

# “MANAGING A STATISTICAL ORGANIZATION IN TIMES OF CHANGE”



PRESENTATION BY  
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## SUB-TOPIC

- SESSION: “Securing quality of statistical information and improving data coherence through statistical analysis and analytical frameworks”
- TOPIC: “Addressing the Needs of Data Users through a process of Quality Management- within the context of National Statistical System”

# OUTLINE

- Overview
- Objectives to Outcomes
- Who are our data users
- Principles of Production and Dissemination
- National Statistical System (NSS)
- Challenges of a Decentralized System
- Possibilities for ensuring and improving data quality
- The way forward

# THE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS OVERVIEW

- The Statistics Department is not a statutory body. It is one of the five Departments that functions within the Ministry of Sustainable Development
- Objective - produce statistics that can be used in evidence-based decision-making, to formulate policies and assist in proper planning
- The Department functions under the authority of the St. Christopher & Nevis Statistical Act of 2002.



# STATISTICS: FROM OBJECTIVES TO OUTCOMES

Statistics plays a very important role in the decision-making processes in that statistics:

- Delivers the essential information needed to develop proper plans and policies
- Directs the monitoring of strategic plans and programmes implemented
- Determines the success of various plans and programmes based on the established measurement and evaluation mechanisms

# WHO ARE OUR DATA USERS

- Government: various Ministries, Departments and other Agencies (policy and planning decisions)
- The Business Community: small, medium and large businesses- across all economic sectors (business and investment decisions)
- Non-Government Organizations (NGOs): Churches, Schools, Charitable organizations etc. (decisions on programmes)
- The General Public: Households and individuals (rationale decisions)
- Regional and International Agencies: ECCB, OECS, CARICOM, IMF, World Bank, UN Agencies et al (support decisions and advice)

# PRINCIPLES OF PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION OF STATISTICAL DATA

- Statistics is recognized as a “public good”; and thus statistical information is disseminated without costs to all users
- Official Statistics –
- Should adopt regional best practices
- Produced, based on international standard classifications
- Adhere to the UN’s Fundamental Principles of Statistics
- Conform to CARICOM’S Code of Good Statistical Practices

## NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM (NSS)

- The NSS, is decentralized. It consists of other Government Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs), some of which have separate statistical units and divisions that manage their production of statistical information.
- The Department of Statistics does not exercise direct control but collaborate with these agencies in order to achieve the production of good quality statistical information.



# CHALLENGES OF A DECENTRALIZED SYSTEM

- Lack of proper co-ordination amongst various agencies of the National Statistical System
- Lack of a harmonized approach to the compilation of statistical information
- Limited knowledge and skills in the field of statistical methods and analysis for officers of outside of the Statistics Department
- Presentation of data and data sets in formats not consistent with that of the Statistics Department e.g. Word or PDF
- In some cases, submission of partial data as a complete data set

# POSSIBILITIES FOR ENSURING AND IMPROVING DATA QUALITY

- Strengthening and Use of Statistical Legislation
- Use of Memorandums of Understanding-Partnership
- Increase Use of Technology
- The Advisory Body on Statistics (ABS)
- Establishing a Data Quality Assessment Framework
- Stakeholders Meetings/Users' Feedback

## STRENGTHENING AND USE OF STATISTICAL LEGISLATION

- Clearly establish the Statistics Act's supremacy to other legislations/regulations of confidentiality
- Increase in the fines and penalties under the Act (deterrent)
- Establish the Statistics Department at the core of the proper functioning of the National Statistical System
- Incorporation of the Act on all survey documents and in survey activities
- Willingness to utilize the Act in pursuant of offenders

## MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

- Signing of MOUs with key data providers such as Revenue Authority, Social Security, and Ministries of Health and Education
- Key features of MOUs: contact person(s), data required, timeline, format, and mode of transfer, and agreement for the transfer of knowledge and skills (cross-training).



## CAVEAT OF THE LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

- Strengthening of the regulatory framework is not intended to migrate to a centralized system, but to establish an effectively functioning hybrid system
- A hybrid system limits the burden on the Department to direct statistical activities across MDAs
- A hybrid system allows for MDAs to lead statistical activities in areas where they are more proficient
- A hybrid system increases the level of co-operation, collaboration and co-ordination within the NSS

## USE OF TECHNOLOGY

- Foster administrative compilation by electronic filing
- Improve data warehousing and management capacities within agencies
- Eliminate the paper-transfer of information by advancing the use of the internet and related technology
- Build compatible systems amongst members of the NSS, which would enhance the smooth transmission of data to the Department of Statistics

# DEVELOPING A DATA QUALITY FRAMEWORK

This is a set of assessment tools designed to evaluate data quality. These tools are encompassed under the following themes:

1. Management of the statistical system (Co-ordination)
2. Management of the institutional environment (Professionalism)
3. Management of the statistical processes (Soundness of methodologies)
4. Management of the statistical outputs (Accuracy and Reliability)

## ADVISORY BODY ON STATISTICS (ABS)

- Establish an body of professionals from across government Ministries, Departments and other Agencies that at would advise the Stats Dept. on its statistical work programme
- The recommendations of the ABS will be non-binding, but considered as good advise in supporting the production of official statistics (quality)
- Establish a proper regulatory framework to back ABS



## STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING/USERS' FEEDBACK

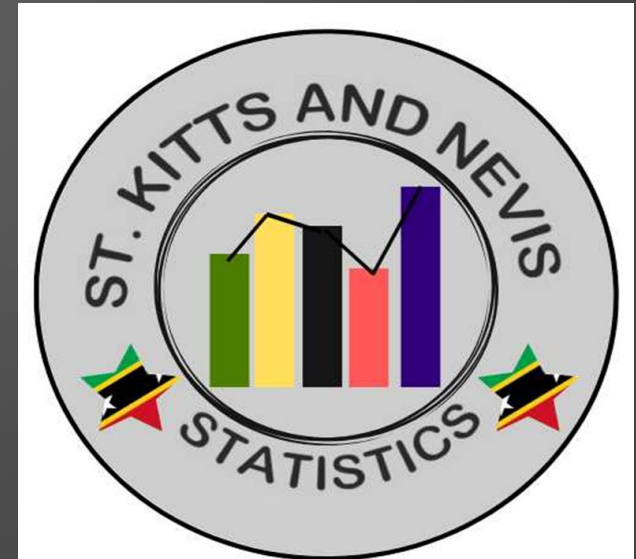
- Conduct bi-annual or annual stakeholders' meetings to provide update on the statistics work programme
- Conduct regular "Statistical Data User Surveys"
- Utilize data analytics tools to assess the nature and scope of traffic that the Department receives
- Engage policymakers- to garner political support as well to gain direction as it pertains to policy initiatives and/or changes

# BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY IN GOOD QUALITY STATISTICS “THE WAY FORWARD”

- Build proficiency and efficiency in production of the official statistics (legal, staffing, equipment, mechanisms and methods)
- Expand the scope of social, demographic and economic statistics- that are users' driven
- Strengthen the national statistical system- through co-operation, collaboration and co-ordination with MDAs et al
- Advocate the importance of official statistics in decision making

# CONTACT US

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**THANK YOU**

