

Statement from Chairman, Bureau of Statistics Board

ON THE OBSERVANCE OF CARIBBEAN STATISTICS DAY, 2021

THEME: “Leave No One Behind... Everyone Counts”.

On this **13th** observance of **Caribbean Statistics Day** on October 15, 2021, under the theme **“Leave No One Behind... Everyone Counts”** I extend greetings to the Guyanese statistics community, of which the Bureau of Statistics provides steadfast leadership. As the premier statistical agency of Guyana, the Bureau commits to continue providing the country’s critical statistics in collaboration with its sister Government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies.

Statistics are crucial to the decision-making of any country as they guide the decisions of policymakers. The World Bank states its best, *“without good statistics, the development process is blind.”* One of the critical ways of understanding whether a policy or programme is effective is through statistics. As Guyana is now one of the fastest-growing economies globally, the importance of statistics is even more important. Guyana’s new and emerging oil and gas sector also necessitates expanding our data collection and reporting systems to cover this sector while maintaining crucial data for other traditional sectors and households.

Additionally, timely and reliable statistics are crucial to the national development of any country since they are important inputs in policy formulation and implementation at the national level. Indeed, policy formulation is only possible when timely, reliable, and accurate statistics are available. For this reason, the Bureau of Statistics will continue to utilize innovative techniques to collect and publish vital statistics since this is important for any country and its people.

The collection of statistics, however, is not possible without the support of our key stakeholders. As such, the Bureau takes this opportunity on Caribbean Statistics Day to thank the private sector, other stakeholders, and the Guyanese population for their continued support in its data collection activities by providing access to their residences, responding to data requests, and participating in the censuses and surveys. As the Bureau enhances its preparation for the upcoming 2022 National Population and Housing Census, it looks forward to the usual cooperation of the Guyanese households and individuals to make the process a success.

The Bureau would like to commend the CARICOM Secretariat and other international partners for their continued support delivered through training and other capacity-building activities. COVID-19 pandemic has hindered some of the usual in-person training workshops etc. Nevertheless, the Bureau appreciates what has been accomplished over the past year by way of online interactions.

On behalf of the Board, I say thank you to the Management and Staff of the Bureau of Statistics for your dedication and commitment. The Board applaud your contributions to the development of statistics in Guyana and wish to reassure you of our continued support for your personal development and hence the Bureau.