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The Honorable Charles Gaëtan Xavier Luc DUVAL, G.C.S.K
Vice-Prime Minister
Minister of Finance and Economic Development
Port Louis

Sir,

**Annual Report 2012**

I have the pleasure to submit the first Annual Report of the Statistics Board which was set up under Section 23 of the Statistics Act 2000 covering for the period September 2011 to December 2012.

The Annual Report, which outlines the work undertaken by the Board as well as its future plans, is submitted for your information.

Yours faithfully,

Gilbert Gnany
Chairperson

April 2013
Background and context

Following amendments made to the Statistics Act 2000, the Statistics Board was set up in September 2011. It is mandated to offer guidance to the Minister responsible for statistical matters and other producers of statistics on the directions of and the priorities for official statistics. Besides, the entity is responsible for coordinating and monitoring the statistical services provided for public purposes, by notably facilitating the integration and promoting the comparability of data emanating from different sources. The membership of the Board consists of high-level and specifically-selected professionals coming from the public and private spheres.
**Review of progress**

From a general perspective, the creation of the Statistics Board can be viewed as a key component of the array of reforms and measures that have been put into place by the authorities over time to reinforce and modernise the national statistical system, notably through an enhancement and upgrade of the legal and institutional framework as well as the promotion of better coordination mechanisms among producers of statistics.

Specifically, the Board aims to strengthen the confidence and trust of the public in the producers of official statistics by assisting to reinforce the professional and autonomous environment within which the statistical system operates in respect of data collection, analysis and reporting. Furthermore, the Board has, up till now and in accordance with the resources at its disposal, provided its fair share of contribution to nationwide initiatives to enhance the quality of official statistics in Mauritius, particularly in relation to their relevance, impartiality, accuracy, timeliness and coherence.

In fact, reflective of its dynamic approach to promptly put into place its strategic intents, the Board has met every month since its setting up even if it is legally stipulated that the meeting should be held at least on a quarterly basis. Specifically, during the meetings held, discussions covered a broad range of topics, with tasks undertaken and guidance delivered contributing *inter alia* to foster the following achievements and developments:

(i) Enhancement of national data collection and dissemination processes with a view to securing the subscription of Mauritius to the Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and ensuring the sustainability of adherence;

(ii) Approval of census and survey plan of Statistics Mauritius and related questionnaires; and

(iii) Creation of three Committees of the Board to work on the following:

   (a) Dissemination and advocacy of official statistics;

   (b) Harmonisation of business censuses and surveys, and administrative data collection; and

   (c) Quality of life statistics.

**Strategic intents going forward**

Looking ahead, the Board’s current undertakings and future initiatives would seek to increase the scope of its statistical agenda to further enhance the coordination of activities across the national statistical system and to pave the way for producers of statistics to operate in a professional environment, as well as to promote best practices and adherence to international recommendations and standards, in particular the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. In so doing, the Board is intent on supporting efforts deployed at various levels to make sure that the profile of statistics is commensurate with their role in effectively responding to the socio-economic development challenges facing the country.

Basically, for a continuously expanding and increasingly sophisticated economy like Mauritius, the importance of evidence-based decision-making as a key enabler to policy formulation and monitoring cannot be denied. In fact, alongside attempting to compare the country’s performance internationally, policy developers and decision-makers require statistical data of consistent and reliable quality in order to establish socio-economic development priorities and benchmarks before measuring, evaluating and monitoring the outcomes of programmes and policies put into place. Subsequently, optimal directions for resource allocation can be better charted out by the authorities, after ensuring that official statistics are ‘fit for purpose’ in terms of their relevance, timeliness and quality in response to the changing economic and social conditions locally and abroad.

