

**CONTINUOUS MULTI-TOPIC HOUSEHOLD SURVEY  
(CMTHS) BREAKFAST LAUNCH**

**LAUNCH STATEMENT**

**BY**

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STATISTICIAN GENERAL**

**AT**

**BA ISAGO UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE CENTRE  
JULY 31, 2019**

Master of Ceremonies

Representatives of Development Partners here present

Senior Government Officials

Officials from University of Botswana

Members of SB Management and Staff

Representatives from the Media fraternity

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

Good Morning to you all,

1. Let me start by indicating that today's event marks the dawn of a long awaited era in the production of Labour and Poverty indicators in Botswana.
2. As some of you are aware, Statistics Botswana has overtime been conducting household surveys as part of the programme of inter-censal surveys, among which were the Labour Force Survey (LFS), Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), Botswana Demographic & Health Survey (BFHS), Informal Sector Survey (ISS), Botswana Demographic Survey (BDS), Literacy Survey, Multiple Indicators Survey (MIS). This program of surveys dates back to 1974/75, when the then Central Statistics Office (CSO) conducted the Rural Incomes Distribution Survey (RIDS).

3. In the period between the 2001 and 2011 Population and Housing Censuses, there was a heightened demand for more frequent statistical data and indicators. The Central Statistics Office responded by reducing the intervals for the HIES surveys from 10 to 5 years, and in the process added some modules from other surveys to the HIES resulting in the BCWIS of 2009/10.
4. The demand for more frequent statistical data and indicators continued to increase, driven to in part by challenges of poverty and unemployment among others and this prompted Statistics Botswana to reconsider the frequency of our statistical products and fashion our data collection and processing processes to respond accordingly.
5. In 2015/16 the Labour Force Survey was merged with the Poverty Survey to form the Botswana Multi-topic Household survey (BMTHS). The objective of the BMTHS was to provide a comprehensive set of household level indicators for poverty and the labour market such as the poverty incidence, employment and unemployment levels, among others.
6. The BMTHS was also designed to be a launching pad for a survey that will provide more regular indicators.

7. At the beginning of 2018 during the release of the Poverty Module of the BMTHS we announced our intention to conduct poverty and economic activity related surveys on a more regular basis through introduction of the new Continuous Multi-Topic Household survey

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

8. I am happy to announce that Statistics Botswana has commenced the Continuous Multi-Topic Household Survey (CMTHS) in response to stakeholder needs to make timely policy interventions on labour and poverty information. We have invited you today, to the part of this important milestone. Much thought and expertise has gone into the design of this survey.
9. The core module of CMTHS will be labour force module that will produce labour force and economic activity indicators on quarterly basis. To ensure that this continuous survey maintains its multi-disciplinary dimensions, other modules such as; ICT access and use (at individual level); Consumption and Expenditures; Stunting and Malnutrition; selected SDG Indicators module among others, will be included on rotational basis in different quarters depending on resource availability and stakeholder needs.

10. Poverty predictors will be covered on annual basis, while core poverty indicators will remain at 5 year intervals. There is now a general trend internationally towards monitoring poverty using multidimensional indicators on a more regular basis and this calls for availability of more regular data hence the work to provide data obtained through poverty predictors.

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

11. The CMTHS is a very significant survey in the history of Botswana as it elevates the country to those that have tracking of national labour statistics on a quarterly basis. Statistics Botswana has been conducting quarterly formal sector employment surveys but these could not produce national employment and unemployment statistics due to their limitation to the formal sector only.

12. This survey will elevate labour statistics to high frequency statistics such as CPI, GDP and International Merchandise trade statistics. This will bring the country closer to achieving a higher IMF rating of Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) from the current General Data Dissemination Standard (GDDS). The survey indicators will also inform policy formulation, planning and monitoring in relation to the national priority of job creation.

13. The CMTHS through its rotational modules, is also envisaged to produce indicators that will support the National Monitoring and Evaluation System (NMES), by providing some of the outcome indicators for National Development Plans, National Vision 2036, as well as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
14. Ladies and Gentlemen, technological innovations such as the development of the Survey Solutions, Computer Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI) system enhance our continued efforts to reduce the time lag between field data collection and the release of the reports. To ensure that the reports meets the quarterly schedules, the CMTHS data collection is done through CAPI system.
15. The World Bank support in providing the technical support and training the SB team on CAPI cannot be overemphasised. Some of you may recall that Statistics Botswana used the CAPI system for the 2017 Botswana Demographic Survey (BDS) and it proved to yield desired results. I wish to thank the World Bank for its continuing support.
16. The use of CAPI has gained ground and yielded positive results in a number of countries and as Statistics Botswana we did not want to be left behind.
17. The CMTHS field work started on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2019 and through the CAPI system we are able to monitor the progress

and quality of data collection. This makes us confident that we will be able to produce the reports timeously. The first results which will include Labour and selected ICT statistics for the July to September quarter will be published in November 2019 and the results for the fourth quarter of 2019 will be released in February 2020. The first annualised results will published with October to December, 2020 results.

18. We anticipate that there will be a learning curve especially at the beginning of such a survey with greater stability expected to be achieved in the conduct of the survey as we go forward. Some of the challenges that may arise may emanate from the repeated visits to the households due to the panel design of the survey. On the other hand the repeated visits may yield more positive results with well-established repour.

**As I conclude,**

19. Let me say that, like any *new born baby* the CMTHS is expected to grow overtime and reach expected levels, and we count on your continuous support for the baby to reach full potential.
20. By the same token I am also calling on you to welcome our field staff should your household be included in the survey sample.
21. Let me also take this opportunity to thank the World Bank for the technical support it continuous to give Statistics Botswana.

22. Ladies and gentlemen it gives great pleasure to launch the CMTHS survey.

**Thank you**