Welcome Address by the Director of Statistics

African Statistics Day 2026 Celebration
The Ravenala Attitude Hotel, Balaclava
18 November 2026

Theme of ASD 2026: ***"Institutionalizing water and sanitation statistics for sustainable and climate-resilient development in Africa"***

The Chairperson of the Statistics Board, Ms Li Fa Cheung Kai Suet,

Members of the Statistics Board,

Representatives of Ministries and Government Institutions,

Representatives of International and Regional Organisations,

Development Partners,

Distinguished Guests,

Dear Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good morning to you all.

It is my pleasure to warmly welcome you to the celebration of African Statistics Day 2026. Thank you for taking the time to join us on this important occasion.

Celebrated every year on 18 November, African Statistics Day provides an opportunity to recognise the vital role of statistics in supporting development, informing decisions and improving people's lives. It also allows us to reflect on our achievements and the challenges ahead.

I would like to begin by acknowledging all the staff of Statistics Mauritius, whose dedication and professionalism make the production of official statistics possible. Your contribution deserves our sincere appreciation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year's theme focuses on water and sanitation statistics, an issue of great importance to us all.

Water is essential to our daily lives, our economy and our environment. However, as a Small Island Developing State, Mauritius faces particular challenges in managing its limited water resources, especially in the context of changing rainfall patterns and climate change.

To plan effectively for the future, we need reliable information on water availability, consumption, demand and environmental pressures. Statistics provide the evidence needed to make informed decisions, plan infrastructure, improve services and ensure the sustainable management of our resources.

At Statistics Mauritius, we recognise that our statistical needs are evolving. Beyond traditional areas such as population, employment and economic statistics, there is an increasing demand for reliable information on the environment, climate change and sustainable development.

Producing such information requires close collaboration. Ministries, public institutions, utility providers and other stakeholders all collect valuable data. Our challenge is to bring these sources together, improve their consistency and quality, and ensure that the resulting statistics are regularly produced and effectively used.

Indeed, statistics have little value if they remain confined to reports and databases. Their true value lies in how they support policies, guide investments and improve people's well-being.

Distinguished Guests,

Today's programme has been organised to encourage knowledge-sharing and discussion on strengthening water and environmental statistics in Mauritius.

We are pleased to welcome contributions from the Water Resources Commission and the Agence Française de Développement, alongside two presentations by Statistics Mauritius on water statistics and the measurement of environmental and climate pressures on water.

I encourage everyone to participate actively, exchange experiences and identify opportunities for stronger collaboration.

Before concluding, I wish to thank our colleagues across Ministries and Government institutions for their continued cooperation and support. My sincere appreciation also

goes to the staff of Statistics Mauritius and the organising team for their dedication and efforts in making this celebration possible.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we celebrate African Statistics Day 2026, let us remember that statistics are not simply about numbers; they are about people, their needs and their future.

By strengthening our partnerships and producing relevant, reliable statistics, we can contribute to better planning, sound policies and a more sustainable and climate-resilient Mauritius.

On behalf of Statistics Mauritius, I once again warmly welcome you all.

I wish you a pleasant morning, fruitful discussions and a successful African Statistics Day celebration.

Thank you for your kind attention.