**MESSAGE FROM GILBERT GNANY**

**CHAIRPERSON OF STATISTICS BOARD**
All said, bearing these aspirations in mind, the Board will seek to broaden and deepen its exchanges with public and private sector stakeholders so as to find ways and means to further bolster the national statistical framework, thus assisting in strengthening the enabling environment for economic growth and social progress. Specifically, towards underpinning its underlying strategic ambitions, the Board will provide its guidance to Statistics Mauritius in the preparation of a National Code of Practice, based on internationally accepted principles relating to statistics. All producers of official statistics will then be required to abide by this Code and ensure that the statistics they produce are in conformity with the standards, classifications and procedures so that they can be integrated into the official statistics.

On a different note, the Board will assist in the update of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics so as to cater for the design of a revised five-yearly medium term plan that will provide the relevant direction to enhance the alignment of the country’s statistical capabilities with its prevailing socio-economic aspirations. Furthermore, while focusing on a further reinforcement of the scope and depth of data collection and dissemination, the Board will provide due support to help Mauritius in graduating to the SDDS Plus of the IMF, which is the top tier in the latter’s data standards initiatives. Of note also, the Board plans to organise together with other parties various activities to celebrate the International Year of Statistics in 2013, whose aim is to promote the importance of statistics to multiple data users across various fields.

**Concluding remarks**

I would like to thank the members of the Board and its Committees for their valuable contribution in the discussions held and assistance provided in meeting our objectives. I would, also, like to express my gratitude to various institutional bodies with which the Board has worked on various matters, notably Statistics Mauritius for its positive attitude in taking stock of advice provided for statistical reforms and for providing secretariat services and other facilities to the Board. Overall, I reiterate my commitment to continue reinforcing the association of the Board with different stakeholders towards working together to building stronger, richer and more easily accessible official statistics in the country, thus helping to support policy formulation and inform the decisions of businesses, social partners and the public at large.

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**Gilbert Gnany**

Chairperson

Statistics Board
A BRIEF ON THE STATISTICS BOARD
Legislative framework

In July 2011, the Statistics Act 2000 was amended to provide for the general reform of the National Statistical System (NSS), alongside promoting its professional independence. The amendments made aimed at reinforcing and modernising the set-up for the compilation and dissemination of statistics by *inter alia*:

- providing for better coordination mechanisms among producers of statistics through the replacement of the then Statistics Advisory Council by a high-level Statistics Board;
- enhancing the professional independence of Statistics Mauritius by reinforcing the duties and powers of the Director of Statistics; and
- broadening the scope of the Statistics Act to cover all producers of official statistics.

The Statistics Board

In September 2011, the Statistics Board was set up under Section 23 of the Act. Its membership consists of high-level professionals specifically selected to further improve the professional environment within which the NSS is operating and to ensure that the profile of official statistics is commensurate with their role in national development.

To ensure independence of the Board, provisions have been made in the Act so that, in the discharge of its functions and the exercise of its powers, the Board is not subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority.

Functions of the Board

The functions of the Board as per the Act are to:

- approve, coordinate and monitor statistical programmes of producers of official statistics in order to achieve consistency and efficiency, facilitate integration and promote comparability of data from different sources, avoid duplication, minimise respondent burden, and to improve design of data collection and analysis;
- advise any producer of statistics on the policy, procedures and regulations relating to the development of official statistics;
- promote and safeguard the quality of official statistics, particularly in relation to their relevance, impartiality, accuracy and timeliness and their coherence;
- promote adherence to good practice including accessibility and international recommendations and standards, in particular, the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the African Charter on Statistics and any other internationally accepted principles relating to statistics;
- promote and protect the integrity of official statistics, including professional independence; and
- do every act or thing that is required to be done by the Board under the Act.

The Board may also set up one or more committees and may delegate such of its functions under the Act to any committee as may be necessary to assist in the discharge of its functions.
A BRIEF ON THE STATISTICS BOARD

Membership of the Board

As per the Act, the Board shall consist of the following members:

(i) a Chairperson, suitably qualified and experienced in the field of statistics, economics, social sciences, finance, management or related fields, appointed by the President, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, tendered after the Prime Minister has consulted the Leader of the Opposition, on such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Prime Minister;

(ii) the Financial Secretary or his representative;

(iii) a Deputy Governor of the Bank of Mauritius or his representative;

(iv) a representative of the private sector, appointed by the Minister on the advice of the Joint Economic Council;

(v) a qualified and suitable person having international experience on official statistics, appointed by the Minister responsible for statistics;

(vi) the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mauritius or his representative; and

(vii) the Director of Statistics Mauritius.

