Dear Stakeholders,

A National Strategy for Official Statistics (NSOS) is currently being prepared with technical assistance from the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) and African Development Bank (AfDB). It covers the period 2019-23. This is the second one, the first for period 2007-12 having expired. As a key stakeholder in the National Statistical System (NSS), you need to be informed of this exercise. This is why we shall be regularly publishing a newsletter to update you on progress in the design of the NSOS.

This first Bulletin will take you through the preparatory process and present what we have done so far.

2. What is the National Statistical System?
The National Statistical System depicted:

![Diagram of National Statistical System]

3. What is an NSOS?
- NSOS 2019-23 will set for the next 5 years the framework, process and roadmap for strengthening statistical capacity and quality for the entire NSS and enhancing cooperation among NSS institutions.
- It provides a vision of the NSS in five years and sets milestones to reach its objectives.
- It is a comprehensive and unified framework for continual assessment of evolving user’s needs, setting priorities for statistics and building capacity in a coordinated manner.
- It is a framework for harnessing resources and a basis for effective and result-oriented strategic management of the NSS.

4. How will the NSOS be designed?
- Statistics Mauritius will be taking the lead in driving the process.
- Work on the design of NSOS 2019-23 and its implementation will emphasize a participatory approach and will involve producers of official statistics, providers of data, decision makers as well as main users. The exercise will entail a review of the NSS, in consultation with stakeholders, and a series of workshops, amongst others.
- The bottom-up approach will be adopted that makes the process participatory, optimising on specialised knowledge present in sectors and enhancing inter-sectoral coordination.
- Seven sectors have been selected for this process and more sectors will be added as experience on this process is built. Selected sectors include: Health, Environment, Labour, Tourism, Education, Bank of Mauritius and Statistics Mauritius. Using this approach, Sector Statistics Plans will be designed and used as building blocks for the overall NSOS.

5. Where are we now?
- Statistics Mauritius has started the process of designing the NSOS. In this connection a number of activities have been completed including the following:
  - The NSOS design team has been constituted with Mrs Yasmin Cassimally (Deputy Director) as the NSOS Coordinator.
  - Sensitisation and statistical advocacy have started and will continue to be undertaken as a regular activity of the process.
  - Some government officials have been sensitised including: the Financial Secretary and high officials of selected departments.
  - A roadmap for guiding the whole process has been designed and approved by the Statistics Board as well as the tool in assessing the state of statistics in sectors.
  - This NSOS bulletin has been prepared to keep stakeholders informed about progress made.