

# STATISTICS AND INTEGRATED POLICIES \*

*by*

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The observance of National Statistics Week proclaimed by His Excellency, the President of the Philippines, to be held during this week, is an appropriate opportunity for drawing the attention of our fellow Filipinos, and all others concerned, to the imperative need of marshalling national effort on the basis of overall, integrated policies of development in all fields of human endeavor.

The effective integration of policies at the national as well as at the local level requires quantitative information reflective of present day realities; the facts of yesterday may be used as guides for evaluating the possibilities of tomorrow, in a relatively static world. Unfortunately, our world of to-day is extremely dynamic. Changes are taking place so rapidly that in many instances the facts of yesterday have no validity as measures for the course of action which should be taken for the solution of social, economic, or political questions which confront us in our world of today, and much less, in the world of tomorrow.

Quantified facts, their evaluation and interpretation, constitute the subject matter of statistics. To be of effective value the facts of statistics should reflect in so far as possible, the events of the living day, not of the past so far away from the contemporary scene, that their usefulness consist only in their being numerical records of history.

It is unfortunate, that we in the Philippines are not up-to-date in collecting and publishing our statistics.

Population and Territory, are the two basic elements essential for the organization of a nation. Are we up-to-date in our

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statistical information on our country's population numbers, its dynamics of growth reflected by data on marriages, births, deaths, migration, economic conditions, and its distribution over the national territory?

The answer to these questions is an unqualified NO.

How can national effort be marshalled on the basis of over-all integrated policies, without up-to-date reliable statistics?

How effective can any plan or program of economic development be, without up-to-date reliable statistics?

We know for example, from our incomplete statistical data that the population of our country is at present increasing at a net rate of about 450,000 persons a year.

This simple fact of population dynamics, that is, its annual growth of 450,000 persons within a limited territorial area, must be taken into account in any plan aimed at the industrialization of the country; the development of its natural resources; the expansion of its public services in the fields of education, national defense, internal peace and order, judiciary, legislative, and executive organization, and in any program for the improvement of social conditions.

Let us hope that the observance of National Statistics Week shall develop a sufficiently intensive will, on the part of those who are in a position to improve conditions, so that up-to-date reliable statistics shall be available in our country.

