STATISTICS BOTSWANA

Private Bag 0024, Gaborone, Botswana
Tel: (+267) 367 1300. **Fax:** (+267) 395 2201

WELCOME REMARKS BY: STATISTICIAN GENERAL

ANNA N. MAJELANTLE

AT THE UN HABITAT REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP ON THE COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND REPORTING ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS SGD INDICATORS

13 DECEMBER 2017

PRESIDENT HOTEL

GABORONE, BOTSWANA

WELCOME REMARKS BY: STATISTICIAN GENERAL AT THE UN HABITAT REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP ON THE COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND REPORTING ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS SGD INDICATORS ON 13 DECEMBER 2017 AT PRESIDENT HOTEL GABORONE, BOTSWANA

- **Director of Ceremony**

- **Representatives from the African Centre for Statistics (ACS) of the Economic Commission of Africa (ECA) and UN-HABITAT**

- **Deputy Statistician General (Economic & Social Statistics), Dr Burton Mguni**

- **Ag. Deputy Statistician General (Statistical & Technical Operations), Ms Phetogo Zambezi**

- **Statistics Botswana Executive Management here present**

- **Distinguished Experts, Guests, and Delegates here present**

- **Members of the Media**

- **Ladies and gentlemen**,

Good morning and welcome to Gaborone, Botswana.

1. It is a great honour and privilege for Statistics Botswana to host this Regional training workshop on human settlements SDG indicators. I am very pleased to welcome you to this workshop.

2. It is also with great appreciation that I wish to acknowledge the presence of the esteemed Development Partners here: The UN-Habitat and Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

3. **Ladies and Gentlemen**, this is a second workshop hosted by Statistics Botswana in collaboration with the ECA this year. The first workshop, held during August 7 – 11, 2017, was aimed at equipping participants with skills and competencies necessary for producing Food Balance sheets based on agricultural censuses and surveys. Aptly dubbed, 'The Effective Use of Food Balance Sheets for Agricultural Statistics'.

4. As part of efforts to enhance capacity among African Member States, to produce accurate and timely statistical information for monitoring and reporting on Agenda 2030, Development Partners here have joined hands for capacity building on SDGs data provision. The current training workshop is to increase knowledge and awareness on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11, whose intention is to "make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". The focus will be on data collection, analysis and reporting on human settlements-SDG indicators.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5.   The Agenda 2030 encompassing the SDGs is a very ambitious and noble effort that the world community has committed to achieving. As most of you know, this Agenda has an all-inclusive theme of "Leave No One Behind". Our own continental development framework - the African Agenda 2063 commits us to achieving "a prosperous Africa that is based on inclusive growth and sustainable development".

6.   Monitoring the progress made towards achieving the SDGs through measurement of related indicators is an important part of progressing Agenda 2030. For NSOs, there are challenges that must be addressed as SDG indicator framework includes many indicators that have not normally been measured by such organisations. Human settlement indicators which are a subject of discussion in this workshop are some of the indicators that some NSOs have not traditionally measured.

7.   This workshop therefore is timely and relevant as discussions would enrich our capacity to provide information on human settlement SDG indicators, as well as facilitate informed decision making. Participants here are indeed entrusted with a great responsibility, and are in my view privileged to have an opportunity to chart the future on this important matter.

8.   It is important to note that, the first World Data Forum on Sustainable Development Data held in Cape Town in January 2017, clearly reiterated the need for strong statistical systems in the measurement of development indicators and underscored the importance of quality of data produced by NSOs as custodians of official statistics in diverse areas including data on human settlements.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. Our goals as outlined within these development frameworks can only be achieved through a people-centred-information infrastructure that allows governments to have sufficient understanding of who our people are, where they are and what their needs are, alluding to geospatial information management for better urban planning and viable settlement data.

10. As we look to the future through our deliberations during this workshop, I urge all of us to be aware of existing bottlenecks with regard to provision and reporting on human settlement SDG indicators, as well as focus on sustainable strategies that will move us forward.

11. It is essential that we keep in mind that, as governments take lead in the development of human settlements, it is important that they are enabled to make informed decisions through the provision of timely measurements on human settlement indicators. This way the chance of improving the lives of people would be enhanced. There is further need for information dissemination and sharing through a multiplicity of key platforms.

    Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. In conclusion, I challenge this landmark workshop to deliberate on the centrality of human settlement data in the implementation of SDGs agenda 2030 and the Africa Agenda 2063. It should provide concrete agreement on what strategic direction to take to revitalize SDG goal 11, specifically through putting in place mechanisms for a systematic review and improved coordination, monitoring and reporting. Africa must provide strategic leadership in this area and establish synergies between Countries primarily through, compatibility and inter-relation of systems, among others.

13.	I wish to thank our Partners and the team from Statistics Botswana for the relentless efforts that were made in co-organizing this important workshop.

14.	I wish you fruitful deliberations over the next three days and good stay in Gaborone.

Thank you for your attention.

PULA!!!