

REMARKS BY DR. PETER MWITA, CHAIRMAN KNBS BOARD OF DIRECTORS DURING THE LAUNCH OF KENINFO AND THE INTEGRATED MULTI-SECTORAL INFORMATION SYSTEM (IMIS) TO BE HELD AT KICC LENANA HALL ON 23RD JUNE 2009.

Cabinet Minister(s)

The Permanent Secretary (ies)

Development Partners

KNBS Board members

Representatives from Government Ministries

Representatives of Research Institutions

Representatives of NGOs and Civil Society

Members of Press

Distinguished Guests

All protocols observed

Ladies and Gentlemen

Today marks yet another milestone by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) in the discharge of its mandate as the custodian of official statistics. The Bureau has a responsibility of disseminating statistics through various modes to the general public and other interested bodies. The databases, KenInfo and IMIS, which we are launching today, are some of the channels which consumers of statistics will certainly find very attractive.

KenInfo, is by its design a user friendly software application, integrated with Microsoft Office and used to organize, analyze and present data in a variety of forms. The database as presented contains data on indicators from a variety of sectors including health, education, demography, economy etc.

The IMIS on its part is a user friendly online dissemination tool for both micro and aggregated data. It provides a one stop shop for both censuses and surveys data such as Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIHBS), Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS), Labour force surveys among others. Just like the KenInfo, the output can be in different formats.

The development of KenInfo and IMIS are some of the activities agreed upon in the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the current Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, KNBS (then Central Bureau of Statistics, CBS) and a number of UN agencies operating in Kenya.

Ladies and Gentlemen, As evidenced by the transformation of CBS to KNBS through the Statistics Act of 2006, the central role that statistical information plays in informing and influencing the country's development efforts need not be overemphasized. Statistical information helps in identifying problem areas, their trends and in facilitating identification of interventions mechanisms besides coming up with monitoring and evaluating strategies. The effectiveness of these strategies depends on availability of timely, reliable and accurate data which in turn aids in transparency and accountability. This is in accordance with the United Nations Fundamental Principles of official

statistics on relevance, impartiality and equal access. The systems we are launching today were designed with an overall objective of democratizing access to social statistics.

As will be demonstrated, the use of these systems has a number of advantages among them:-

- a) Easy access to comprehensive and reliable data, timely dissemination of information;
- b) Greater consistency in use of data through support to inter-agency coordination;
- c) Facilitates high –quality analysis; builds institutional memory; better leadership;
- d) Capacity building in database management;
- e) Provide clear linkages of socio-demographic data and development frameworks;
- f) Harmonize tabulation plans and provides increased mapping capacity.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I want to assure the members of public and our development partners that the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) will continue to maintain close collaboration with all stakeholders to ensure sustainability of these databases.

Finally **Ladies and Gentlemen**, I am grateful to the staff of KNBS who are working tirelessly to discharge their mandate of collecting,

analyzing and disseminating statistics useful for planning, monitoring and evaluation of development activities.

Thank you