



VP opens Africa symposium

Dr Kedikilwe honours African delegates at the 9th ASSD. **Obakeng Sukube** reports

"The scandal of invisibility is a scenario where many people are born, their existence not documented throughout their lifetime, and eventually passing on without being accounted for, primarily because in Government records they just do not exist." This statement was pronounced by His Honour the Vice President of The Republic of Botswana Dr. Ponatshego Kedikilwe during the official opening of the 9th African Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD) at the Gaborone International Convention Centre (GICC).

This symposium, which is hosted by Botswana, runs from 17th to 21st of February 2014 under the theme "Promoting use of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in support of good governance in Africa". Because of this theme, the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs and Statistics Botswana are leading this initiative on behalf of the Government of Botswana to deliver a successful convention.

Speaking during this high-profile event, Dr Kedikilwe pointed out that this scandal of invisibility is mostly caused by the

weaknesses of the CRVS systems in Africa because of the inadequate legal and institutional frameworks, operational inefficiencies, coupled with poor resourcing or budgetary constraints. "This results in the incompleteness of CRVS in terms of coverage of the population and registration of events," Dr Kedikilwe said.

When speaking to the main theme of the symposium, he said this event came at the time when CRVS throughout the world was gaining profound prominence. He further emphasised that the theme underscores the obvious relationship between civil registration and governance. "The basic tenet here is the administrative capability to have in place credible CRVS that enable countries to accord some key rights to their citizenry," he said.

The Vice President further elaborated that the credible statistics which is generated through the civil registration, is not only needed to evaluate progress of development projects

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Africa needs statistics

ASSD chair Pali Lehohla says statistical harmonisation will bring huge benefits to the continent, writes **Kgaugelo Motloutse**

“Your Honourable, Vice-President of Botswana, deep precious water is the metaphorical answer for implementing Strategies for Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA) and this answering Africa’s development problems,” said the Statistician-General of Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) and the ASSD Chairperson.

He was addressing the delegates at the 9th ASSD hosted in Gaborone, Botswana, a country of such magnificent and outstanding heritage in our continent, “We have the SHaSA”, he explained.

Lehohla said it is certain that Africa would be doomed had we not had such esteemed words from Sir Seretse Khama; he said, “They [the people] take comfort in the sense of identity which they derive from family and hence from tribe. This is understandable but it becomes dangerous when it leads people to think in exclusively tribal terms.”

Africa took a long and painful detour to realise that democracy delivers transparency and accountability, results and trans-



formation and the same kind of goods that statistics delivers, transparency, accountability, results and transformation.

Lehohla said through deep precious water, with SHaSA, there will be better decisions for better policy outcomes. “We need to dig deep for knowledge and understanding,” explained Lehohla.

Now the chapter on censuses is nearing the end, a new leaf is being opened. This new chapter is on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics. “The focus of the ASSD on civil registration will end next year as well, during the 10th ASSD” said Lehohla.

Success is a terrible thing because it breeds success and brings with it additional responsibilities beyond your own borders. “We are Africans and we cannot fail,” he added.

Lehohla thanked Vice-President, Honourable, Ponatshego Kedikilwe and the Government of Botswana for stepping up to the challenge to host the 9th ASSD.

VP opens Africa symposium

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and programmes, and secure good governance, but also to prioritise allocations of scarce resources across competing needs. He said credible statistics generated through civil registration contribute to the formulation of evidence-based policies across sectors.

“Civil Registration and Vital Statistics provide a body of empirical evidence required by Governments and their development partners, in addition, more than 100 developing countries around the globe do not have complete and functional civil registration and vital statistics systems.” said the Vice President. He additionally pointed that around 40 million births are not registered and an equal number of deaths globally are either not registered or their causes are incorrectly classified.

In recognition of progress made towards the improvement of the CRVS, he applauded the Botswana Government for the development of a legal and institutional framework, human infrastructure and registration processes which he said it will help to provide estimates of births and mortality rates, which are consistent with those revealed by the censuses.

