



**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SURINAME
H.E. CHANDRIKAPERSAD SANTOKHI
ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD STATISTICS DAY**

October 20, 2020

The celebration of World Statistics Day 2020 is a global collaborative effort, organized under the guidance of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

It is well known that better approaches to data will deliver better outcomes for everyone. Using data makes us better understand “what happened”, “why it happened”, “what may happen next”, and “how to respond”.

Data-based policymaking is increasingly recognized as a fair and equitable way of making public policy decisions. In this way they will be fully consistent with a democratic society, characterized by transparency and accountability.

My Government values transparency, accountability, openness and honesty in its public policy and governs as such based on the rule of law. As a consequence, the availability of accessible and transparent, high quality statistical data is essential for our democratic society.

Evidence-based policy making will enable my Government to produce long term policies shaped by evidence and facts, rather than short term responses to current situations. Therefor we need sound policies which will really solve problems, instead of quick fixes solving symptoms. We need policies to improve the living conditions for both current and future generations in our society.

The Covid-19 pandemic has fueled worldwide interest for high quality statistics. The latest public health developments of the Covid-19 pandemic are expressed in inter alia the following categories: newly infected persons, death rates and additional epidemiological statistics.

Social economic consequences on the other hand, are measured in changes in GDP, unemployment rates, poverty levels, and further additional economic indicators both at a macro and micro level.

All these data and statistics, from a public health perspective and from a socio economic perspective, in conjunction with scientific evidence, enables my Government in pursuing an evidence-based policy with regard to combatting Covid-19 and to mitigate adverse social economic effects.

National statistical offices act as national coordinators, translating promotional materials into national languages and organizing events and outreach efforts at national and subnational levels.

I would like to commend our statisticians in the Suriname General Bureau of Statistics and all other Data producers for their efforts in producing and providing high quality data and statistics.

In this regard the work of all the statisticians and statistical officers is much appreciated. By collecting, processing and disseminating data and statistics, they make it possible to take the right policy measures.

Subsequently they are making a significant contribution in saving lives and preventing the increase of poverty. It is clear that the Covid-19 pandemic has (again) emphasized the importance of the work of statisticians.

As we celebrate World Statistics Day, we recognize and support the important work being done by our statistical agencies, worldwide and especially in the Caribbean Region, where we observed Caribbean Statistics Day on 15 October.

In today's day and age of fake news and engineered facts, our domestic Main Statistical Data Producer, the General Bureau of Statistics, remains committed in implementing a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS).

The NSDS is integrated in national policy processes and domestic legal and regulatory frameworks and at the same time in line with the Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS).

This supports our accelerated transition to evidence-based policy making, enabling us to track our progress towards the committed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while improving both transparency and accountability in governance and improving our national security.

Finally, on this occasion of World Statistics Day, I reaffirm our commitment in upholding the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, ensuring our national statistical system to be able to produce appropriate and reliable data that adheres to accepted professional and scientific standards.

In line with the theme of the Third Observance of World Statistics Day - **"Connecting the World with Data we can Trust"** – let us uphold the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and other internationally accepted standards, in order to ensure that data is indeed of the highest quality, and as such, the World will **indeed be Connected with Data we can Trust**.

The President of the Republic of Suriname,


Chandrikapersad Santokhi