MODERNISATION OF THE STATISTICAL SYSTEM - BARBADOS

Please find attached Paper entitled "Modernisation of the Statistical System - Barbados".

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Modernisation of the Statistical System

Barbados
Introduction

- Increasing demands by stakeholders for improvements in the quantity and quality of statistical data
- Need for key statistics on a timely basis
- Data needed to inform strategic economic, social and environmental decisions
- Signing of Millenium Development Goals Declaration- renewed social development direction
Objectives of the Project

- General Objectives:
  - To strengthen the (Barbados Statistical Service) BSS ability to provide relevant, timely and quality Economic and Social statistics
  
  - To establish the leadership of the BSS in Statistics within the Public Sector
Specific Objectives

- To propose a new legal framework to enable the BSS to perform its duties more effectively

- To establish a statistics network including governmental agencies which produce relevant public data

- To improve managerial, statistical and administrative procedures of the BSS
Specific Objectives Cont’d

- To develop priority statistical products
- To improve the human capacity of the BSS
- To enhance the technical infrastructure of the BSS and its capacity for disseminating its products and facilitating public access to statistical information
Background

- The BSS was established in 1956
- It is currently a department of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development
- In 1958 the Statistics Act was passed
- Current permanent staff – 67
Background cont’d

- Economic Statistics - Urgent need to improve:
  - National Accounts Statistics
  - Implementation of 1993 SNA
  - Attention to be given to Agriculture, Tourism, International Business, Other Services
Background cont’d

- Social Statistics
  - Lack of certain surveys conducted on a regular basis, eg. Survey of Living Conditions, Informal Sector Survey
  - Difficulty of accessing information from various agencies involved in data production
  - Lack of priority of certain agencies for the collection of relevant data
Main Issues

- Inadequate legal framework (level of authority not compatible with its broad mandate)
- Institutional weaknesses of BSS: Inadequate support functions
- Insufficient coordination between all Gov’t agencies that produce statistical data
Main Issues Cont’d

- Inadequate timeliness and quality of data, particularly in the area of Social Statistics, but also in Economic Statistics

- Difficulties in accessing certain statistical data
Expected Outcomes

- Improved availability of relevant, timely and quality social and economic data offered by the BSS to the Public and Private Sector and to the general public.
- The public, business community and Gov’t use statistics provided by BSS on a regular basis to support the decision-making process, academic research, and for the support of the regional integration process.
Expected Outputs

- Modernisation of the BSS
  - Improved legal framework
  - Creation of Statistics Network
  - Improved statistical administration through institutional reengineering
Expected Outputs Cont’d

- Enhancement of statistical products offered
- Development of human capacity through training
- Upgrading of technical Infrastructure and better public outreach (enhanced website)
Status

- Project documentation (Project Report, Operating regulations, Procurement Plan etc.) reviewed
- Staff for Executing Unit approved
- Project Steering Committee proposed
- Workshop on Risk Identification held
- Workshop on Procurement planned for 14-16 November, 2007
• Thank You