

SM shares its savoir-faire with Statistics Swaziland on Business Register



Satisfied with the progress made by SM in the development of the Statistical Business Register (SBR), the African Development Bank sponsored Statistics Swaziland for a study tour to SM.

Two Statisticians, Ms. Thandie Dlamini and Mr. Qhawe Tfwala, accompanied by three Statistical Assistants, namely Mr. Kenneth Gama, Ms. Gqizicakala Nkosi and Mr. Sifiso Magongo came on visit at SM from 9 to 11 March 2015 to learn how to implement an SBR in Swaziland. The delegation interacted with staff of the Central Business Register, Labour, National Accounts and IT units of SM. They also had a meeting with the Corporate and Business Registration Department (CBRD) which is one of the main data sources for SM's SBR.

At the end of the study tour, the Swaziland's team felt that it is too early for them to implement the current elaborate SBR system in their country due to the absence of an appropriate legal framework. They, however, felt that they could proceed on the basis of our previous CBR.

International Women's Day 2015

International Women' Day is celebrated worldwide on 8 March annually, since 1975. The theme of this year's International Women's Day was *"Empowering Women - Empowering Humanity: Picture it!"*

In the Republic of Mauritius where the estimated female population was 637,387 as at 31 December 2014, a series of activities was organised by the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare. The specific theme identified by the Ministry to mark the International Women's Day in Mauritius was *"Gender Equality is my Agenda."* The theme was specific and relevant to the local context where the stress is on raising awareness on the need for more equality in all sectors of activity.

Among the activities organised by the Ministry included the organisation of three consultative workshops to draw up a road map in supporting the objectives of gender equality.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The SDGs are a proposed new set of goals that that will enable countries to better target and monitor progress across the social, environmental and economic dimensions of sustainable development. They were developed further to one of the largest UN-led consultation programme which included Expert Group discussions and national consultations.

They comprise 17 goals covering a broad range of sustainable development issues such as: ending poverty and hunger, improving health and education, making cities more sustainable, combating climate change, and protecting oceans and forests. The SDGs follow, and expand on the eight millennium development goals (MDGs) once they expire at the end of 2015. If member states agree on the proposed set of 17 SDGs at the UN summit in September 2015, they will become applicable from January 2016. The expected deadline to meeting the goals is 2030.

The proposed goals were discussed at the 46th session of the United Nation Statistics Commission held in March 2015 during which 'data constraints' was identified as a major challenge and a decision was taken on the needs to enhance national statistical capacity.

Mauritius will also be facing a data challenge particularly in areas such as governance, decent work, qualitative assessment on housing and road transport infrastructure, and environment.



Mauritius celebrates its 47th Anniversary of Independence Day

12th March 2015! A special day that deserved to be celebrated as it marked the 47th year of the country's independence. A day when patriotism and pride was high among the citizens of Mauritius; a day when we forgot who and what we are and we remember only one thing, **"We are Mauritians"**. This year's guest of honour was none other than the Indian Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi.

Below are some statistics from 1968 to 2014:

	1968	2014
Population	803,447	1,260,934
Dependency ratio <i>(per 1000 population)</i>	865.8	410.0
Life expectancy at birth <i>(Years)</i>	62.21	74.33
GDP per Capita <i>(Rs)</i>	1,222	306,322