Meetings of the Board

The Act stipulates that the Board meet at least once every quarter. Since its setting up, the Board met 14 times (2 in 2011 and 12 in 2012); it approved the Censuses and Surveys plan of Statistics Mauritius (SM) as well as the related questionnaires and discussed statistical issues across the NSS.

The dates of the meetings as well as the attendance are given in Table 1.

Funding of Board

Expenditure on activities of the Board since its setting up to December 2012 is around 2 million rupees. It covers mostly fees to members of Board and its committees.

Board Secretariat

SM provided secretariat services to the Board through Ms. S. F. Cheung Tung Shing and Ms. C. Rughoobur, respectively Principal Statistician and Statistician, as well as other facilities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board members</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Date of Meetings and Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mr Gilbert GNANY Chairperson</td>
<td>√ √ √ √ √ √ √ √ √ √ √ x √ √ 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mr Dovindutt BAICHOO Reresentative of Financial Secretary</td>
<td>√ √ √ √ √ √ √ √ √ √ x √ √ 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3a</td>
<td>Mr Mohammed Iqbal BELATH Second Deputy Director Bank of Mauritius</td>
<td>√ Represented by Mr Mahendra Vikramdass PUNCHOO as from December 2012 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3b</td>
<td>Mr Mahendra Vikramdass PUNCHOO Representative of the Second Deputy Governor, Bank of Mauritius</td>
<td>√ √ √ √ √ √ √ √ √ √ √ 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mr Nunkoomar DEERPALSING Representative of Joint Economic Council</td>
<td>x √ x √ √ √ √ x √ x x √ √ √ 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ms Dheemundevi MANRAJ Professional with international experience</td>
<td>√ x √ √ √ √ √ x √ √ √ 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6a</td>
<td>Mr. Soobrayen KALASOPATAN 1/ Representative of Vice-Chancellor of University of Mauritius</td>
<td>√ √ √ √ √ √ √ √ √ √ √ 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6b</td>
<td>Mr Nashad AUCHOYBUR 2/ Representative of Vice-Chancellor of University of Mauritius</td>
<td>√ √ √ 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ms Li Fa CHEUNG KAI SUET Director of Statistics</td>
<td>√ √ √ √ √ √ x √ √ √ √ 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: X = absent; √= present
1/ no longer member of Board as from September 2012 upon retirement
2/ member of Board as from September 2012
ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD -
SEPTEMBER 2011 TO DECEMBER 2012
1. Census and survey plan for 2012 and 2013, and related questionnaires

Section 10 of the Act stipulates that, on the recommendation of the Board, the Director can collect statistical information relating to any matters set out in the First Schedule of the Act, except the Population Census. The particulars and information to be furnished and the frequency of the data collection are subject to the prior approval of the Board.

Since its creation, the Board approved the census and survey plan for 2012 and 2013, as well as the related questionnaires. The census and survey plan is given in Table 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Censuses and Surveys</th>
<th>Frequency of collection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Continuous Multi Purpose Household Survey</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Household Budget Survey 2012</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Survey of Employment and Earnings in Large establishments</td>
<td>Annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Survey of Employment, Earnings and Hours of Work in Large establishments</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Capital Expenditure Survey</td>
<td>Annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Receipt and Expenditure Survey</td>
<td>Quarterly and Annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Sugar Industry Statistics</td>
<td>Annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Survey of Inbound Tourism</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Survey of Outbound Tourism</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Sugar Industry Energy and Water Survey</td>
<td>Annual</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The plan for 2013 is same as the one for 2012; it however excludes the Household Budget Survey 2012 which was completed in December 2012 and includes the Census of Economic Activities - Phase 1 (small units) which started in January 2013.

