



LAUNCH OF THE MANUAL
ON
*“STANDARD DEFINITIONS OF VITAL STATISTICS
AND VITAL EVENTS
&
STANDARDS FOR CALCULATIONS OF VITAL
STATISTICS”*

by
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Introduction

It is my pleasure to bring remarks on behalf of the PIOJ on the occasion of the launch of this landmark publication.

I'm happy to say that upon my examination of the document, its content and quality are testament to the commitment of the Vital Statistics Commission (VSC) to collect, analyse and publish “vital datasets and statistics for Jamaica” in keeping with international standards, as it seeks to fulfil its mandate to “ensure that the country’s civil registration and vital statistics system produces reliable and valid estimates of vital events”.

The development and publication of this manual represent a major accomplishment not only for Jamaica but for the Caribbean region. Its implications for the improvement of the civil registration and vital statistics systems are far reaching, particularly as we strive to ensure that reliable and up to date vital statistics are available to

allow the monitoring of our development goals and improving our policymaking.

The document's presentation style makes it accessible to those who work in the field as well as to the lay-person with a passing interest. This will assist in creating new conciliant knowledge which should advance and enrich the exchange of ideas on the topics of focus.

Madam Chairperson, it would be remiss of me not to congratulate all those who were instrumental in its production, and to commend the relevant ministries, departments and agencies, individuals, and international development partners—the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)—for their collaboration in its development. This is important work in the modernization of our country's civil registration and vital statistics system.

The need for immediate, available, accurate and reliable data to support Jamaica's developmental trajectory cannot be overemphasized.

In concluding, permit me once again to express on behalf of the PIOJ, sincere appreciation to PAHO; the UNFPA for its role in the success of the publication as well as for facilitating the training of key stakeholders which will take place later this year; and to all stakeholder agencies for their invaluable and continued support in this undertaking. The PIOJ continues to value your critical investment and partnership in our country's holistic growth and national development.

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