

Management of the Statistical System

The Legal Framework – The Jamaican Experience

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Summary of Presentation

- Historical Development
- Factors that influenced the change
- The Changes that were effected in the Act
- Further changes that are being proposed
- Conclusion



Historical Development

- ❑ 1946 Statistics Act passed – introduction of the Central Bureau of Statistics – the Island Statistician
- ❑ 1955 Amendment to the Act – change of name to the Depart. of Statistics - Director of Statistics
- ❑ 1984 further amendment – status change, scope widened, statutory corporation established – Director General
- ❑ Further amendments proposed – establishment of the Statistics Commission



Factors That Influenced the Change -1982

The need for the Agency:

- ❑ To have wider powers & authorities
- ❑ To provide an efficient statistical service by providing greater flexibility in the provision of services
- ❑ To be able to have more flexibility in the recruitment & retention of staff
- ❑ To increase the penalties for offenses committed under the Act



The process in 1982

- ❑ Stakeholder discussions
- ❑ Tabling of the proposed amendments in Cabinet for their approval
- ❑ Drafting of the Bill and laying of the Bill in the Houses of Parliament
- ❑ Drafting Act –taking account of any proposed adjustments
- ❑ Passing of the Act in 1984



Changes to the Act

– Governance Structure

- ❑ A Body Corporate, to which Sec. 28 of the Interpretation Act shall apply
- ❑ The Constitution of the Institute was established – 2nd Schedule – defines the composition of the Board
- ❑ The funds and resources of the Institute shall consist of the amounts appropriated by Parliament & any other amount earned in the normal course of business (Sec 3F)



Changes to the Act

- The Functions of the Institute

- ❑ The functions of the Institute in accordance with Sec 3 (a) –(d) of the original Act (now Sec 3.1(a) –(d)) had no change except (d)
- ❑ Provisions were also added for the collection of data from public agencies for statistical purposes
- ❑ Some administrative functions were also written into the new Act



Changes to the Act

– Release from Taxes

- Under Section 3H exemptions are provided from Custom & Excise Duties
- Section 3J exempts the Institute from
 - Income Tax
 - Stamp Duty on instruments executed by or on its behalf
 - Transfer Tax



Further Changes Proposed

- ❑ Establishment of a Statistics Commission for the coordination of the national statistics system
- ❑ Expanding the scope of data collection to include the environment & sustainable development
- ❑ Review of the penalties/fines for offences committed under the Act and making these fines the subject of Ministerial Order, instead of being written into the Act
- ❑ Establishing the supremacy of the Act in relation to data collection for statistical purposes only



Conclusion

- ❑ The change in the governance structure - Department to Body Corporate – is not enough
- ❑ Adequate infrastructure & resources have to be provided
- ❑ Modern management practices & systems must be applied – the role of the CEO is critical
- ❑ The organisational culture must change to being customer centric
- ❑ The UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics must also be applied in conjunction with the Data Quality Assessment Framework – continuous review process

The focus of the change must be institutional sustainability and viability – not change for the sake of change.



Tomorrow belongs to those who have vision today.



THANK YOU!!

