

Remarks by Young Statistician (SOUTH AFRICA) on the Occasion of the 5th ISibalo Conference of Young Statisticians, Pretoria, 13-16 June 2016

Ministerial Visit of 15 June 2016

Your Excellency, Honourable Minister Jeff Radebe

Statistician-General of South Africa

Program Director

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Honourable Minister, in 2008 at the 1st ISibalo Conference of African Young Statisticians, in this very room, my predecessor, Koleka Rangaza, posed certain challenges to Minister's own predecessor, then Minister Trevor Manuel.

Young Statisticians of that day requested the support of the Minister in implementing a focused ISibalo Research Programme for African Young Statisticians. This week is a realisation of that request. Your Excellency, Much has been achieved since 2008.

On this 15th Day of June 2016, a day before our country celebrates 40 years since youth in Soweto on 16 June 1976 to change the course of our history, we the Young Statisticians of Africa, make a request to Honorable Minister in the Presidency, Minister Jeff Radebe on THREE issues:

- (a) First, to assist us in encouraging our African Governments through the national statistical offices, universities, research institutions and line-function ministries, provide adequate support and resources to the advancement of statistics in Africa and the intellectual space for us to grow and be the responsible drivers of Africa's current measurement challenges in pursuit of sustainable development in Africa
- (b) Second, that the ISibalo African Young Statisticians Programme, while driven by South Africa must receive collaborative support from other African governments in a joint effort of our African governments towards building new cadres of statisticians to serve the post-2015 development agenda
- (c) That senior statisticians be mobilized to participate in an effective mentoring programme across Africa towards growing tomorrow's leaders today

Minister to achieve the priorities of our National Development Plans, Africa's Agenda 2063 and the SDG's our roles as young statisticians are central. We are custodians of the future.

I thank you.

Andrew Tshililo (Statistics South Africa)