

**DATA COMPILATION STRATEGIES & INSTITUTIONAL  
ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE  
STATISTICS (IMTS) IN BOTSWANA**

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## **Introduction**

The note shares data compilation strategies in Botswana, specifically looking at ;

- Institutions affected
- Current relationship between these institutions
- Challenges in compilation of IMTS in Botswana

# Institutions Affected in Compilation of IMTS

- Central Statistics Office

- Only government department mandated to compile official statistics including IMTS

- Ensures the necessary confidentiality in compilation of all statistical information

- Adheres to UNSD guidelines on compilation of IMTS

- Uses raw data provided by Customs
- Collects electronic data for computerized borders not later than 15<sup>th</sup> of month following reference period
- Data from computerized borders constitute about 98 percent of total trade in value terms
- Data from manual borders received two months after the reference period

- Checks for completeness of Customs Procedure Codes (CPCs), commodity codes, values, partner countries made before loading into Eurotrace
- Errors corrected working hand in hand with Customs
- Aware Customs data may not cover complete IMTS but currently no other sources used
- Currently no Memorandum of Agreement with Customs but supply of raw data running smoothly

- **Customs & Excise**

- Mandated to collect revenue through customs & excise and other related duties
- Has to ensure that all transactions are lodged correctly so as to collect correct revenue
- Has interest in compilation of quality IMTS for use in sharing SACU Revenue Pool
- Use of intra SACU trade data in sharing SACU revenue assist in improving data quality through mirroring

- **Central Bank (Bank of Botswana(BoB))**

- Responsible for production of Balance of Payments
- Use imports from CSO and values of payments for exported commodities
- Used to be confusion with CSO & BoB exports values as they were using same variable names but referring to different consignments

- **Current relationship between these institutions**

- Team comprising CSO, Customs and BoB formed to look into root cause for variances in export values
- Found out that CSO & BoB though using same variable names, were not reporting on same commodities
- Decided to include notes in respective reports to give reason for variation



## • **Challenges in compilation of IMTS**

- Staff exodus leading to few experienced staff being moved around quite often
- Officers not able to stay long enough with unit to fully understand concepts & definitions of IMTS
- Inadequate knowledge of Eurotrace by IT staff
- Poor quality of quantity data

- Misclassification of commodities
- Under reporting of values so as to pay low duties
- Smuggling of goods to evade paying duties

*Thank You*