Concept note for the launch of South African Labour Market Information System (LMIS.Stat) and dissemination of Research reports

Theme: "Accelerating data connection for better policy decision"

1. Introduction

South Africa is a member of the International Labour Organization (ILO) where it has pledged to collect key indicators of labour statistics in measuring the *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) of Agenda 2030 and monitoring of decent work and gender equality in the world of work.

This national commitment resulted from the demands of policy makers and social partners for high quality statistical data and analysis. It implies a regular production of timely, reliable and relevant labour statistics in response to rapidly evolving data ecosystems.

In this context, the 21th International Conference for Labour Statisticians (ICLS) which meets every five years for standard setting in labour statistics invited all participants in the conference to express their views on the Labour Market Information System (LMIS.Stat) project for implementation in their countries. At the time, South African delegates at the ICLS have shown interests in the implementation of LMIS.Stat project in South Africa.

2. Background

Currently, in South Africa, there is no public sector institution leading on the implementation of the national LMIS.Stat, despite the recommendations of international organizations[1]. While there is readily available labour statistics information in the country, a standardize statistical information on key labour market indicators is urgently needed to facilitate the reporting and management of labour market statistics in the country.

The South African Department of Employment and Labour (DEL) has been mandated to house this national LMI System project because of its key strategic responsibilities on the labour market issues in the country. Similarly, other countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, e.g., Botswana and Namibia have also adopted the implementation of the "Labour Market Observatories" to facilitate understanding of the regional labour market dynamics. Botswana had already launched In August 2024.

The LMIS.Stat is expected to aid the functionality of the LMO which is primarily dependent on the effectiveness of the LMIS. These include among others; the analysis of the labour market trends as

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[1] South Africa has ratified the ILO Convention 160 on labour statistics (1985), which requires the regular collection, compilation and publication of basic labour statistics, in different areas of the labour market. Likewise, from Convention 160, Recommendation 170 on labour statistics (1985) is derived, which gives guidelines on the basic labour statistics to be collected, as well as the statistical infrastructure to be built for the collection of this information.

well as monitoring of the interaction between labour market supply and demand to inform policy interventions and decision making.

3. Relevancy of Labour Market Information System uses

- ✓ For decision making: provides **policy makers** with up-to-date and forward-looking information for the **formulation and monitoring of policies** and actions that have an impact on the workforce and the labour market;
- ✓ It is a **system of alerts** about possible gaps between labour supply and demand;
- ✓ Informs individuals about **employment opportunities** and companies about the **available workforce**;
- ✓ Informs training institutions of **unmet training needs**.

4. Objectives of the LMIS.Stat and Dissemination the department research reports

The main objectives are;

- ✓ To disseminate the South African LMIS.Stat platform to primary users of the labour statistics, i.e., policy makers, planners, researchers, academia and civil society.
- ✓ To enhance regular labour statistics production in line with the latest international standards as guided by the ICLS;
- ✓ To provide opportunity for stakeholders to appreciate issues and challenges within the South African labour market and explore possible interventions and strategies using the latest research reports findings.

5. Target Audience

The dissemination event will bring together delegates from different institutions including ILO social partners (employers' and workers' organizations); Analysts from Governmental agencies responsible for labour-market data analysis; Researchers and scholars; ILO labour statistics specialists; IT specialists; decision-makers, governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations to appreciate analysis of indicators relating to labour and employment through the LMIS.Stat platform.

The dissemination will be led by **Ms. Onke Mjo, Acting Director-General** in the Department of Employment and Labour.

6. Expected Results

The event will officially release the South African LMIS.Stat for global use and ensure that it is sustainable and functional. The platform shall improve their end-users' experience, and ultimately enable evidence-based labour policies that favour transparency.

Various actors to benefit from the latest labour market research findings to enhance the labour market debates in the country.

7. Contact Information

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