“It is therefore very beneficial to link relevant hospital information with CRVS systems for regular monitoring and evaluation of CRVS completeness. The CRVS completeness will enable regular estimates of demographic indicators during the inter-census periods for population policy implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation” said the VP.

He lastly informed the meeting that the Botswana Government in collaboration with other partners United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the African Development Bank (ADB) commenced a comprehensive assessment for CRVS. “This was done in a view to come up with a five year strategic plan to guide implementation, monitoring and evaluation systems, determine timeliness of recording vital events, resources required and responsibilities for stakeholders.” he said.

When wrapping-up his presentation, the Vice President appreciated the assistance and collaboration of development partners on their endeavours and pointed that he hopes that the project’s experiences and results will be shared and cascaded to the rest of Africa.

Minister Batshu welcomes delegates

This is a historic moment, said the Minister. **Letso S. Mpho** reports

The Honourable Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Mr. Edwin Jenamiso Batshu, graced the official opening of the 9th Africa Symposia on Statistical Development. The 9th showpiece, which is hosted by Republic of Botswana in Gaborone, commenced on the 17th and will end on the 21st of February 2014. The event is held under the theme; "Promoting Use of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Support of Advancing Good Governance in Africa". This year's event is held in collaboration with the ASSD Secretariat, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs, Statistics Botswana, Administration of Justice and Ministry of Health. The event has also received strong support from the African Union Commission, African Development Bank, United Nations Agencies and private entities both locally and regionally.

The Minister informed the gathering that Botswana is very humbled by the honour to host an event of this enormity and importance. He said that this is a historic moment for the country in terms of the development for its Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS).

Hon. Batshu further informed the meeting that Botswana will seize this opportunity to strengthen and galvanize stakeholder collaboration, and ensure availability of data of integrity to the country. The importance of data collection is very vital in economic growth and also aiding plans for developments. As Botswana is currently pursuing its National Development Plan, vital information such as Civil Registration will help Government in terms of resources distribution and future planning for its growing population.

"As we mark the 9th session of the ASSD, we expect the bond between African countries, of course with support of our development partners, to grow deeper and stronger, for it is only through this, that Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) can support good governance in Africa." Said the Minister.

Hon. Batshu applauded the participants as very essential to the development of Africa especially on elements of



*The Honourable
Minister of
Labour and Home
Affairs, Mr. Edwin
Jenamiso Batshu*

high significance such as Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS). He said that this meeting is very important in terms developing peace and tranquility for Africa's humanity, collaboration, consultation and benchmarking on important subjects. The Minister gave reference to the success of the 2013 Cote d'Ivoire Symposium and challenged the deliberations to produce similar good results. Africa is at the moment working tirelessly to improve on its Civil Registration and Vital Statistics and to have any chances of matching the rest of the world, meeting such as these will need to bear fruit for all countries in the continent of Africa.

"I would like to thank all of you for believing in our ability as a country, especially for recognizing us as a benchmark of best practice in the area of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics. For our part, we view this meeting and it's hosting as a rare opportunity for learning and growth which we will definitely exploit for the benefit of the country and Africa as a whole".

"This effort is indeed commendable. The financial and technical support your respective organizations are rendering to the participants and to different activities of the Symposium, will indeed ensure its success. Your presence is thus highly valued." He said.

In conclusion, the Minister thanked the delegates, the stakeholders and the host for making the Botswana symposium a success.







THE 9TH AFRICA SYMPOSIA ON STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT

17th -21st February 2014 at Gaborone International Convention Center (GICC)



**FREE
PUBLIC
ACCESS**

PANEL DISCUSSION

18th February 2014 at 6pm - 8:30pm at Gaborone International Convention Center (GICC)

**ARE AFRICAN STATISTICS REALLY AS BAD AS THEY
ARE BEING PORTRAYED IN SOME INTERNATIONAL CIRCLES?**

DISCUSSIONS LED BY: PROFESSOR MORTEN JERVEN

THE WRITER OF: 'POOR NUMBERS: HOW WE ARE MISLED BY AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT STATISTICS'

MODERATOR: PROFESSOR PATRICK MOLOTSI

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF TERTIARY EDUCATION COUNCIL-BOTSWANA

PANELISTS

Professor Ben Kiregyera

Prof. Kiregyera holds a B.Sc (Hon) degree in statistics and applied economics from Makerere University (Uganda), M.Sc. in statistics from Iowa State University (USA) and a Ph.D in statistics from the University of Essex (U.K.).

