African Statistics Day 2019
“Quality of Life Statistics”
Welcome address by Director of Statistics
20 November 2019, Caudan Arts Centre-

Chairperson of the Statistics Board
Members of the Board
Mr Erik Von Uexkull, World Bank Country Representative
Professor Gianni Betti, World Bank Consultant
Guests and colleagues
Ladies and Gentlemen

A very good morning to all of you, and welcome to this workshop on the occasion of the African Statistics Day.

The theme that we have chosen this year is Quality of Life Statistics.

Government’s ‘Vision 2030’ recognises that Mauritius needs to have a vision ‘that is holistic enough to include equity as well as happiness, as an integral measure of well-being’.

As per its 2018/2019 budget speech, Government aims to ‘work towards lifting the standard and quality of life of the population by investing in health, sports, education, and most importantly, ensuring that all families have a decent dwelling’.
At international level, we hear about the ‘Beyond GDP initiative’, which is about developing indicators that are as clear and appealing as GDP; and at the same time, more inclusive of environmental and social aspects of progress. Economic indicators such as GDP were not designed to be comprehensive measures of prosperity and well-being. We therefore need adequate indicators to address global challenges of the 21st century, such as climate change, poverty, resource depletion, health and quality of life.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

At Statistics Mauritius, we are already publishing indicators on Quality of Life and Sustainable Development. However, these indicators are not comprehensive enough, and have to be expanded to include, among others, measures of subjective well-being.

We conducted a “Living Conditions Survey” from October 2018 to September 2019 to collect data on people’s perception on their standard of living; about their health, their participation in recreational and cultural activities; and also on time use. Data from the Living conditions Survey, coupled with those from other household surveys, have enabled us to come up with some new QoL indicators, and to compile some SDG indicators for which data were missing.
Today, we will share with you some of the results.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

All of this has been made possible, thanks largely to the technical assistance of the World Bank. Our sincere appreciation goes to the Country Representative, and to Prof Betti, World Bank Consultant on QoL statistics, for his guidance.

The second part of today’s workshop consists of group discussions, on QoL issues that matter most to the country. I therefore invite you all to participate fully in the discussions to help us finalise the proposed list of dimensions and indicators of QoL for Mauritius.

I will leave after the opening session - Tripartite meetings on salary compensation oblige. Our QoL team, led by Mrs Appadu and Mrs Rughoobur, will take good care of you during the sessions of the workshop.

Thank you for your attention.