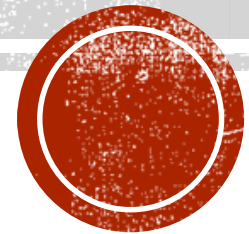


**INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING OF THE
NSO TO MEET CURRENT STATISTICS
DEMANDS AND TO BETTER COORDINATE
THE NSS IN GRENADA**



**Caribbean Thematic Conference:
Managing a Statistical Organisation in Times of Change
25-27 November, Barbados**

OUTLINE

- Country Background
- Assessment of the NSO
- Assessment of the NSS
- Establishment of a National Statistical Institute
- Legislation
- Organizational Structure and Staffing the NSIG
- Training and Development
- Other Support from Development Partners



COUNTRY BACKGROUND

- Grenada is one of the small island developing states within the Caribbean Region, located at 12.07°north, 61.40°west.
- The country has two small dependencies, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.
- The physical size of the three islands combined is 344 km² (133 sq. miles).
- Its location makes it vulnerable to tropical storms and hurricanes
- The population of Grenada is estimated at 111,959
- Small, open economy that has been shifting from being one of agriculture-dominant into that of services-dominant, with tourism serving as the leading foreign currency earning sector.
- Principal export crops are the spices nutmeg and mace. Other export crops include cocoa, citrus, fruits, bananas, cloves, cinnamon, soursop



COUNTRY BACKGROUND

- Manufacturing industries in Grenada operate mostly on a small scale, including production of beverages and other foodstuffs, textiles.
- Faced with a large national debt. In 2012, the total national debt which was 110% of the GDP is being reduced; at 2018 it was 62.7% of GDP and is estimated at 55.8% for 2019.
- While the Grenada's NSS is able to produce some of the critical data and indicators, more are needed to respond to the growing demand for statistical information arising from various policy frameworks and regional and international commitments of the country.
 - National Sustainable Development Plan 2035
 - Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development,
 - SAMOA Pathway, among others.
- The current statistical system is constrained to respond to the various data needs arising from these frameworks due to weaknesses in the statistical institutions, institutional bottlenecks, inadequacy of resources, and lack of harmonisation and coordination in the NSS.



COUNTRY BACKGROUND

- The Prime Minister has been a Champion for Statistics in Grenada, Regionally and internationally
 - He championed the modernisation of statistical offices and systems through his Chairmanship of the CARICOM Heads of Government Conference where in July 2016 he endorsed the CARICOM Action Plan for Statistics
 - He was also instrumental in leading the agenda item on statistics at the CARICOM 39th Regular Meeting of Heads of Government Conference in 2018, which endorsed the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS)
 - At the PARIS21 Board meeting at the OECD Head Quarters in Paris, France, he delivered the Keynote address where he highlighted one of the enabling conditions for the Management for Results (MFR) is “accurate, timely and relevant statistics produced by autonomous, professional statistical agencies equipped with modern technology and staffed by competent, well-trained professionals.”
 - He is intent on following progress with the CARICOM RSDS giving the Keynote address at the CARICOM third High Level Advocacy Forum on Statistics in February, in support of the Resource Mobilisation for the RSDS.



NSO ASSESSMENT

- There is an insufficient number of professional and technical staff to support the required level of data output necessary to support the needs of government and other data users, local, regional and international;
- Outdated legislation
- Limited technology infrastructure;
- Data dissemination is not always done in a timely manner and no analytical information is provided with the disseminated data;
- Operationalization of statistical methodologies to measure new concerns such as the environment, climate change, sustainable development, etc. arising from various policy frameworks and regional and international reporting commitments;
- Some of the data sets need to be updated; (HBS/SLC being processed to update the CPI and Poverty Assessments, the last Census was done in 2011 and plans are being put in place for the 2021 Population & Housing Census);
- More attention needs to be paid to process management and quality assurance, in the data production processes. Greater focus to dimensions of quality assurance in the production cycle - timeliness of the data; accessibility and comparability of the data.
- Metadata is not always prepared and released with the published data.



NSS ASSESSMENT

- There are some deficiencies in the NSS concerning the dimensions of quality such as the timeliness and accessibility of the published information.
- Quality of data submitted by some providers
- Untimely submission of data by other data providers
- Statistical Legislation weak on coordination of NSS
- There are inadequate resources to support the expanded data production and management required to monitor the NSDP and the SDGs; the SAMOA Pathway; and the CARICOM Regional Statistics Work Programme
- There are constraints within the NSS with regard to compatibility and duplication of activities/transactions due to incompatibility of the various systems.



ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL STATISTICS INSTITUTE

- Freedom to design and implement the statistical programmes in accordance with international standards (E.g the FPOS) to satisfy the needs of the stakeholders;
- Data are published without political approval;
- Data release dates are done independently and all efforts are made to have these done in accordance with the established data dissemination standards;
- Through the communication strategies, stakeholders are made aware of the importance and value of official statistical information, the independence and confidentiality of the data management and publication system;
- Public accountability is done through the publication of annual reports, that include the audited financial statements and other information on its operations, and are tabled in Parliament; and press releases which accompany each data dissemination;



ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL STATISTICS INSTITUTE

- The Board and management hires and fires the staff of the organizations and determines the various operating policies and procedures; and
- Has control over budget and can approve expenditure without ministerial approval
- The ability to enter into contract for services and retain any earnings that may accrue from these activities.
- The CSO is required to lead the processes required for the modernization of the data management systems within its own organization as well as those within the wider NSS. The creation of a new agency, the NSIG, provides the opportunities for the implementation of the modernization processes across the whole NSS.



LEGISLATION: THE REVISED STATISTICS BILL 2017

- A proposed updated statistics act, the Statistics Bill 2017 (the Bill), has been prepared to which Sections 47 and 49 of the Interpretations and General Provisions Act (IGP Act) shall apply. The Bill incorporates the relevant provisions of the CARICOM Model Statistics Bill:
 - The establishment of the NSIG as body corporate;
 - The functions of the Institute which includes, among others, “*to develop, promote, coordinate and maintain an integrated national statistical system in Grenada*”;
 - The governance of the NSIG by a Board and the appointment and functions of the Board;
 - The coordination of the National Statistical System and ability to make regulations to give effect to this section, should the need arise;
 - The appointment and duties of the Chief Executive Officer;
 - The appointment of staff and officers of the Institute;
 - The financial arrangements for the operations of the Institute;
 - The power to obtain information; confidentiality of the information; disclosure provisions; and offences and penalties for breaches under the act; and
 - The miscellaneous provisions which include the provisions to amend the schedules to the Act and make regulations for better carrying out the provisions of the act.



LEGISLATION: THE REVISED STATISTICS BILL 2017

- The provisions of proposed Act requires that new areas of work, which were not being performed by the CSO, be undertaken.
 - The new areas of human resource management, financial accounting and communications, which were previously executed elsewhere in the structure of government, now have to be undertaken by the NSIG as a corporate entity.
 - The efficient management of data dissemination and improved public relations and communication with data providers and users require the inclusion of communication specialists among the new skill sets required for the NSIG.
 - The Bill lists the functions of the Institute and included among them is “**the Institute shall develop, promote, coordinate and maintain an integrated national statistical system**” (*Section 5 (1)(a)*). The coordination and management of the NSS represents a critical and additional new area of work for the NSIG.



THE NSIG WILL ENGENDER THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS:

- Greater managerial and operational efficiency, with reduced bureaucracy through a reorganised structure and an updated legislative framework;
- More effective and independent oversight through a non-executive, multi-stakeholder Board that can monitor the quality and comprehensiveness of the official statistics;
- Ensure that the statistics produced have the trust of the public, reflects independence and integrity and fulfils the needs of the society as a whole;
- Enhancement in the status of the organisation and that of the Chief Executive Officer (Chief Statistician) and increased professionalism of statisticians within the public service;
- Enable a stronger, more coherent and coordinated statistical system that is able to enforce data exchange through more consistent access to register-based administrative data for statistical purposes;
- The production and dissemination of high quality statistics with increased availability, in a timely manner and in accordance with regional and international standards and codes of best practices to monitor the National Development Goals, the CSME and the SDGs/Samoa Pathway.

