

## Government committed to supporting funding of statistical activities

### Message from the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Devolution and Planning

Today all National Statistics Offices across Africa celebrate the 14th African Statistics Day whose theme is Open Data for Accountability and Inclusiveness. This celebration is now entrenched in many african countries as an annual event.

The main objective of today's celebrations as envisaged in this year's theme is to raise awareness among the public about the important role played by statistics in all aspects of social and economic development. This awareness provides an opportunity to advocate for systematic and increased use of statistics for evidence-based decision making, with a view of enhancing the relevance of statistics and mainstreaming statistics into national and county development plans. Statistics are also vital in monitoring and evaluating the progress of attainment of vision 2030, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as well as informing on the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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embraced open data as a way to boost visibility into government decision-making and performance. The idea has expanded from focusing on government transparency as an end in itself to the realization it can yield economic and social value across a much wider spectrum. It has shifted from publishing raw datasets to making this information more accessible and understandable to more people. Opening up government data and information are key foundations to enabling engagement with citizens by using new technologies to connect the public to government and to one another. Making government data and information available online invites individuals and organizations to transform data and information into tools and applications that help individuals, institutions and communities; and to promote partnerships with government to create innovative solutions to the opportunities and challenges faced by

citizens. Open data therefore can improve inclusiveness by giving citizens the information they need to participate in public decision-making. The Guidelines on Open Government Data and Services stress that open data provide the foundation to enable citizens to better understand the way their Government works, how tax revenue is spent, and the decision-making process behind the allocation of national and county governments budgets. By involving citizens in decision-making, Governments can achieve more efficient and equitable outcomes. The right to access public information is the prerequisite to exercising rights and mechanisms of participation. It is necessary, therefore, to remove barriers hindering access to information in order for political participation to be carried out by informed citizens.

The theme for this year's African Statistics Day fosters increased access to

data, that is, data is freely used, re-used and redistributed by anyone. This data that is made available to all must adhere to the quality standards as guided by the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics including professionalism, impartiality, relevance and timeliness. This is what sets KNBS apart in production of quality statistics that meet the tests of practical utility. I have full confidence in the statistics produced by the Bureau.

We appreciate the initiatives and efforts the Bureau has undertaken to improve open access to data. Most aggregated data is now freely available to the public in open portals at the national level and on the KNBS website. A number of open portals run by international agencies such as the United Nations, African Development Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Bank are accessible greatly enhancing data access. Increased access to this information makes Kenya a credible country in attracting investment and accessing credit from international markets.

The Government, through my Ministry, remains committed to supporting funding of statistical activities undertaken by the Bureau and implementation of open data initiative at county level. We acknowledge technical and financial support received from our Development Partners and all stakeholders in data provision and dissemination. I appreciate KNBS staff for their commitment in ensuring the provision of credible statistics.

I join the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics and call upon all stakeholders, development partners and the general public to come together and join us in celebrating this year's African Statistics Day.



**Ms. Anne Waiguru OGW**  
*Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Devolution and Planning*

## Continued support pledged to KNBS to undertake critical surveys

### Message from the Principal Secretary, State Department of Planning, Ministry of Devolution and Planning

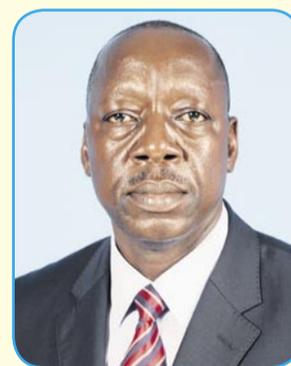
The African Statistics Day celebrations held annually on November 18th was adopted in May 1990 by the 25th session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the 16th Meeting of the African Ministers responsible for Economic planning and development. This year, we celebrate the 14th African Statistics Day since its inauguration in 1993. Each year, the celebrations are centered on different themes. This year's theme is "Open Data for Accountability and Inclusiveness" intended to facilitate economic growth by means of increased use of data by decision makers, researchers and civil society. In addition, the day is meant to sensitize those who make use of the data (both public and private), on the meaning and contribution of official statistics.

