DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION
OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM- THE BOTSWANA CASE

By

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“MANAGING A STATISTICAL ORGANIZATION IN TIMES OF CHANGE”

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THEME: “Strengthening the Institutional Organisational Frameworks of the National Statistical System (NSS)”
OUTLINE

• Background
• The Botswana NSS
• Statistical Coordination
• Strategy Maps
• NSS Coordination Related Initiatives
• NS Coordination Challenges
• Conclusion & Way-forward

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BACKGROUND

• Legal Framework through the Statistics Act revised in 2009

  ➢ Statistics Botswana the pre-eminent agency responsible for the development and management of official statistics.
  ➢ Incorporated the Coordination of the National Statistical System (NSS) by Statistics Botswana
  ➢ Official statistics produced by means of a process guided by the National Statistical System (NSS); and
  ➢ Statistics Botswana (SB) provides standards for the production and dissemination of official statistics;

• SB coordinates, monitors and supervises the activities of the NSS for purposes of carrying-out statistical business in accordance with principles of official statistics.
Figure 4: NSS Stakeholder Matrix
THE BOTSWANA NSS

• Botswana has a decentralized statistical system:
  - The burden of statistics production falls on Statistics Botswana (SB), Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs);

• 36% of data that supports national and international agendas, (e.g. National Development Plans and SDGs) are from surveys & censuses conducted by SB with some in collaboration with some NSS sectors (e.g. Agriculture; Health etc.)

• More than 55% will be produced by MDAs from administrative records.

• The National Monitoring and Evaluation System (NMES) data management stream is led by SB and the NSS is critical to the effective functioning of the stream.
THE BOTSWANA NSS (Cont’d)

- Success factors of an effective NSS in Botswana, include:
  - Functional statistical system (committees operational);
  - Satisfied data users and evidence based policies and decisions;
  - Available data for all national and international agendas; and
  - Efficiency and effectiveness in statistical development.
• Botswana NSS at different stages of statistics production

SB has officers attached at only five (5) MDAs:

- Ministry of Agriculture Development and Food Security;
- Administration of Justice;
- Ministry of Health and Wellness;
- Ministry of Basic Education; and
- Ministry of Transport and Communication.

• For rest of NSS, SB provides technical support on statistical development to MDAs on need basis.
BACKGROUND - INSTRUMENTS BINDING STATISTICAL COORDINATION IN BOTSWANA

Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

- Principle 8: Coordination among statistical agencies within countries is essential to achieve consistency and efficiency in the statistical system.

Statistics Act, 2009

- Section ...: revised in 2009;
- Its revision enable the organisation to develop and coordinate the NSS: SB through the revision coordinates, monitors and supervises the activities of the NSS for purposes of carrying-out statistical business

African Charter on Statistics:

- Enhancing coordination of activities, institutions and partner interventions at national, regional and international levels.
COORDINATION OF THE NSS

• A bottom-up approach used in designing the Botswana Strategy for the Development of Statistics BSDS (2015)

• Advocacy and development of Sector Statistics Plans (SSP) - the stage has been done diligently
  ➢ Currently fifteen (15) sectors including SB have enrolled; More still to enroll.

• Coordination, collaboration and partnerships is inevitable for effective data production, quality and access;

• Coordination of the NSS is facilitated through enrollment of the sectors into the BSDS.

• Coordination structures include:
  ➢ Sector Statistics Coordinating Committees,
  ➢ Joint Working Technical Committees; and
  ➢ Reference Committees

• Coordination and collaboration enforced through the Statistics Act, Section 26;
STRATEGY MAPS

• THE STATISTICS BOTSWANA STRATEGY MAP (2015 – 2020)
  ➢ Covers a number of areas including focus on strengthening the NSS Coordination through
    Strategy Perspective P3 - “Improve NSS Coordination”

• The BOTSWANA STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS (BSDS (2015-2020))
  ➢ Supports NSS Coordination through
    BSDS Goal #2 : An effective NSS and
    Objective 2.1: Improve Statistical Coordination
STATISTICS BOTSWANA STRATEGIC MAP

C1 - Improve Customer Satisfaction
P1 - Improve Quality of Statistics
L1 - Develop Management and Staff Skills
F1 - Manage Costs

C2 - Increase Usage of Statistics
P2 - Improve Business Processes
P3 - Improve Project Management
P3 - Improve NSS Coordination
L2 - Increase Staff Morale
F2 - Increase Revenue

Internal Processes
Learning & Growth
Financial
Customer

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NSS COORDINATION RELATED INITIATIVES

• Development of different strategic initiatives include:
  ➢ DQAF
  ➢ Compendium of Concepts, Definitions & Classifications for NSS
  ➢ Stakeholder Engagement Program
  ➢ Advocacy Program
  ➢ Data Quality Policy
  ➢ Communication Strategy
  ➢ Service Charter and Standards
  ➢ Data Dissemination Strategy
  ➢ NSS Coordination framework
  ➢ IEC Program

• Ten (10) Memoranda of Understanding (MoU’s) have been signed with different sectors and agencies.
  ➢ More MoUs are still to be signed.
NSS COORDINATION CHALLENGES

• Implementation of SSP & Monitoring & Evaluation of both the SSP and BSDS Action Plan- not well articulated as expected.

  Challenges include:
  
  a. human capacity constraints;
  b. lack of sectors appreciation of the importance of statistics;
  c. limited funding for implementation of sector statistics plans
CONCLUSION & WAY-FORWARD

• Botswana NSS still at infancy stage – First ever BSDS
• NSS response to national priorities towards providing statistical information very good
• Effort to implement the strategic initiatives to be fast tracked
• Build capacity within the NSS
• Supporting infrastructure critical
• Strengthen implementation structures e.g. NSS Committees

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