Mr. Pali Lehlola

Pali Lehlola is the Statistician-General of South Africa, a position he has held since November of 2000. He is the Chair of Africa Symposia on Statistical Development (ASSD), a country-led initiative established in 2006 the aim of which is to put statistical evidence at the centre of policy in Africa.

Mr. Busani Ngcaweni

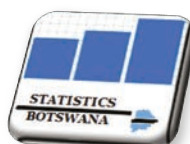
Busani Ngcaweni is Deputy Director- General (DDG) in the Presidency, responsible for heading the Office of the Deputy President in South Africa. Before taking this DDG position, he worked as Head of Strategy and Special Projects in the same office.

Professor Ntonghanwah Forchheh

Prof. Ntonghanwah Forchheh is an Associate Professor in the Department of Statistics, University of Botswana. Forchheh was born in Cameroon where he completed his primary and secondary education before proceeding to the United Kingdom for his University education.



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ASSD exhibitors

Government Entities and SMMEs showed their wares at the ASSD, writes Irene Edward

The 9th Africa Symposium on Statistical Development has attracted a number of exhibitors from different organisations from, Government Ministries which include the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs through the Department of Civil and National Registration, Administration of Justice under the Ministry of Defence Justice and Security in Botswana.

There were parastatal such as Statistics Botswana and Botswana Couriers and Logistics as well as Small Medium, Micro Enterprises and other Private entities joined the number of delegates at the symposia.

The District Registrar in the Department of Civil and National Registration, Bame Kootshole in Botswana, has highlighted that the symposium marks Botswana as a benchmark for best practice in Civil Registration. This will afford an average Motswana access to information on the importance of civil registration and vital statistics as this will help in development planning. The symposia afford the organisations to showcase their services.

The most interesting exhibitor was the customer charter. It has been translated into Braille to cater for the visually impaired as the government encourages all services provided for citizens should be accessible to all.

An exhibitor from Statistics Botswana, Neo Kwada, a young Statistician, highlighted that their purpose is mainly to raise awareness on Botswana Statistics a relatively new parastatal that is in its second year of operation came into existence in April 2012. The mandate of the organisation also includes alerting people on the statistics produced



and through the statistical publications.

One of the exhibitors in the Regional Manager, Mike Smethurst, of DRS Data Services Limited a British Company acknowledged and showed appreciation for having been part of the exhibitors for a number of years with the ASSD.

He said the symposia provides an opportunity for business success and keep relations with previous customers as well as form new acquaintances and potential customers. His company, he says, deals mainly with supporting and supplying technology for censuses in many African countries with the most recent being Zimbabwe.

Zambia, Sudan and Tanzania are also some of the countries that once engaged his Company. Currently DRS Data Services Limited is providing census technology for Myanmar which is the biggest census going on currently in the whole world. The company prints census forms, manufactures high speed document scanners and provides software for census.

A representative a South African based company, Jay Bradley of Prodata, representing Read Soft product hastened noted that his first experience with the ASSD. He was honoured to be part of such a symposium and to exhibit to such an audience as Botswana and other fellow Africans who might benefit from the services they offer, which include data capture from forms (national registration forms, examination or educational forms among others) and automation of data information.

In brief he says his company captures and processes forms in multiple formats including census survey, applications and registration forms.

Most foreign exhibitors appreciated the fact that it was their first time to exhibit in the ASSD and welcome the move to have been awarded such an opportunity as it is a rare one. They also commended Botswana for the hospitality afforded them described the people as very warm welcoming and the weather as conducive.

