

# **Workshop on Labour Statistics by Statistics Mauritius**

On Wednesday 30 August 2017, Statistics Mauritius (SM) organised a half-day workshop at Labourdonnais Waterfront Hotel, Port Louis. The aim of the workshop was to build capacity of the press and other stakeholders in key concepts of labour statistics in order to facilitate the understanding of its publication on labour statistics for informed public debates and policy decisions.

## **1. Venue**

The workshop was held at Labourdonnais Waterfront Hotel, Port Louis from 9.00 hrs to noon. [The programme of the workshop.](#)

## **2. Proceedings of the workshop**

### **2.1 *Welcome address by the Ag. Director of Statistics Mauritius***

In her welcoming address, Ms Yasmin Cassimally stated that SM has always strived to produce high-quality statistics that are relevant to people's needs in a fast-changing globalised world. She added that following the recommendation of the ILO, Statistics Mauritius is embarking on the use of tablets during interviews to speed up data processing.

### **2.2 *Address by the Chairperson of the Statistics Board***

Mrs Jennifer Jean Louis, mentioned on the importance and use of labour statistics. She apprised invitees on the recommendations made by the Committee on labour statistics and the objective of the High Level Technical Working Group on Labour Statistics, both having been set up under the Statistics Board.

She reiterated the support of the Board for the improvement of labour statistics in Mauritius by facilitating the dialogues between stakeholders and SM. She also thanked Dr Agossou, ILO expert, for his advice on how official estimates on employment and unemployment could be improved.

### **2.3 *Opening ceremony by Mr Nowbuth***

The workshop was officially opened by Mr R. P. Nowbuth, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training. In his address, Mr Nowbuth urged stakeholders to collaborate for the enhancement of labour statistics in Mauritius. He underlined the importance of training and added that this will improve the quality of manpower and help transform Mauritius into a high-income economy.

## **3. Presentations**

The presentations made during the workshop were as follows:

- (i) [Labour Market Information System](#) by Mr Surat, Chief Employment Officer at the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training; (Insert Link- Labour Market Information System by Mr Surat)
- (ii) [Labour Market situation in Mauritius](#) by Mr Sariff Mungralee, Senior Statistician at Statistics Mauritius; and (Insert Link- Labour Market situation in Mauritius by Mr Sariff Mungralee)

(iii) [Latest ILO Recommendations on Labour Statistics: 19TH ICLS Resolution Concerning Statistics of Work, Employment and Labour Underutilization](#) by Dr Coffi Agossou, Senior Labour Statistics Specialist from the International Labour Organization

#### 4. Questions and answers (Q&A)

Issues raised during the Q&A session are given below. All answers were given by the ILO Expert, Dr Agossou

(a) Q: Are beggars and drug dealers considered as employed?

A: As per the definition of ILO, beggars and drug dealers are not doing productive work, hence they are not considered as employed.

(b) Q: Would housewives who wash clothes, cook food and do all house work without remuneration be considered as employed?

A: ILO recognizes different forms of work which are

- **Own-use production work** which cover activities to produce goods & services **mainly for own final use by household**
- **Employment work:** Activities to produce goods & services **for pay or profit**
- **Unpaid trainee work:** Activities to produce goods & services for others performed **without pay in order to acquire workplace experience or skills**
- **Volunteer work: Non-compulsory:** activities performed **without pay** to produce goods and services **for others**
- **Other work activities: :** E.g. **Compulsory** activities performed **without pay** to produce goods & services **for others**

In the case mentioned, the housewives would be considered as doing own-use production work but not as employed.

(c) Q: Are benefits in kind considered as remuneration for labour?

A: The notion of work for pay or profit include both remuneration in cash and benefits in kind.

(d) Q: Are foreigners included in the Labour force?

A: In Mauritius, all foreigners who work need a work permit and are considered in the Labour force. However, the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey covers only Mauritian households and the employment and unemployment figures derived from the CMPHS relate only to Mauritian.

(e) Q: How is somebody working at Statistics Mauritius and as part time Taxi driver considered?

A: The employment figure would consider that person as one employed person with two jobs. In the CMPHS, multiple job holders are identified through relevant questions to distinguish between the main and secondary jobs.

(f) Q: Can information on job creation and job losses be obtained from establishments?

A: Establishments can provide information on the number of persons they have employed and laid off but it does not equate the number of jobs created and lost. In the case of jobs where there are shift systems (e.g security), more than one person will do the same job. Also it may happen that one person may take one of the job as a secondary one and this will not increase the employment figures for the economy. The ILO Consultant concluded that what is most important to policy makers are the number of employed persons.

## **5. Invitees**

The invitees for the workshop were:

- (i) Members of the press
- (ii) Representatives of Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED)
- (iii) Members of the Statistics Board
- (iv) Members of the CPI Advisory Committee who are representatives of UNION, Consumer Protection, Bank of Mauritius, MOFED and University of Mauritius

[List of invitees and attendees](#)

[Video from Ion News and some photos taken at the workshop](#)

**Statistics Mauritius  
November 2017**