2. Special Data Dissemination Standard of the International Monetary Fund

According to the Act, the Board has to coordinate and monitor statistical programmes of producers of official statistics in order to achieve consistency, avoid duplication, minimise burden of respondents, and improve design of data collection and analysis.

In September 2010, a Technical Committee comprising representatives of Statistics Mauritius, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Bank of Mauritius and Financial Services Commission was set up under the chairmanship of the Director of Statistics to, inter alia, oversee observance of the requirements of, and adherence and sustainability to the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

On the creation of the Board in September 2011, the Director of Statistics and also Chair of the Technical Committee on the SDDS regularly reported on progress made to the Board; the latter provided guidance and support while fostering greater cooperation and coordination among members to ensure successful adherence to the IMF standard and sustainability thereafter.

It is to be noted that Mauritius adhered to the SDDS in February 2012; it is now working towards meeting the additional requirements based on modifications made to the SDDS data elements which are part of the periodic reviews of the Data Standard Initiatives of the IMF.
Box 1: The Special Data Dissemination Standard

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) launched the data standards initiative to enhance member countries’ data transparency and to promote their development of sound statistical systems. The need for data standards was highlighted by the financial crises of the mid-1990s, in which information deficiencies were seen to play a role.

Under the data standards initiative, the IMF established the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) in 1996 to provide guidance to countries that have or seek access to capital markets to disseminate key data so that users in general, and financial market participants in particular, have adequate information to assess the economic situations of individual countries. The ultimate goal is to enhance the availability of timely and comprehensive statistics, thereby facilitating countries’ pursuit of sound macroeconomic policies and the improved functioning of financial markets.

It thus improves the visibility of a country to potential investors and strengthens their trust therein; furthermore, empirical studies suggest that subscription to the SDDS can help reduce borrowing costs in international capital markets whereby stimulating foreign direct investment flows and facilitating access to international funding in terms of timeliness and cost.

The SDDS focuses on disseminating the data considered most important for assessing macroeconomic performance and policy. It prescribes categories of data in four key sectors of the economy, namely real sector, fiscal sector, financial sector, and external sector, and identifies four dimensions of data dissemination: (i) data coverage, periodicity and timeliness; (ii) access by the public; (iii) integrity of the disseminated data; and (iv) quality of the disseminated data. For each of these dimensions, the SDDS prescribes best practices that can be observed and monitored by users of statistics and the IMF.
COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD
The Board set up three committees in 2012 to work on:

(a) Dissemination and advocacy of official statistics;
(b) Harmonisation of business surveys and censuses, and administrative data collection; and
(c) Quality of life statistics.

A. Committee on Dissemination and advocacy of official statistics

The Committee on Dissemination and advocacy of official statistics advised on how to promote statistical literacy, improve dissemination of official statistics; and promote advocacy of official statistics.

Terms of Reference

More specifically, the Committee was to:

(i) examine the current channels and instruments used for dissemination of statistics and assessed their effectiveness;
(ii) take stock of any initiatives already undertaken for the promotion of statistical literacy, advocacy and support for data collection efforts and, wherever possible, obtain feedback on their outcomes;
(iii) propose measures to
   (a) strengthen statistical awareness nationwide;
   (b) improve relevance, accessibility and user friendliness of statistical information for various categories of users; and
   (c) increase the cooperation of data providers in the data collection efforts of SM.

(iv) identify the resources required, the training needs as well as the partnerships to be established for implementation of its proposals.