ISibane

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Obakeng Sukube
Letso S. Mpho

Tuesday 18 February 2014		
Session III B Continued		
08:00-9:00	Presentation III: Health, Education and Social grant services	Senegal, South Africa
	Presentation IV: Realising Civil and Human Rights	Rwanda, Cameroun
	General Discussions	
Session IV : Register-based vital statistics for promoting inclusive and sustainable growth at local administration levels		
Chair: South Africa		
9:00 – 10:30	<i>Objectives of the session – the aim of the session is to demonstrate the critical role of civil registration based vital statistics in facilitating planning, implementing and monitoring development at the national, sub-national and community levels.</i>	
	Presentation I: Ensuring alignment of civil registration systems to meet the demands of the statistics sector	CRVS Secretariat
	Presentation II: Current and continuous population and social data at lowest levels of geography in support of capacitating local governance structures and services	UNFPA, WHO
	General Discussions	
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee/Tea break	
11:00-13:30	Break away session (issues on session II, III, & IV)	Core Group
13:30-14:30	Lunch break	
14:30-16:30	Report Back	Countries
16:30-17:00	Coffee/Tea Break	
Seminar: The facts and fiction of Africa's statistics narrative		
17:00-19:30	<i>In 2013, a book titled: Poor Numbers: "How we are Misled by African Development Statistics and what to do about it", was written by Professor Morten Jerven. At its launch, a pan-African representation attended and a conclusion was drawn on the book subsequently by the delegation. The book stirred a lot of interesting discussions in media, political, economic and intellectual corridors. A project on documented statistical renaissance is about to be concluded by African scholars and practitioners. The session aims at presenting and discussing the book in the context of the statistical renaissance project. African practitioners and scholars will engage Professor Morten Jerven on his book.'</i>	ASSD Secretariat

Mardi 18 Février 2014		
Session III (B) - Suite		
	Présentation III: Services de Santé, d'Education et d'Allocations Sociales	Sénégal, Afrique du Sud
08:00-9:00	Présentation IV: Réaliser les Droits Civils et Humains	Rwanda, Cameroun
	Discussions Générales	

Session IV : Statistiques d'État civil sur base des registres d'Etat Civil pour la promotion d'une croissance inclusive et durable au niveau de l'administration locale		
Président de Session : Afrique du Sud		
9:00 – 10:30	<i>Objectifs de la session - le but de la session est de démontrer le rôle essentiel des statistiques vitales produites sur la base de l'enregistrement des faits d'état civil, dans la facilitation de la planification, de la mise en œuvre et du suivi du développement aux niveaux national, régional et communautaire</i>	
	Présentation I: Assurer l'alignement des systèmes d'enregistrement des faits d'état civil de sorte qu'ils répondent aux exigences du secteur statistique	Secrétariat CRVS
	Présentation II: Données sociodémographiques à des niveaux géographiques désagrégés en soutien au renforcement des capacités des structures et services de gouvernance locale	FNUAP, OMS
	Discussions Générales	
10:30–11:00	Pause- Café/Thé	
11:00-13:30	Travaux en ateliers (questions sur la session II, III & IV)	Groupe Restreint CRVS
13:30-14:30	Pause Déjeuner	
14:30-16:30	Restitution	Pays
16:30-17:00	Pause- Café/Thé	
Seminaire : Les faits et fictions sur la narration des statistiques en Afrique		
17:00-19:30	En 2013, un livre intitulé : "Poor number : How we are misled by African Development Statistics and what to do about it" (Pauvre chiffres : Comment nous sommes trompés par les Statistique du développement en Afrique, et ce qu'il faut en faire), a été publié par le Professeur Morten Jerven. Une représentation panafricaine a assistée à son lancement et une conclusion a été tirée sur le livre par ladite délégation. Le livre a suscité un certain nombre de débats intéressants dans les medias, dans les sphères politiques, économiques et intellectuelles. Un projet documenté sur la renaissance statistique est sur le point d'être conclu par des chercheurs et praticiens africains. Cette session vise à présenter et discuter du livre dans un contexte du projet de renaissance statistique africaine. Les praticiens et chercheurs africains engagerons le Professeur Jerven sur son ouvrage.	Secrétariat SADS