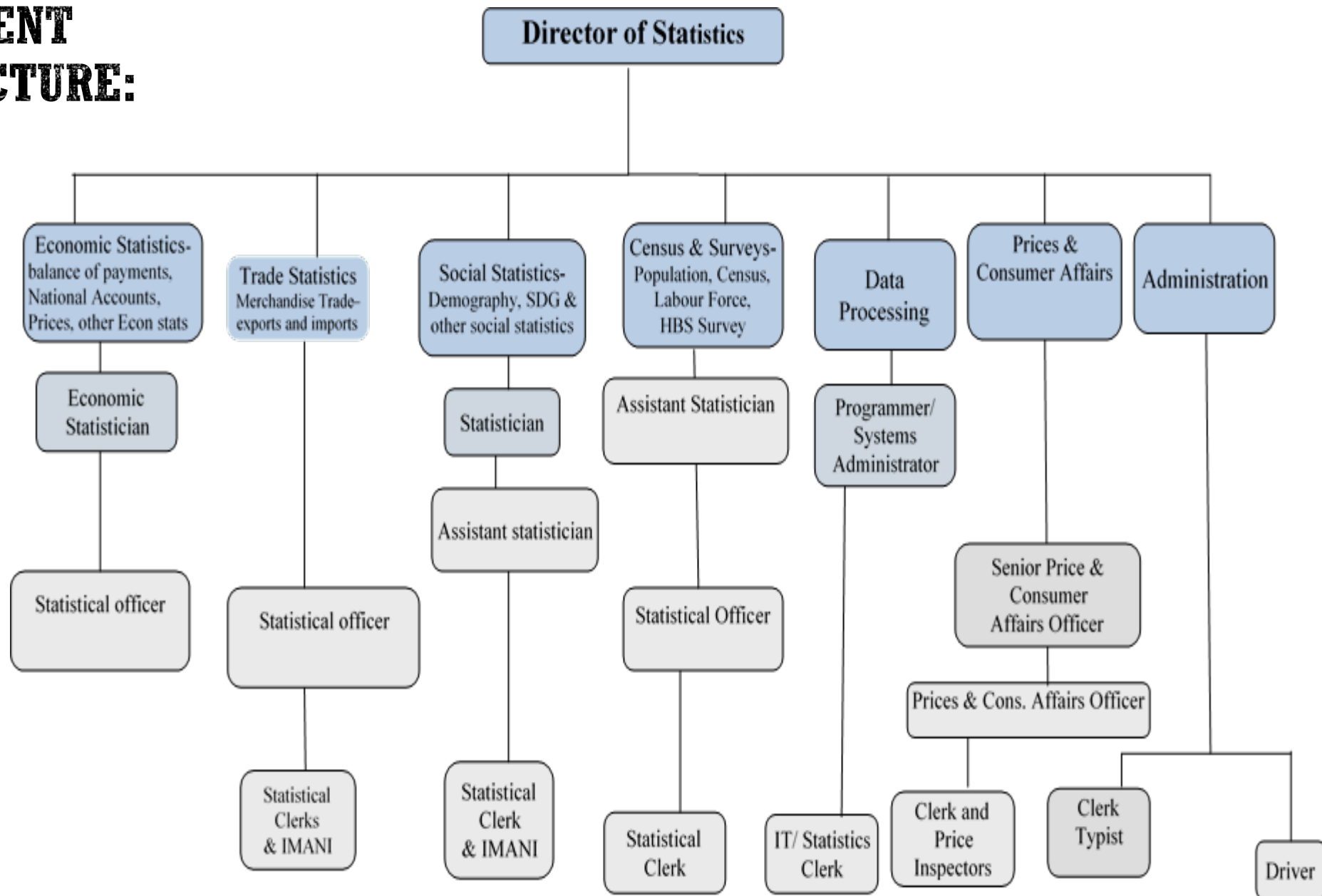


ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

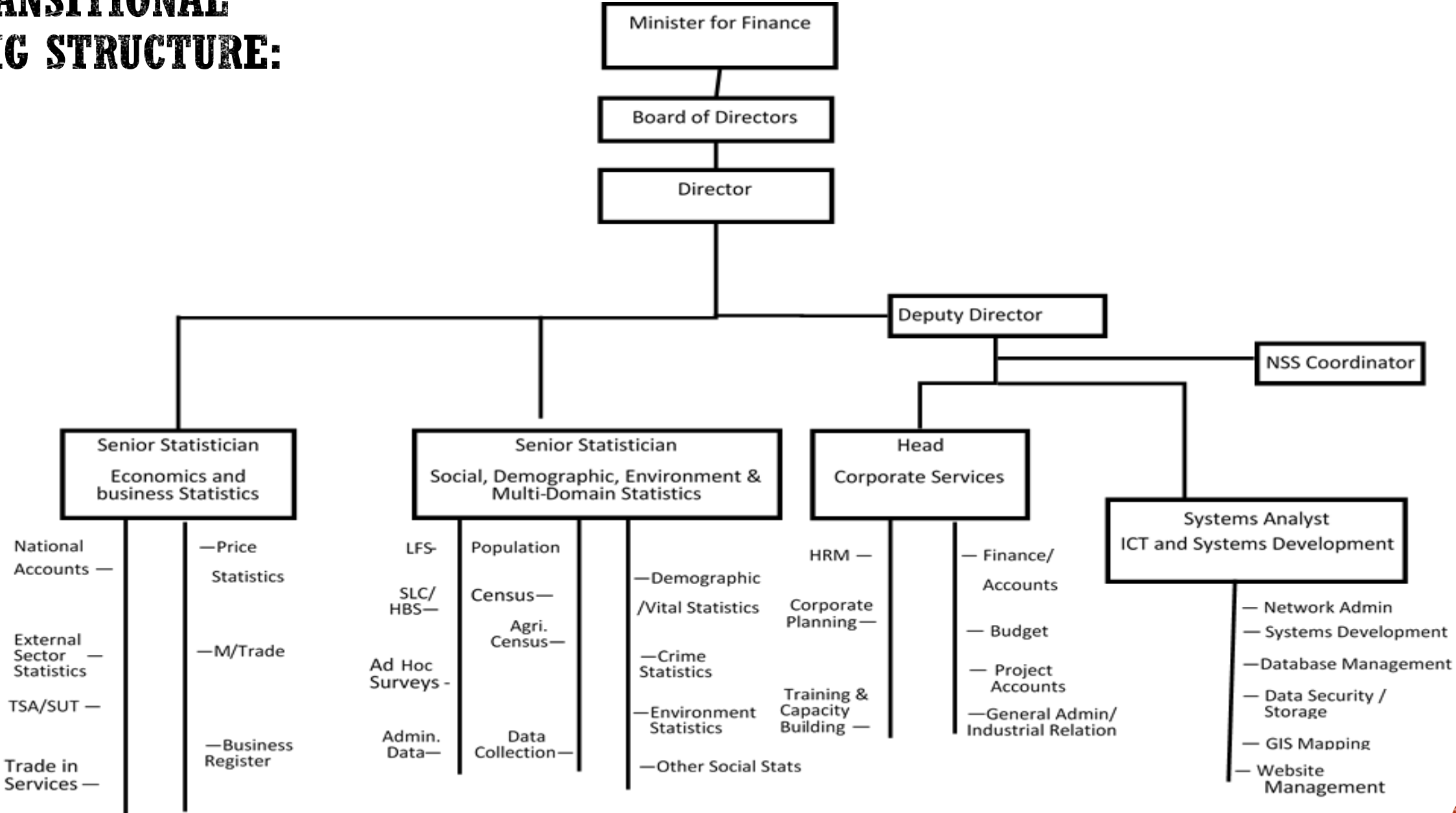
Staffing – Functional Organization	Current CSO	Transitional NSIG	Proposed NSIG