Composition

The Committee consists of six members selected on the basis of their experience as academia, users and communication persons:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Designation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1  Mr. S. Kalasopatan</td>
<td>University of Mauritius</td>
<td>Senior Lecturer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Chairperson)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2  Mr. J. Kwok Yin Siong Yen</td>
<td>Association of Hoteliers and Restaurants in Mauritius</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3  Mr. T. Fleurian-Chateau</td>
<td>Ministry of Finance and Economic Development</td>
<td>Adviser on Information Matters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4  Ms. Y. Cassimally</td>
<td>Statistics Mauritius</td>
<td>Deputy Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5  Mr. J. A. Rumjaun</td>
<td>Mauritius College of the Air</td>
<td>Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6  Mr. J. Domah</td>
<td>Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation</td>
<td>Administrative Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7  Mr. D. Juleemun</td>
<td>Statistics Mauritius</td>
<td>Principal Statistician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Secretariat)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Findings and Recommendations

Members met four (4) times and observed that SM has an impressive range of publications on a variety of topics, mostly accessible to statistically aware and experienced users but generally not suited for the lay public.

The Committee was of the view that an effective dissemination and advocacy policy calls for different contents, approaches and channels of communication so as to meet the needs of the different audiences having different interests, needs, and varying level of statistical awareness.
COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

The Committee formulated proposals meant to provide a multi-pronged and flexible strategy. The implementation being contingent on availability of funds, the Committee recommended a phased implementation advising that measures having significant high cost implications be postponed, pending availability of funds. The Committee iterated that even though implementation may call for outside professionals, SM should be involved and inside capacity developed.

B. Committee on Harmonisation of business censuses and surveys, and administrative data collection

The mandate of the Committee was to advise on the harmonisation and rationalisation of business data collection, including business censuses and surveys and administrative data sources with a view to avoiding duplication and minimising respondents’ burden, achieving more efficiency and increasing access and reliability.

Terms of Reference

The specific assignments of the Committee were to:

(i) take stock of business censuses and surveys and administrative data collection by each institution including their purposes, and gather all relevant metadata;

(ii) identify data requirements in line with the needs of users and constraints (data gaps, inadequacy of data collection/compilation instruments and procedures) of each institution;

(iii) make proposals on measures for the harmonisation and rationalisation of surveys, taking into account needs and constraints identified at (ii) above; and

(iv) advise on the possibility for the publication of a common catalogue of business data holdings.

Box 2: Recommendations of the Committee on Dissemination and advocacy of official statistics

| Proposal 1: SM to set up a permanent internal Dissemination and Advocacy Committee |
| Proposal 2: SM to improve the current publications destined for the professional user |
| Proposal 3: SM to prepare material pertaining to their specific area destined for the general public or lay users |
| Proposal 4: SM to set up a task force to develop statistical literacy material |
| Proposal 5: Recruitment of a communication specialist |
| Proposal 6: Television and Radio broadcasts |
| Proposal 7: SM to undertake major upgrading of its website |
| Proposal 8: SM to make more effective use of free coverage of its press conferences by MBC and the press |
| Proposal 9: SM to capitalize on opportunities to spark interest in official statistics and promote awareness |
| Proposal 10: SM to intensify the organization of promotional events |

Proposal 1: SM to set up a permanent internal Dissemination and Advocacy Committee

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Proposal 8: SM to make more effective use of free coverage of its press conferences by MBC and the press

Proposal 9: SM to capitalize on opportunities to spark interest in official statistics and promote awareness

Proposal 10: SM to intensify the organization of promotional events
Composition

Members of the Committee were from public agencies involved in the collection of information from businesses, either for statistical, supervisory or administrative purposes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Designation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Dr. S. Narrainen (Chairperson)</td>
<td>Ministry of Finance and Economic Development</td>
<td>Senior Adviser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Mr. R. Makoond</td>
<td>Joint Economic Council</td>
<td>Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Mr. V. Punchoo</td>
<td>Bank of Mauritius</td>
<td>Head, Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Mr. H. Mohith</td>
<td>Financial Services Commission</td>
<td>Senior Examiner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Mr. A. Baulacky</td>
<td>Board of Investment</td>
<td>Senior Investment Executive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Mr. E. Jannoo</td>
<td>Mauritius Revenue Authority</td>
<td>Section Head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Ms. I. Gundooa</td>
<td>Registrar of Companies</td>
<td>Principal Compliance Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Ms. L. F. Cheung Kai Suet</td>
<td>Statistics Mauritius</td>
<td>Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Ms G. Appadu</td>
<td>Statistics Mauritius</td>
<td>Principal Statistician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Ms S.F. Cheung Tung Shing (Secretariat)</td>
<td>Statistics Mauritius</td>
<td>Principal Statistician</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Findings and Recommendations

