

# **COMPILATION OF INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS (IMTS) IN BOTSWANA (GENERAL)**

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# Outline

- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ Institutional arrangement
- ❖ Practice
- ❖ Challenges
- ❖ Conclusion



## ❖ Introduction

### Purpose of the presentation

- ✓ To share Botswana's practice in compilation of International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS)
- ✓ Specifically looking at;
  - Current Institutional Arrangement
  - Practice
  - Challenges
  - Conclusion



# Institutional Arrangement

## Customs & Excise Mandate

- Collect duties related to trade, including customs and excise duties
- Collect and capture all raw data on external trade transactions
- Passes electronic data to Statistics Botswana on monthly basis for compilation of IMTS



## ➤ **Statistics Botswana**

- **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**

## ➤ Statistics Botswana Continued;

- Aware Customs data may not cover complete IMTS but currently no other sources used
- Currently no Memorandum of Agreement with Customs & Excise but supply of raw data running smoothly

## ➤ Practice in the case of Statistics Botswana

- Receives data from computerized borders not later than 15<sup>th</sup> of the month following the reference period (98% in value terms)
- Data from manual borders received four weeks after the reference period (2%)
- Data captured using HS 2012 at eight digits as from January 2012

## ➤ Practice Continued

- Data processed using Eurotrace for Windows
- UNSD guidelines in IMTS compilation followed and inclusions & exclusions observed
- Errors corrected working hand in hand with customs officials
- Data disseminated by HS, SITC & BEC Rev 4 classifications



## ➤ Practice Continued

- Dissemination through three reports;
- ✓ Monthly Digest; released within eight weeks after reference period
- ✓ Quarterly Digest; released 90 days after reference period
- ✓ Annual Report; released six months after reference period

## ➤ Practice Cont'd

- The three reports posted on the Statistics Botswana website ([www.cso.gov.bw](http://www.cso.gov.bw))
- Data also availed to users in various formats according to their specific requests
- Main users include government ministries, parastatal organizations, international organizations and the public at large

## ➤ Challenges

- Transformation from CSO to Statistics Botswana (April 2012) still having teething problems as staff was down sized from eight to three and it's difficult to cope with report production and other associated issues
- Officers who were involved in data editing and management of the database offered employment in other section of Statistics Botswana



## ➤ Challenges Continued

- None of Statistics Botswana Current IT staff familiar with Eurotrace
- Poor quality of quantity data
- Misclassification of commodities
- Under reporting of values so as to pay low duties
- Smuggling of goods to evade paying taxes

## ❖ Conclusion

- Botswana now able to compile timely & comparable IMTS as a result of integrating with the world through attending regional & international workshops
- Though transformation from CSO to Statistics Botswana still having teething problems, we hope that as soon as recruitment gets completed it will get better.

*Thank you!!*