

Statistics Mauritius turns 75 this year

Created in July 1945; the office was then known as the Statistical Bureau. In 1948, the Bureau became the Central Statistical Office, and later operated under Statistics Act of 1951. In April 2001, a new Act was promulgated. The latter was reviewed in 2011.

The reviewed Act gives more impetus to the status of the Office and broadens the duties and functions of the Director of Statistics. It also provides for a Statistics Board which brings together producers of official statistics and other stakeholders including user groups. The Board safeguards the quality of official statistics, and protects their integrity and professional independence. The Office was renamed Statistics Mauritius in 2011.

SM organized a get-together to celebrate this special year, together with an award ceremony for two Deputy Directors retirees and staff who have completed the training in Advanced Statistics organized in collaboration with the University of Mauritius (UoM). Our chief guest was the Vice Chancellor, Prof. D. Jhurry of the University of Mauritius.



World Statistics Day-20 October 2020

The third World Statistics Day was celebrated on 20 Oct 2020, with "Connecting the world with data we can trust" as theme. The latter reflects on the importance of trust, authoritative data, innovation and the public good in national statistical systems.

On that occasion, SM organized a workshop around "Covid-19 - A Statistical Perspective". The workshop was opened by Dr the Hon. Renganaden Padayachy, Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development.

The workshop included presentations on: (i) What happened during the COVID 19 Pandemic – some statistics, (ii) Rapid Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey – May survey results, and (iii) Survey on Impact of COVID-19 Outbreak on businesses - Business Mauritius, (iv) Studying the novel Coronavirus series in Mauritius and its implications – an academic paper. This was followed by a Panel discussion on "What Strategy in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic". Panelists were from UNSD, World Bank, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, Ministry of Health and Wellness, Bank of Mauritius, and Statistics Mauritius. Mr. R. Jansen of UNSD sent a recorded presentation on that occasion.

SM contributed in the Tripartite Negotiations on salary compensation

Tripartite negotiations on salary compensation for 2021 started in November. Consultations and discussions to determine the quantum of salary compensation involved representatives of government, employers and employees. As is the practice every year, SM provides statistics to facilitate informed decisions thereon.

At the technical meeting, SM Director presented the forecast of inflation rate for 2020 and the methods used. It is important to note that both employers and employees used extensively SM's statistics, particularly those on inflation, household expenditure, cost of CPI basket, and distribution of income to work out their proposals.

SM also prepared a computation system to facilitate the calculation of the cost of the salary compensation in the economy.

SM participated in

(i) 11th Meeting of the COMESA Committee on Statistical Matters - 26-27 Oct 2020: PARIS21 presented its evaluation of the 2017-2020 COMESA Statistics Strategy which was done in an objective and independent manner. The Draft Statistics Strategic Framework (2021-2025) was discussed and approved. Partners presented their reports and showed their interest for further collaboration to support COMESA activities.

(ii) 28th SADC Statistics Committee: 10 Dec 2020: The meeting which generally reviews progress of the SADC Statistics Program and provides strategic direction to the development of statistics in the region, discussed and approved the Draft Protocol on Statistics. The latter will serve as a legal framework for enabling and enhancing statistical development and innovation in the region.

(iii) Meeting of the executive Committee of SHaSA2 (Strategy of Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa): 14-15 Dec 2020: The African Union presented the implementation progress of the strategy in its 55 member states. Implementation was found low. After discussions, the Committee made some recommendations to improve implementation, including the creation of group discussion, virtual training, and design of a dashboard.

(iv) 14th session of the Committee of Director-Generals of National Statistics Office: 17-18 Dec 2020: The meeting discussed progress and challenges in the production of data to support the implementation and monitoring of: (i) SHaSA2, (ii) Agenda 2030, and (iii) Agenda 2063. Recommendations made include: development partners to support African Statistical System to encourage the South-South Cooperation for sharing of best practices, and international partners to build capacity to allow countries to produce quality statistics as required by AU Heads of State and Government during Covid-19 crisis and beyond.

(v) Forum of Statistical Development in Africa: 14 Dec 2020: The Forum met under the theme "Harnessing the impact of COVID-19 crisis to accelerate the transformation and modernization of NSS". The objectives were to address needs of NSS and take stock of the opportunities and mechanisms offered by Pan-African institutions, partners and organizations to assist countries in responding to the Covid-19 crisis.

Graduation Ceremony at the UoM

The Director was the Guest Speaker for the Graduation Ceremony for the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities of the UoM. In her address, the Director commended the young graduates for their hard work and commitment. She stressed on competencies acquired during their university years - passion, determination, and enthusiasm to learn, expand and reach out to others, which are as important as the academic studies.

She also talked about the importance and power of high - quality and timely statistics for informed decision-making in a more and more challenging and demanding environment, particularly in the new normal resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Training Course on Public Speaking

Statistics Mauritius conducted a 4 half-day training course on Public Speaking, mounted in collaboration with the Civil Service College Mauritius, for some 50 staff during 27-30 Oct 2020.

Officers in the grade of Statistician and above, and heads of administrative units attended the training course.

Retirement

Mrs Yasmine Cassimally and Mr Deepuk Bahadoor, Deputy Directors, retired from the service both on 05 October 2020 after having served the Department for more than 30 years. Mrs Bibi Cateejah Jagessur, Statistical Officer, retired on 26 December 2020.

SM thanks the young retirees for their services to the Department and wishes them good luck in their future endeavors.