



Anguilla Statistics Department
Ministry of Economic Development, Investment, Commerce and Tourism
Government of Anguilla
The Valley, ANGUILLA, B.W.I.



Anguilla Statistics Week October 13 – 18 “Statistics in Every Life – Let us Educate and Appreciate”

Address by the Chief Minister of Anguilla
The Honourable Hubert Hughes

It seems like just yesterday that I was greeting the people of Anguilla and the Caribbean in connection with Statistics Week 2012. As the saying goes time really flies and especially when there is a lot to do. My people there is a lot to do in Anguilla now and in the future and statistics will always play a pivotal role in terms of adding substance and a level of certainty to the decision making process.

The celebration of Statistics week and Caribbean Statistics Day has evolved into a very inclusive and participatory process for the masses and is no longer the sole domain of well trained professionals who produce reports which the everyday person does not have a clue about. Furthermore, the efforts of the organizers are being sustained and it is this consistency and perseverance that ultimately leads to success in all aspects of our lives, individually and collectively.

At this juncture in Anguilla’s political, economic, social and financial development, the theme for Statistics Week 2013, October 13th to 18th and Caribbean Statistics day, October 15th is very appropriate. The theme “**Statistics in Every Life- Let us Educate and Appreciate**” sends the message that while we are not at the place we would like to

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be in relation to our personal and collective relationship with statistics, there is an opportunity to get there and that opportunity is provided through education. Sometimes we are very quick to give education a narrow meaning where the attainment of formal qualifications is the measuring rod. There is absolutely no need for every Anguillian to have a certificate in statistics. What the theme is stressing is the attainment of knowledge so that we can adjust to meet the needs of our everyday lives. This approach is a very practical one where the focus is more on what decisions one would be capable of making after being educated rather than how the education is recognized. The professionals in statistics will continue to pursue their academic and professional qualifications, the importance of which in no way must be marginalized.

The theme also encourages us to be appreciative of what we would achieve through the statistics education process. We must appreciate it because it would not be a God given “right” but a defined objective that would come about as result of the efforts of many people but most importantly the efforts of each and every one of us. Statistics is not a glamorous field. Over the years I have heard many people aspire to become doctors and lawyers but I do not remember any one mentioning statistician. The truth is that we do not want an overload of statisticians in the sense of higher education either but we all can be the chief statistician in our lives and that would produce desirable outcomes for Anguilla as a whole. Statistics week is driving that point home.

I must give a word of caution. As we become more knowledgeable and proficient in the use of statistics to inform our decision making, we must be always aware of the need to use official statistics because unofficial statistics can be very misleading and have an adverse effect on the decision making process.

I will close by commending the Anguilla Statistics Department for scheduling a program of activities for Statistics Week which addresses the diversity of the population in terms of getting the message across. It is clear that the schedule is the outcome of a process that was well thought out and carefully planned. The Department is on a consistent path geared toward achieving tangible results. With that approach, the future of statistics in Anguilla will be a successful one.

Thank you for listening and God bless Anguilla.