

### NATIONAL STATISTICS ACT, 2013

### **MEMORANDUM**

This Act seeks to repeal the Statistics Act, and to make provision for the better collection, compilation, analysis, publication and dissemination of statistical information.

The Act is divided into five (5) Parts.

Part I of the Act provides for preliminary matters, including the interpretation of certain words and terms used in the Act.

Part II provides for the establishment and functions of the National Statistical Office, including the appointment and duties of the Commissioner for Statistics.

Part III provides for the establishment and functions of the National Statistical System.

Part IV provides for requirements for surveys to be conducted by private or foreign institutions, the employment of assistants to assist the Commissioner for Statistics, for power of entry and inspection, disclosure of information and confidentiality and the relationship between the National Statistical Office and other bodies.

Part V provides for the miscellaneous provisions including the requirements for the oath of office and secrecy, code of practice for official statistics and the power to make Regulations.

## NATIONAL STATISTICS ACT, 2013

## ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

### **SECTION**

### PART I- PRELIMINARY

- 1. Short title
- 2. Interpretation

## PART II- ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE

- 3. Establishment of the National Statistical Office
- 4. Appointment of the Commissioner for Statistics
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## PART III-ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

- 7. Establishment of the National Statistical System
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- 9. Statistical surveys by private or foreign institutions
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- 15. Relationship with other bodies
- 16. Offences and penalties
- 17. Oath or Affirmation of office and Secrecy
- 18. Code of Practice for official statistics
- 19. Special reports and investigations
- 20. Regulations
- 21. Amendment of schedules
- 22. Repeal and savings

## FIRST SCHEDULE SECOND SCHEDULE

#### A ACT

### entitled

An Act to make provision for the establishment of the National Statistical office and the National Statistical System; for the collection, compilation, analysis, abstraction, publication and dissemination of statistical information; and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto

ENACTED by the Parliament of Malawi as follows-

### PART I- PRELIMINARY

Short title 1. This Act may be cited as National Statistics Act, 2013.

Interpretation 2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires-

"authorized officer" means any person appointed as an authorized officer under section 9 and includes a supervisor, enumerator, coder and data entry clerk;

"census" means a statistical operation in which all units of interest or the whole population are enumerated;

"Commissioner" means the public officer holding or acting in the office of Commissioner for Statistics appointed under section 4; "National Statistical System" refers to public agencies responsible for producing, analysing, disseminating and using statistics, and encompasses the statistical outputs produced and the people involved, including both producers and users of statistics;

"official statistics" means any quantitative, qualitative, aggregate and representative information relating to any matter contemplated in the First Schedule and produced by the National Statistical Office, and includes any information produced by line government ministries, departments and public authorities, provided that such information shall become official statistics after the Commissioner shall have endorsed the information with a stamp of quality;

"respondent" means any person who supplies or is required to supply statistical information;

"return" means any book, document, form, card, tape, disc or storage media on which information required is entered or recorded or is required to be entered or recorded for statistical purposes under this Act;

"statistical sample survey" means a statistical operation in which only a selected part or sample and not all units of interest or the whole population are enumerated;

"statistics" means any quantity collected as a summary of data;

"survey" includes a survey of undertakings or persons whereby information is collected from all persons in a field of inquiry or from a sample thereof, wholly or primarily for statistical purposes;

"undertakings" means any undertaking by way of trade or business whether or not the trade or business is carried out for profit, and includes a ministry or Government department, statutory body, local government body, and any other organization or body of persons or any part thereof and includes a branch of undertakings.

## PART II- ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE

## Establishment of the National Statistical Office

- 3.- (1) There is hereby established the National Statistical Office which shall be a Government Department.
- (2) The National Statistical Office shall be the central depository of all official statistics produced in Malawi.

# Appointment of Commissioner for Statistics

- 4.- (1) There shall be a Commissioner for Statistics who shall be appointed by the President.
- (2) The Commissioner shall be responsible for the administration and control of the National Statistical Office.

Duties of the Commissioner for Statistics

- 5.- (1) It shall be the duty of the Commissioner to advise and report to the Minister generally on statistical matters, and, subject to any special or general directions of the Minister-
  - (a) to carry out any of the functions imposed on him under this Act;
  - (b) to advise the Minister on statistical policy matters, and where appropriate, to consult and liaise with other appropriate officers of Government ministries and departments;
  - (c) to advise Government ministries and departments on the conception of statistical projects initiated or carried out by such ministries and departments;
  - (d) to define, lay down and promote standard concepts, procedures, definitions and classification for use in official statistics;
  - (e) to collect, compile, analyze, abstract and publish or otherwise disseminate, statistical

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