

SM E-Business Plan

The Consultant, Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC) completed its assignment and submitted the E-Business plan in June 2021. The work was undertaken under the UNDP Mauritius COVID-19 – Prevention, Response and Early recovery Project (PREP) with the assistance of Government of Japan.

The newly designed E-Business plan is based on six strategic objectives namely: (i) Create a One-Stop Data Hub, (ii) Improve Service Delivery, (iii) Achieve Operational Efficiency, (iv) Enhance security and confidentiality, (v) Adopt E Government Principles and (vi) Become resilient, leading to six initiatives as follows:

- i) Modernise SM operations with a modern Statistics Platform,
- ii) Develop talent and workforce of the future,
- iii) Adopt a Data Quality and Governance Framework,
- iv) Integrate with future E- Government Technologies,
- v) Complement the Statistics Platform with Big Data and Artificial Intelligence and,
- vi) Enhance Regional and International collaborations.

Implementation of the E-business plan will start during the second semester of this year with the assistance of UNDP.

The Statistics Platform will lay the foundation for SM business processes to be metadata driven from end-to-end, within a common data management framework. The application of standards, in conjunction with revised business processes, will increase re-use and automation of end-to-end statistical processes resulting in operational effectiveness and efficiency.

The new platform will allow SM to have an automated data lifecycle from data acquisition to dissemination. This will result as increase in efficiency in data operations, by overcoming fragmentation in tools, processes and data models, and enforcing a "quality by design".

Budget 2021/2022

SM budget 2021/2022 was again prepared under special circumstances of the COVID related during the lockdown. SM received an amount of Rs 314 M compared to Rs 231.4 M in 2020/2021 to finance both its capital and recurrent expenditure.

The increase is mainly due to expenses related to the 2022 Housing and Population Census postponed to 2022 due to the pandemic, and the implementation of the SM E-Business Plan.

The number of funded positions in the new budget is 229 compared to 203 in 2020/21.

Preparation of Country-level Report on the progress in the implementation of Agenda 2063

Agenda 2063 is a strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of Africa over the next 50 years, and was formulated during the African Union Summit in May 2013 in the context of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the OAU. It seeks to accelerate the implementation of existing continental initiatives for growth and sustainable development, encompassing seven Aspirations together with a set of goals, targets and indicators to be met by 2063.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade (MFARIRT) is leading the preparation of the country-level progress report in collaboration of national stakeholders. SM forms part of the technical team working thereon, and as provider of official statistics, is populating the 2063 Agenda data matrix and providing technical support to the team. Mauritius will submit its progress report during 2021, as part of the preparation of the Second Continental report.

To note that SM participated in a virtual workshop, jointly organised by MFARIRT and AUDA- NEPAD on the preparation of country progress report on the Agenda 2063 First Ten Year Implementation Plan 2013 - 2023. Representatives from various line Ministries participated in the workshop.

Technical Assistance (TA) from UNFPA and Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) i.c.w Housing and Population Census 2022

UNFPA and KNBS are supporting Statistics Mauritius in the conduct of the 2022 Housing and Population Census (HPC 2022).

The UNFPA consultancy is providing technical guidance and oversight on the design, development, testing and piloting of a CAPI application for both the Housing Census and the Population Census scheduled for February 2022 and for July 2022 respectively. The support covers also the setting up of IT infrastructure, including servers and data transmission systems, and a reliable and efficient backup method, as well as data quality control measures.

At the end of the consultancy, the following will be available:

- Operational/Fully functional CAPI system for the 2022 HPC;
- Operational/Fully functional CSweb for the 2022 HPC;
- Documentation of the processes of developing and testing of the CAPI Application;
- Cleaning, editing and validation applications
- Tabulation applications; and
- Clean datasets (Housing Census dataset, Population Census dataset, and Consolidated Housing and Population Census dataset)

The Government of the Republic of Kenya, through the KNBS, has agreed to support SM in the Census exercise by providing on loan some 8,000 tablets and accessories. In this connection, an agreement is being signed between KNBS and SM for the loan of 8,000 tablets.

Capacity Building

SM participated in the

- i) Expert Group meeting on the Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Population & Housing Censuses & the potential role of census data in developing mitigation strategies in Africa, 10- 24 June 2021.
- ii) the '20th ICLS Resolution on Work Relationships' workshop, 1 - 2 June.
- i) Training on Scanner data for CPI calculation organised by the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) in partnership with Government institutions across Sub-Saharan Africa, 24 May - 7 June 2021.
- ii) Training course on labour migration data collection and analysis, 17 May - 4 June 2021.

Retirement

Mrs Tilothamah Ramtahal, Statistical Officer	1 April 2021
Mrs Anna Marisa Rossana Fanor, Senior Statistical Officer	1 April 2021
Mrs Devika Balgobin, Senior Statistician	1 June 2021
Mrs Anita Bissessur, Senior Statistical Officer	14 June 2021

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