

C A R I B B E A N

C O M M U N I T Y

S E C R E T A R I A T

THIRTY- FIRST MEETING OF
THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF
CARIBBEAN STATISTICIANS

RESTRICTED

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Port-of-Spain, Trinidad

6-8 November 2006

9 November 2006

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES OF THE
CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE
GRENADA
2005 – 2006

For the
THIRTY- FIRST MEETING OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE OF
CARIBBEAN STATISTICIANS
November 6th, 2006.

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE 2005 -2006

INTRODUCTION

“Poverty and its deprivation lie at the heart of the development agenda whether at the level of analysis in development processes or at the level of development policy and interventions” (ISS brochure 2006). The Central Statistical Office in the past year has tried to prepare Grenada’s response to that challenge.

CARICOM has developed a Regional Statistical Work Plan (RSWP) which is thematic in its approach and thus the report of activities of the Central Statistical Office (CSO) Grenada 2005 – 2006 would be done in this manner which coincides with our Departmental structure. The office is divided into:-

- Economic/Trade Statistics
- Social Statistics
- Census and Surveys
- Projects – new with specific responsibility for short term projects of the donor/funding agencies

ECONOMIC/TRADE SECTION

Trade

At the Thirtieth meeting of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) held in Jamaica CHAIR, the office reported the problems faced by this department post Hurricane Ivan in the compilation of Trade Statistics. This situation has since been addressed through a project with CARICOM to process the backlog of data for 2005 and 2006. A team has been setup within the office to execute this project. It commenced in August and estimated date of completion would be April 2007.

Economic

The GDP is projected to be 1.4 percent in 2006 down from earlier projections of 7.37 percent. This sharp downward revision in real GDP growth reflects, in the main, a greater than expected decline in activities in the construction sector, associated with the shortage of construction materials (cement) during the earlier part of the year. The construction sector is projected to decline by 20 percent relative to 2005. Inflation (percent change, end of period) as calculated by the office is expected to be 2.0 percent.

National accounts

The rebasing of the system of national accounts is currently being undertaken by the section with technical assistance by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB). In the meantime the compilation of the national accounts has been finalized.

Tourism satellite accounts have benefited from consultancies by the CARICOM Secretariat. This project has seen interagency collaboration in the form of the Visitor Survey with the department and the Board of Tourism and the participation of the other stakeholders in the mission.

CARTAC funded an attachment to the Trinidad and Tobago Statistical office by Mr. Martin Felix in this area. The office wishes to place on record its appreciation to CARTAC for that training.

Balance of payments

Balance of Payments compilation has been completed for 2005 with projections being done.

Prices and Consumer Affairs

This unit continued its daily inspection of business places engaged in selling of price controlled goods throughout the state. In recent times there have been increasing prices due mainly to imported inflation and not necessarily attributed to unscrupulous pricing mechanism.

The Consumer Affairs continues to assist the public in solving problems using moral suasion because of the outdated Consumer Protection Laws. The contracts of the new price control officers have continued and for the period under review they have been instrumental in data collection for the business register.

The office has employed fourteen (14) new price control inspectors. These persons were trained to monitor a specific list of price control items. They also perform other duties which include assisting the trade license unit in the delivery of trade license to the public.

SOCIAL STATISTICS

The ongoing work of this section is the collection of data for the compilation of core indicators. This department had a participant in the first Demographic Workshop held in Trinidad from July 3rd to 11th August. The training received was very relevant and the participant has commended CARICOM for this initiative. Also having participated in the launch of the Dev Info software in Barbados 18th to 22nd September the department is looking forward to its use in the collation of all the core indicators.

Millennium Development Goals (MDG)

Efforts have been made to revive the MDG committee with a public information drive, specifically with television programmes.

Social Digest

The Social Digest has not been published because of some administrative difficulties but will be pursued in the next year.

CENSUS AND SURVEYS

MECOVI project

The department has been working in conjunction with the OECS desk to prepare staff for the major projects to be under taken in the near future. The MECOVI project has continued with conducting two workshops.

The Analysis of data workshop with the consultant services of Mr. Colin Williams was done. Staff was energized and the office is in the process of trying to procure license of SPSS for use in the office. The data analysis is to promote the use of statistical software in the presentation of data to the policy makers and the relevant stakeholder consultant has gotten positive feedback on work done so far.

MECOVI Sampling workshop held at the beginning of October 2006 with consultant Juan Munoz, which was to expose the personnel who would be involved in doing small surveys within country.

Census

Dr. Wendy Crawford as writer of the Analytical report for Grenada has continued working with CARICOM and has sent her work to be critiqued and has received positive feedback.

Formal preparation has not started for Census 2011 but the work being done for CPA/HBS in the area of scanning and Geographical Information Systems would help in initializing the work for the project.

Country Poverty Assessment and Household Budget Survey (CPA/HBS)

The first quarter of 2007 would see the section conduct a very import double barreled survey. The combination of the Household Income and Expenditure Survey and the Country Poverty Assessment Survey would serve two purposes of updating the country's CPI basket of goods and at the same time recalculating our poverty line with the Poverty Assessment.

Training

The conduct of the CPA/HBS is very important in the measurement of poverty for the attained of the Millennium Development Goals. An attachment was facilitated by Central Statistical Office, St. Lucia and funded by the Caribbean Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC).

PROJECT

Import/Export Index

Import Export Index has been initiated with the technical assistance of the OECS desk. The majority of the staff was deployed to collect data on Imports and Exports from 1998 which the major companies within the sample. The process is ongoing.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The department has loss two members of staff for a short while. Mr. Halim Brizan and Ms. Abigail have both left the department to pursue graduate studies

CONCLUSION

Poverty alleviation and reduction is the thrust of the government, the Statistical Office will measure the impact the programmes have had with the conduct of CPA/HBS 2007.

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