



WELCOME REMARKS

BY

ZIMSTAT DIRECTOR-GENERAL

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At the Virtual Dissemination of the 2021 Fourth Quarter Labour Force Survey

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Secretary for Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Mr S. Masanga,

The ILO Representative, Ms Maria Payet, Labour Specialist
Development Partners here present,
Senior Government Officials here present,
ZIMSTAT Senior Management and Staff,
The Media,
Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I welcome you all to the dissemination of the 2021 4th Quarter Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) findings. These findings speak to the period October to December 2021.

Ladies and gentlemen, labour market statistics are important in the measurement of the economy. QLFS has an advantage of providing high frequency labour force data for evidence-based decision making in respect of the labour market situation obtaining in the economy. The survey conforms well to the country needs of quarterly GDP as it provides up to date labour statistics for its compilation.

As Zimbabwe we have found our position in the league of leading statistical offices that produce labour statistics more frequently since the introduction of the QLFS during the third quarter of 2021. The users of labour market statistics are now well provided in terms of statistical information unlike during the five-year cycle era.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Quarterly Labour Force Survey is an important survey as it provides statistics on key Labour Market Indicators (KLMI's) that deal with employment, unemployment and labour underutilisation. These are vital variables for policy makers, researchers and planners. In addition, the survey provides indicators necessary for monitoring implementation of Zimbabwe's macro-economic policies including the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1), Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) and Agenda 2063.

The survey for the fourth quarter of 2021, just like the third quarter was conducted using the new framework for measuring Statistics of Work, Employment and framework premised on resolutions of the 19th international Conference of Labour Statisticians held in Geneva in 2013. This framework sets a new definition of employment, defined as work for pay or profit only, and hence this excludes own account workers involved in the production of goods and services for own use.

On the other hand, the new framework broadens measures of labour underutilisation. Whereas the unemployment rate was in most cases the only indicator of labour underutilisation used, the new standards have introduced the concept of the expanded labour force to cater for a segment known as the potential labour force. The idea of a potential labour force is to cover those groups who are classified as outside the labour force but have an unmet need for employment. This report, therefore, gives estimates on both the strict and expanded unemployment rates.

Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to share with you some key findings from the 2021 fourth quarter Quarterly Labour Force Survey:

- Total number of employed persons was estimated at **3.0 million**.
- Unemployment rate using the strict definition was estimated at **20 percent**.
- Expanded unemployment rate was estimated at **47 percent**.
- Share of formal (non-agriculture) sector employment was estimated at **30 percent**.
- Share of employment in the informal (non-agriculture) sector was estimated at **46 percent**.
- Share of employment in the household sector was estimated at **4 percent**.
- Share of employment in the agriculture sector was estimated at **20 percent**.

Ladies and gentlemen, more detailed results will be shared in the following presentations.

Distinguished participants, allow me to thank Government for availing resources to undertake the survey. Gratitude also goes to ZIMSTAT management and staff.

Lastly the cooperation of all the respondents during fieldwork is highly appreciated. The response rate of **95 percent** for the 2021 fourth quarter LFS (2021) is very much commendable and hence ZIMSTAT's profound gratitude to all households who took time to respond to our questionnaires.

I therefore commend the 2021 fourth quarter LFS to policy makers, researchers and analysts as a product which underwent the scientific rigour it deserves and contains valuable insight on the labour market situation in Zimbabwe.

I thank you.