The Committee met eight times. It took stock of business censuses and surveys as well as other data collection carried out by various institutions including their purpose and available metadata. The latter included coverage and periodicity of the data collections; questions asked; concepts, definitions and classifications used; survey procedures including sampling design, sampling frame, data collection and processing methods; and dissemination of results.

The Committee found a high degree of convergence in the data collected on receipts and expenditure of surveys and statutory returns. However, because of the different terminologies and definitions used by different organisations, the collected information cannot be shared among the organisations.

The Committee was of the opinion that complete harmonisation of all data collections is not possible given differences in coverage, frequency and details requested.

COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD
### Box 3:
**Recommendations of the Committee on Harmonisation of business censuses and surveys, and administrative data collection**

| Proposal 1: | Use of common definitions and classifications by all agencies in line with international best practices, and as a prerequisite and critical success factor for harmonisation |
| Proposal 2: | Use of statistical terminology to avoid confusion, statistical terminology should not be used if the method of compilation is not as internationally recommended |
| Proposal 3: | SM to set up a Business Register with a common identifier that can be used by organisations involved in data collection |
| Proposal 4: | SM and others to tap administrative data to replace survey data wherever possible |
| Proposal 5: | SM and others to have online access to the Central Business Registration Database of Registrar of Companies |
| Proposal 6: | Signing of MOU’s between the different organisations where none exists |
| Proposal 7: | To circulate questionnaires and returns among members to ensure that requirements of one another are taken on board |
| Proposal 8: | Use of a common IT platform and wider use of IT applications for data sharing and online surveys respectively |
| Proposal 9: | Setting up of a standing committee to look into the data sharing processes and to ensure implementation of the recommendations of the Committee |
| Proposal 10: | Review of legislation to facilitate data sharing |
| Proposal 11: | Publication of catalogue of business holdings by SM with assistance of Paris 21 |
C. Committee on Quality of life statistics (QoL)

The Committee was set up to come up with recommendations on improving quality of life statistics in Mauritius, based on the report of the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission entitled “Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress”.

Terms of Reference

The Commission was “to identify the limits of GDP as an indicator of economic performance and social progress, including the problems with its measurement; to consider what additional information might be required for the production of more relevant indicators of social progress; to assess the feasibility of alternative measurement tools, and to discuss how to present the statistical information in an appropriate way”.

Accordingly, the specific assignments of the Committee on Quality of life statistics were to:

(i) study the Report of the Commission;
(ii) assess current statistics available on QoL in Mauritius; and
(iii) make proposals on how to improve QoL statistics on Mauritius.

Composition

The composition of the Committee was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Designation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. D. Baichoo</td>
<td>Ministry of Finance and Economic Development</td>
<td>Senior Analyst and Head Macroeconomic Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Y. Cassimally</td>
<td>Statistics Mauritius</td>
<td>Deputy Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. N. Auchybur</td>
<td>University of Mauritius</td>
<td>Lecturer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. D. Manraj</td>
<td>Qatar Statistics Authority</td>
<td>International Consultant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. S. Ah Tow</td>
<td>Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd</td>
<td>Strategic Analyst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. C. Rughoobur</td>
<td>Statistics Mauritius</td>
<td>Statistician</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Findings and Recommendations

The Committee met six times. Members studied the recommendations of the report and assessed quality of life statistics compiled for Mauritius. The Committee concluded that there has been no specific publication or compilation on QoL statistics, but there are indicators and indices that have been compiled, and reports, analysis and studies made on issues related to quality of life.

