



PRESS RELEASE

Board members named for new Statistical Institute

New legal framework in place to transform national statistical system

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Contact: MOFcomms@bahamas.gov.bs

The Government named new members to the first Bahamas National Statistical Board last week, as work is expected to begin immediately to drive the transformation of the national statistical system.

With the passage of the Statistics Act, 2021 in March, the Bahamas National Statistical Institute (BNSI) has replaced the Department of Statistics as of July 1, 2021, and now has the statutory mandate for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of statistics, including the national census. The Act also brings the management of the BNSI and its affairs under the purview of the recently named Board.

“During this year’s national budget exercise, we passed a revolutionary suite of new legislation that will transform the way this and future administrations manage public finances. This included the Statistics Act, which will pave the way for more evidence-based policy-making processes and decisions in the future,” said Kwasi Thompson, Minister of State for Finance. “We must improve public financial management by ensuring our policies are backed by accurate and up-to-date data,” said Minister Thompson.

The board’s chairperson, Ms. A. Gabriella Fraser, is an economist by training and brings with her extensive experience in socio-economic analysis, policy, and planning. She has also built a career in institutional strengthening and organizational capacity development, including corporate communications.

“This is certainly an important initiative that will contribute critically to our national development. Credibility, integrity, and impartiality are essential standards for the official data of a country, and ensuring a properly resourced system that drives and supports the production and dissemination of statistics that meet these standards, is necessary for effective policy and decision making. It is certainly a privilege for me to have the opportunity to give service in this way,” said Fraser.

The newly appointed board began their two-year term on July 1, 2021, and can serve for an additional term of two years. Among its functions, the Board is responsible for protecting the credibility, integrity, and impartiality of official statistics, preserving the institute's independence, and developing policies for how the institute will carry out its mandate.

Board members include:

- Chairperson- Ms. A. Gabriella Fraser, Founding Principal and Managing Director of The Vivian Group
- Deputy Chairperson- Mr. Zhivargo Laing, Executive Director and Senior Policy Fellow of the Government and Public Policy Institute
- Board Member- Dr. Anthony Hamilton, President of Civil Society Bahamas
- Board Member- Mr. John A. Rolle, Governor of the Central Bank of The Bahamas
- Board Member- Mrs. Khrystle Rutherford-Ferguson, Chairman of The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers' Confederation
- Ex Officio Member- Ms. Elise Delancy, Permanent Secretary for Transformation & Digitization in the Office of The Prime Minister
- Ex Officio Member- Ms. Tami Francis, Assistant Director Analytics, Research, and Actuarial Services, National Insurance Board.
- Ex Officio Member- Mr. Marlon Johnson, Acting Financial Secretary in the Ministry of Finance
- Ex Officio Member- Ms. Leona Wilson, Acting Managing Director, Bahamas National Statistical Institute.

For more information about the Bahamas National Statistical Institute visit www.stats.gov.bs.

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