Directors	2	5	6
Statisticians/Professionals	4	7	15
Assistant Statisticians/Technical	7	9	17
Clerical	33	29	33
Driver/Office Attendant	2	2	2
Department Total	48	52	73



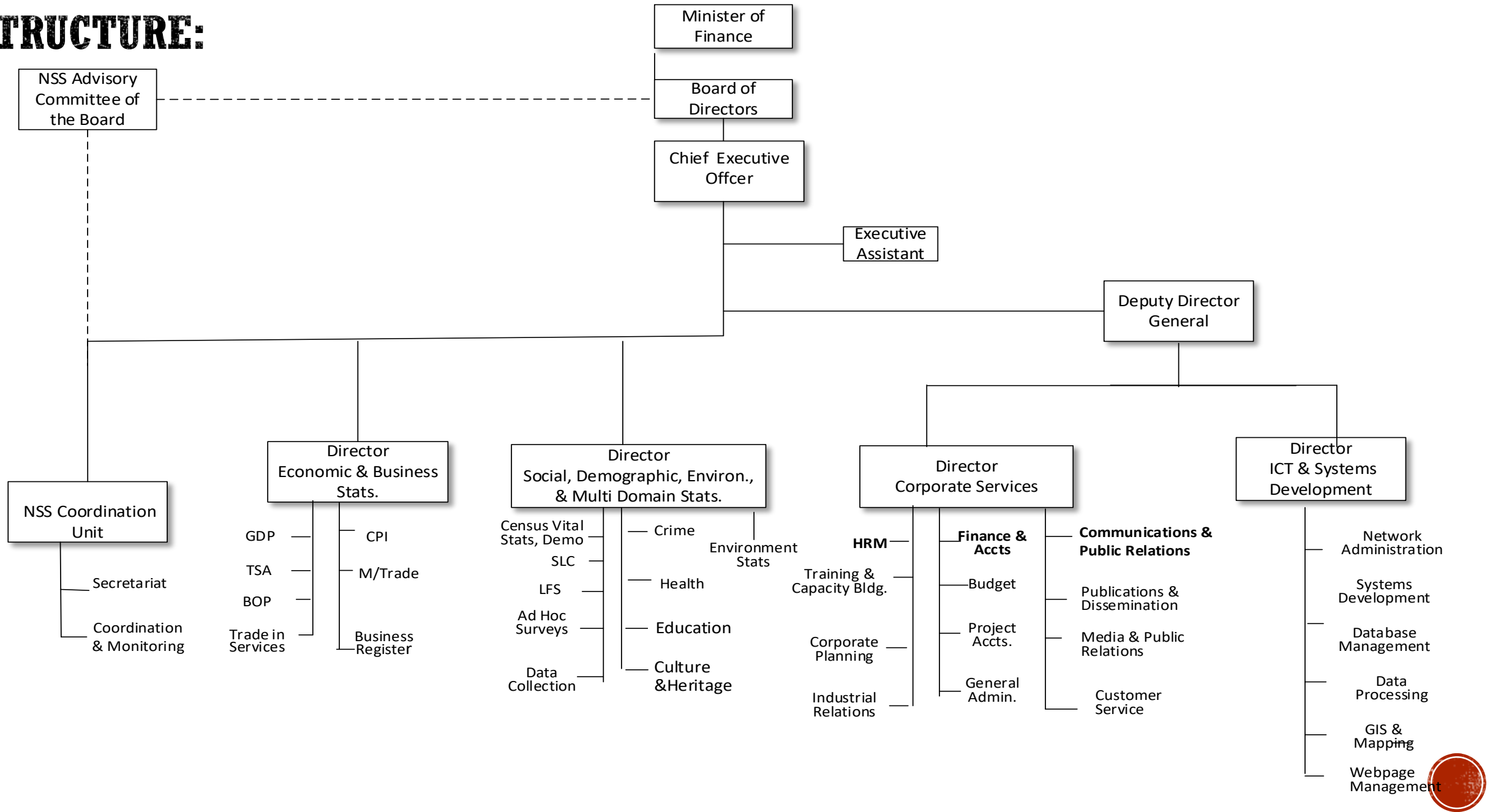
CURRENT STRUCTURE:



TRANSITIONAL NSIG STRUCTURE:



PROPOSED NSIG STRUCTURE:



TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

- Notwithstanding the amount of capacity building activities that has been undertaken over the years-particularly as it relates to several regional and national training workshops as well as in country support, on-going capacity building and continual training are still essentials in a statistical organization to meet the developmental nature of statistics. This objective will continue to be achieved through in-service training, professional training and short term assignments in other statistical organizations.
- Qualifications and Sills of the staff
 - many are not qualified as Statisticians but they have received training in various areas of statistical production, such as the CAST Certificate Economic and Social Statistics, CARICOM Demographic Analysis training facilitated by UWI and funded by Canada and the Caribbean Development Bank, and other in-service training courses provided locally and in the region.
 - A number of persons have also done undergraduate programmes in Management Studies.
 - The challenge here is that studying outside of the country is costly and the University Open Campus offers course through part-time and online studies in country, in the areas of Management Studies, Education, Youth Development and Finance.
- The development of expert statistical knowledge will be achieved through specialised training programmes outside of Grenada or online courses and expert attachments.
 - Financial provisions have to be made for training in statistics and support, in the form of technical assistance, should also be leveraged from development partners to assist with specialised training.
 - Hope to benefit under CARICOM E-CISTER, the establishment of Centres of Excellence, South-South Cooperation
 - Prime Minister has asked that Statistics be one of the priority areas for scholarships in Grenada in light of his commitment to the Action Plan and RSDS.



OTHER SUPPORT FROM DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS TO INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

- Support through CARICOM RSDS and Regional Public Goods
 - The CARICOM Code of goods Statistical Practices (CGSP) and the system of peer review- Grenada is one of the first to be pair reviewed. Also CARICOM Quality Assurance Framework- Grenada is a Pilot
 - CARICOM Regional Census Strategy 2.0
 - RSWP: CARICOM support in other areas of statistics through regional workshops, attachments, in country missions e.g SDGs, Social /gender, Environment Statistics, National Accounts, Merchandise Trade
- PARIS21 to continue work on NSDS in 2020 and building Statistics Literacy. The NSDS will be aligned with the CARICOM RSDS
- OECS with support on eCPA, SLC/ HBS, Poverty mapping and LFS, Communications and advocacy;



OTHER SUPPORT FROM DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS TO INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

- ECCB Support in National Accounts, BOP, Debt etc
- CARTAC continued support regional workshops and in-country missions in the area National Accounts, External Sector Statistics, Prices and Debt Statistics
- Other partners integral in building NSO/ NSS capacity
 - PRASC Support , CDB, World Bank, UNDP, UNECLAC, UNWOMEN, FAO, EU

It is also important that work of development partners in country in building capacity be coordinated to avoid duplication of resources



THANK YOU

