WHAT IS FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS

• Records of the flow of goods between countries
• Government statistics compiled as a by-product of its operation
• Foreign Trade Statistics is about observing and counting commodity movement between countries
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IMTS 2010 RECOMMENDATIONS

- No re-imports of domestic goods is being recorded/captured.
RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS IN NAMIBIA

- Ministry of Finance, Directorate of Customs & Excise (C&E)

- C&E is the primary source of Foreign Trade Statistics Data

- Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) has the responsibility to process, analyze, compile, and disseminate Trade Statistics

- Both institutions have to ensure that the trade data is of good quality, reliable and timely
COVERAGE

- Trade data covers goods that are imported and exported through customs offices (Borders).
- There are currently 28 customs offices through which goods enter and exit the country (Namibia).
- 98% of all the 28 offices are linked to the head office through the ASYCUDA ++ system.
TRADE SYSTEMS

- NSA uses the General Trade System for compiling Foreign Trade Statistics.
  - This system include all goods entering/leaving the economic territory of a compiling country.
  - It provide a more comprehensive recording of external trade flows
- Other systems (e.g. special, both) can also be used depending on the purpose of the information required
The Harmonized Description and Coding System (HS) is the primary commodity classification for collection purposes that is currently being used.

Other classifications are Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) and Broad Economic Categories (BEC).
DATA CAPTURING

- All Customs and Excise declarations are done on a (Single Administrative Document), SAD 500, a document used by traders and declarants who are involved in international trade
- Advantages:
  - one document used for different purposes, e.g. exports, imports, transit and warehousing
  - It conform to international standards
• ASYCUDA++ system is C & E’s main data capturing software in Namibia
• ASYCUDA++ can be configured to meet each country specific needs
• Almost 98% of Customs offices and border post (28) are connected to the ASYCUDA++ system
DATA TRANSFER TO THE NSA

• There exist a MoU between the two offices on how and when must data flow from C & E to CBS. Data is transmitted from C & E to CBS on a monthly basis, (7 days) after the end of the previous month

• Data is transferred in soft format by means of a USB device or an external hard drive
NSA uses EUROTRACE software for the processing and production of Trade Statistics.

Advantages:
- Can be configured to meet each country's specific needs.
- It is very compatible with the Asycuda ++ system.
DISSEMINATION OF TRADE STATISTICS

- Data requested can be provided electronically i.e. via email, USB. And in hard copies i.e. fax mail
- NSA produces publications of External Trade Statistics on quarterly and annual basis
- Namibia’s trade Statistics is not yet available on the website
Successes

- Trade Statistics by foreign currencies e.g. USD, Pound, and Euro.
- Introduce a new data bank for Cost Insurance and Freight (CIF) and Free on Board (FOB).
Constraints

- Calculations of trade indices is not incorporated.
- Importation of data due to implementation of HS 2012.
Challenges

- Trade Statistics on SITC and BEC classifications can be produced, but there is a difference in aggregates.
- Connect the EUROTRACE (NSA) to ASYCUDA ++ (C & E).
- The use of the EUROTRACE latest version.
- Load the system’s database on the office saver.
What has been done

- Technical assistance was offered by a consultant from COMESA.
- The office has been in constant communication with the user group.
AREAS FOR POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS

- CIF value must be declared appropriately,
- Customs values should correspond to declared commodity,
- Customs Officers and Trade Statisticians should enhance their skills in the area of Trade Statistics
THANK YOU