Public Sector Information as a Driver for Socioeconomic Development: The Case of South Africa

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Motivation

- *Developing Countries*

- *Non-commercial use*

Methodology

- *The Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)*

- *The Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)*

12 Projects

- Service Delivery (3 projects)
- Education (2 projects)
- Governance (2 projects)
- Infrastructure (1 project)
- Health (1 project)
- Employment (1 project)
- Food Security (1 project)
- Local Innovation Systems (1 project)

PSI Access: identification and acquisition

"It is always people and who do you know and what do you know"

PSI Use

- *Getting a broader overview about issues under investigation*

- *Monitoring and evaluation*

- *Prioritization and planning*

"I needed to go myself to check Stat. SA census and non-census data in order to be able to design my project, write a proposal and give instructions to my team"

PSI Characteristics :

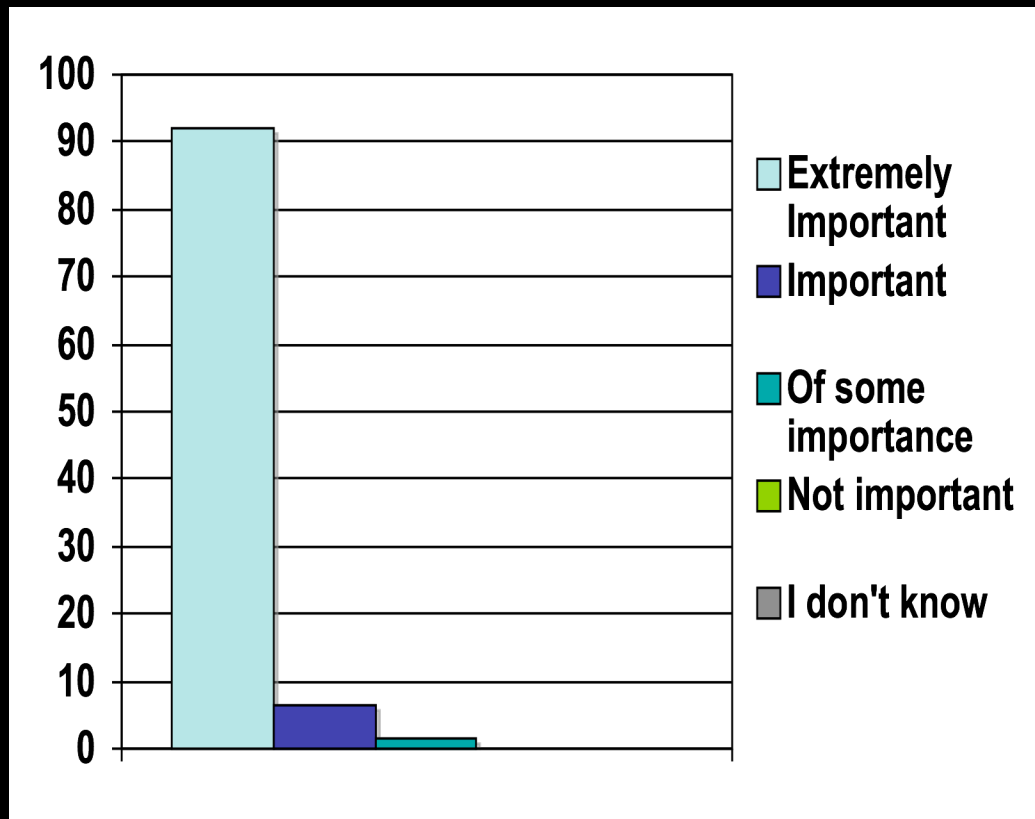- *Comprehensiveness*
- *Relevance*
- *Reliability*
- *Timeliness*

"You will always notice that, you know data is always political, you know, and of course sector departments will have vested interest in either inflating the numbers or deflating the numbers based on their objectives—either they want more money from treasury or they want to show that they've been doing a lot of activities"

PSI Obstacles:

– *Institutional*
– *Technical*
– *Legal*
– *Economic*
– *Socio-cultural*

"It really depends. I once went to the same Department (Agriculture) and in one directory, I just requested some information and they gave it to me. I went to another directory in the same Department and met with people there and they never provided any information to me. So I don't know, it could be the people – laughter) "

PSI Importance

"This information is vital. Oh. Without this information, I truly believe that we wouldn't be able to make any progress in the food security area"

Thank You!