



PRESS RELEASE

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RE: AFRICAN STATISTICS DAY 2017

African Statistics Day 2017 will be celebrated across the continent on 18 November 2017. Each year Africa celebrates this day to raise public awareness about the importance of statistics in all aspects of socio-economic life. The theme of the day this year, **“Better lives with better economic statistics”** focuses on the critical role economic statistics play in underpinning economic governance that leads to durable growth, and linking economic growth with better lives and better economic status for all citizens of Africa. Availability and appropriate use of good economic statistics can translate into better lives for people by providing evidence as a base for policy and decision-making by the nation or by businesses, households, and citizens.

Economic statistics on the continent at large needs to be strengthened in order for it to provide information for monitoring, evaluation and reporting on progress in meeting the goals and targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and a basis for effective economic governance to promote the welfare of the nation.

The power of economic statistics equates that of the information at hand to guide suitable decisions. The more complete the statistics, the more powerful they are. The development of good quality economic statistics is a matter of public choice and forms part of the investments that lead to fast and inclusive prosperity for countries and their citizens.

Statistics plays an important role in formulation of economic policies that in turn lead to better lives for people. Economic statistics such as Financial and Trade statistics boosts the economy, which in turn benefits the market, households and individuals. The use of sectoral statistics which comprises agricultural, energy, industrialization, transportation and tourism provides opportunities and foster growth.

The good news is that every country can endeavor to generate a critical bulk of economic statistics and leverage on these to wisely shape the path of its prosperity. This comes at a cost, but is nevertheless a worthwhile investment.

Statistics Botswana will commemorate Africa Statistics Day in Francistown on 17 November 2017. A statistics awareness march and a community outreach activity at Galo Mall are planned. Like other national statistics offices in Africa, Statistics Botswana will spend the day raising awareness about statistics and its importance.

We invite you to participate in the celebration of African Statistics Day, and champion the strengthening of economic statistics for regional integration, structural economic transformation and sustainable development.

For more information Contact:

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