Three working groups were set up by Committee to work on the following areas:

- Limits of GDP as an indicator of economic and social progress;
- Quality of Life indicators; and
- Indicators of Sustainable Development
**Box 4:**
Recommendations of the Committee on Quality of life statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Limits of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as an indicator of economic and social progress</th>
<th>Quality of Life indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proposal 1: To use Net Domestic Product (NDP) instead of GDP while compiling quality of life indicators</td>
<td>Proposal 6: To disseminate a mix of objective and subjective time series statistics on QoL under eight dimensions, as identified by the Committee</td>
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<td>Proposal 2: To extend the coverage of GDP by incorporating the estimation of unpaid household work to be captured through Time Use Surveys (TUS)</td>
<td>Proposal 7: To finalise the above list of indicators through public consultation and come up with a national list</td>
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<td>Proposal 3: To analyse the impact of economy on environment or vice versa through System of Environmental-Economic-Accounting including the valuation of environmental and natural assets, and the compilation of Green GDP</td>
<td>Proposal 8: To conduct regular TUS to gather information on time use/leisure/social connectedness/etc for supplementing QoL indicators</td>
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<td>Proposal 4: To look for alternatives rather than using National Accounts estimates for compiling QoL indicators for non market services such as education and health provided by government</td>
<td>Proposal 9: To conduct regular surveys on subjective well being</td>
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<td>Proposal 5: To come up with more updated and detailed information on consumption and debt of households</td>
<td><strong>Indicators of Sustainable Development</strong></td>
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<td>Proposal 10: To disseminate the time series statistics on Sustainable Development indicators under three main dimensions, as identified by the Committee</td>
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<td>Proposal 11: To review the list of indicators through public consultation (workshops, web consultation, etc.) and by benchmarking with international recommendations which are still at developing stage</td>
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LOOKING AHEAD
The Board will continue to support the activities of SM and to further the development of the National Statistical System (NSS). A brief on the main activities of the Board in the coming year are given below.

**National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)**

The NSDS was first designed in 2006 and published in 2007. The 2007 NSDS, which is a five yearly medium term plan for reforming the NSS designed using a holistic, participatory and synergic approach with key stakeholders, provided a roadmap for strengthening statistical capacity to address critical challenges facing the NSS. The roadmap focused on efficient and effective coordination of statistical activities at national level, credibility and trust, policy relevance, as well as dissemination and effective use of statistics.

The Board encourages an assessment of the achievements under the 2007 NSDS and an update of the strategy to further strengthen the NSS and promote the production of relevant and timely statistics to support the design, implementation and monitoring of socio-economic policies over the next five years; the updated NSDS will take into account the new challenges of our evolving economy and society, and the complex and growing demands of data users. SM will request expert assistance in the endeavour.

**Inter-Agency Cooperation**

Since its setting up, the Board has been encouraging stakeholders within the NSS, namely data producers, data users, data suppliers and training institutions to put in more effort to enhance the existing collaboration for the betterment of the system. The statistical agencies will, as from this year, start working on the implementation of the recommendations of the Committees of the Board, latest international standards, framework and classifications, and on achieving the requirements of the even more stringent third tier of the Data Standards Initiatives of the IMF.

Given the linkages among the recommendations, inter-agency cooperation, through memoranda of understanding and standing committees, will be a sine qua non condition for effective implementation of the above, in particular to improve data collection instruments so as to reduce response burden and improve capacity of data suppliers to respond to requests for data, to avoid duplication through sharing of information, and to ensure consistency and coherence in the various official statistics.

The setting up of data user/data producer/data supplier committees will also be essential in the pursuit of the above; this will work towards mainstreaming and encouraging users/suppliers to play “up-stream” proactive roles in national statistical development, increasing data relevance by advancing common understanding of policy issues and related data requirements, and clarifying the objectives for data collection and agreeing on the best methods for collecting data.

