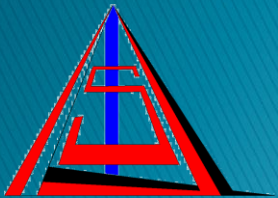


# STATISTICS IN DEVELOPMENT POLICY & PLANNING AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

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# Introduction

- Review of mechanisms in place in Jamaica to ensure the independence of the National Statistical Office (NSO)
- Challenges facing the NSO
- Way forward

# Introduction

- ❑ STATIN is the primary provider of statistical data in Jamaica and has been in operation since 1946 with the promulgation of the Statistics Act
- ❑ Changes to the Statistics Act in 1984 brought about the establishment of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) as a statutory corporation
- ❑ The Statistics Act gives the organization some level of autonomy

# Independence of STATIN

- ❑ Independence is clearly established in the Act
- ❑ Independent governance structure includes Board of Directors
- ❑ Independent in administration such as in its hiring policies, choice of programmes, methodologies and dissemination
- ❑ Act provides the mandate for data collection

# Relevance & Quality of the Statistics

- ❑ STATIN began a process of modernisation guided by strategic five year plans, the first (2002 –2005) & (2012– 2017).
- ❑ The plan was aligned to Jamaica's National Development Plan; Vision 2030. Ensured that the national requirements and priorities informed the focus of the statistical development

# Relevance & Quality of the Statistics

- ❑ Strengthening the legal framework to incorporate the establishment of a national statistics system & Statistical Commission
- ❑ Improvement in operational efficiencies
- ❑ Development of a quality assurance framework



# Relevance & Quality of the Statistics

- Use of information technology to modernise processes
- Forging of partnerships–
  - local partnerships– access to administrative registers such as tax databases, MOUs with a number of government agencies to get electronic access to data
  - regional & international partnerships

# Challenges

- ❑ Growing demand for more statistics
  - ❑ To be provided in a timely manner
  - ❑ Information to be easily accessible
  - ❑ Introduction of the Sustainable Development Agenda will increase demand
- ❑ Lack of a culture of information based decision making
- ❑ Low level of investment by Government





# Challenges

- ❑ Funds provided through the budgetary mechanism are not adequate to support the expanding data needs
- ❑ Challenge to the autonomy of STATIN
- ❑ Limits the ability of the Institute to expand its programmes while keeping the current programmes on track

# Way Forward

- ❑ Identify the critical capacity constraints/requirements in the National Statistical System
- ❑ Need to become more efficient in operations especially with the use of information technology to modernise processes
- ❑ Need to intensify efforts to develop NSDS

# Way Forward

- ❑ Political engagement and advocacy
- ❑ National level – Development of a business plan for submission to Government – leverage SDGs
- ❑ Regional level) –
  - ❑ Follow-up work on the High Level Forum (HLF) which was organized by the CARICOM Secretariat
  - ❑ International partnerships to strengthen statistical capacity such as PRASC