of which response rate was over 70%, etc.

The role of International Agencies cannot be over-emphasized. Department for International Development (DFID) had given a lot of assistance to NBS, such as training, sponsoring surveys, capacity building, etc. These were centered mostly in the area of Economic Statistics Data production.

The World Bank and European Union are also assisting in no small measure in terms of capacity building, infrastructure, etc. The NBS management is evolving a new approach to solve the Frame and Low response rate problems. In the near future, there is every hope that our economic statistics estimates / indicators will be very efficient.