**National Code of Practice for Official Statistics**

The Board fully supports the setting up of high quality standards for official statistics to strengthen public confidence and trust in producers of official statistics. The development of a national code of practice for official statistics and its implementation by all producers of statistics across the national statistical system will contribute largely in enhancing the quality, integrity and trust of official statistics.

SM will, with the approval of the Board, publish a Code of Practice for official statistics based on the values of the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the African Charter on Statistics, and other internationally accepted principles relating to statistics.

The Code and the principles therein will provide the foundation on which public confidence and trust will be honored. Proper mechanism will be set up to monitor and ensure that all producers of official statistics abide with the national code of practice.
SDDS Plus

Following successful adherence of the country to the SDDS in 2012, the IMF agreed to support the country to improve the quality of its economic and financial statistics.

A multi-sector assessment mission was hence fielded from 23 January to 5 February 2013. It assessed the country’s key macro-economic statistics, namely National Accounts, Government Finance Statistics, Prices Statistics, Balance of Payments, and Monetary and Financial Statistics, identified key issues and priorities to address over the next two to three years in the context of the full implementation of the latest international methodological standards, and looked into inter-sectoral data consistency. At the request of the authorities who have expressed interest in adhering to the new IMF data dissemination standard — SDDS Plus, which is the top tier in the IMF data standards initiatives, the mission also advised on the new requirements and the steps needed towards meeting them.

Following the above, the Board has expressed its support to SM and other producers of official statistics to guide and monitor initiatives to be adopted to pave the way for the adherence of the country to the SDDS Plus. Towards this end, the Board will contribute to the design of a strategic plan. In the process, it will seek the support of the IMF, with specific technical assistance likely to be called for in order to assist the country in boosting its capacity to meet the relevant requirements.

Box 5:
The Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS) Plus

The Special Data Dissemination Standard Plus (SDDS Plus) was approved by the IMF’s Executive Board during the eighth review of the IMF’s Data Standards Initiatives in February 2012. The SDDS Plus, which is the third tier of the Fund’s Data Standards Initiatives to address data gaps revealed during the global crisis, builds on the SDDS to guide member countries on the provision of economic and financial data to the public in support of domestic and international financial stability. SDDS Plus aims to serve the broad membership by focusing on stronger data dissemination by a narrower range of target economies that could help strengthen the international financial system.

Subscription is voluntary and is open to all SDDS subscribers, in particular those with systemically important financial sectors. In addition to being an SDDS subscriber in full observance of all SDDS requirements, an SDDS Plus adherent must observe requirements for a further nine data categories with specified coverage, periodicity, and timeliness requirements related to these additional data categories, all of which aim to support financial stability analysis and policy making. Furthermore, it involves commitment to observe the most rigorous data dissemination and data quality standards within the Fund’s Data Standards Initiatives.

Monitoring the observance of the SDDS Plus requirements is similar to the SDDS, while modifications to the SDDS Plus data elements will follow the same process as the SDDS as part of the periodic Reviews of the Data Standards Initiatives of the IMF.

The SDDS Plus allows for a transition period - for up to four of the nine additional data categories - but its requirements for all nine data categories must be met by end 2019. For adherents availing themselves of the transition period, credible transition plans must be elaborated for each data category, demonstrating how the requirements will be met by end 2019. By end 2019, all SDDS Plus adherents should meet the requirements for all nine additional data categories.
International Year of Statistics 2013

2013 has been declared International Year of Statistics by the International Statistical Institute, the aim being to promote the importance of Statistics, through the combined energies of societies and organisations worldwide, to the broader scientific community, business and government data users, the media, policy makers, employers, students, and the general public.

The goals of the International Year of Statistics include increasing public awareness of the power and impact of statistics on all aspects of society, nurturing statistics as a profession, especially among young people, and promoting creativity and development in the sciences of probability and statistics.

The Board together with SM and other producers of official statistics will organize several activities throughout 2013 to mark this international year of statistics.