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\textsuperscript{th} 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