The celebration of this day is a milestone in recalling as a country the progress we have made towards increasing access to official statistical information. Nevertheless, some gaps still remain in the availability of quality data and access to basic economic and human well-

being indicators. The Ministry of Devolution and Planning continues to support KNBS to undertake critical surveys in addition to gaining access to various administrative data to fill these gaps as it continues to play a greater role than before in the development of official statistics in line with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. The Bureau develops standards, promotes best practices and coordinates the entire National Statistical System to ensure reliable statistics are produced for better planning, policy formulation, and monitoring and evaluation.

At KNBS, data sets are accessible to policymakers, researchers and civil society. However, the challenge of limited accessibility to and use of data that is already being produced still persists. All the same, we are all encouraged by the work being done at KNBS to update the public and our partners with quality statistical information. As we continue to strengthen our devolved system of government, comprehensive and disaggregated data at national and county levels is critical.

As we approach the 2015 deadline for the



**Eng. Peter O. Mangiti**  
*Principal Secretary, State Department of  
Planning, Ministry of Devolution and Planning.*

Millennium Development Goals, there are growing calls for the post-2015 framework to include goals for more effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions for all. The government, through this Ministry is already working on targets for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and mechanisms for monitoring our progress towards achieving the same. This includes putting forward a proposal that targets reducing corruption, promoting transparency, access to

information and accountability, as well as ensuring decision-making processes are more inclusive and representative.

In our efforts to monitor achievement of Kenya's development agenda, quality statistics will be required to assess progress made in implementing the Constitution and the Second Medium Term Plan (MTP II) 2013-2017.

Planning based on estimates generated from limited data pose a major challenge. Inadequate and unreliable statistics for many poor and lower middle income countries, like Kenya, has led the UN to call for a "data revolution". It is in this regard that KNBS is preparing a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). The NSDS is a national statistics master plan to strengthen statistical capacity across the National Statistical System through strategic planning. This, therefore, calls for the government in collaboration with international development partners to fund the coordinated statistics programmes identified in the plan.

As we celebrate this important day in the KNBS calendar of activities, I encourage all of us to take a keen interest in areas that we can contribute towards making Statistics accessible.

## Event increases public awareness about statistics

### Message from the KNBS Board Chairman

On behalf of the Board and staff of Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, it is with great pleasure that I acclaim the 14th African Statistics Day being celebrated today. Statistics is currently instrumental in our day-to-day lives. It is therefore worthwhile for us to join the rest of our colleagues from National Statistical Offices in the continent to celebrate this day; and dedicate it to increase public awareness about the important role which statistics play in all aspects of social and economic life. The theme of this year's celebrations is "Open data for Accountability and Inclusiveness" meant to promote efficiency, transparency and accountability, as well as inclusiveness in governance and development. Also it aims to facilitate economic growth through increased accessibility and usage of data and information by decision makers, researchers and the public at large.

Informed planning and policy making requires data of high quality. As we mark this day, we take cognizance of the growing demand for comprehensive and highly disaggregated statistics on a timely basis to positively impact on the well-being of citizens. In this regard, the Bureau will continue to strengthen its statistical management systems in order to meet user needs by improving the quality of statistics provided under the National Statistical System (NSS), as well as accessibility to such data through use of more friendly formats.



**Prof. Terry Ryan**

To ensure compliance with the Constitution and adherence to quality in the production and management of statistical information, we are in the process of reviewing the Statistics Act, 2006. The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) is another key ongoing process aimed at improving the quality of statistics, ensuring harmonized reporting and dissemination without duplication. Further, this Strategy will ensure Statistics is mainstreamed across the entire National Statistical System (NSS) with emphasis on use of sound and credible methodologies in line with international best practices.

The Bureau is finalizing its Strategic Plan that will steer us towards attaining excellence in statistics production and management, over a five-year period. The plan is part of the NSDS framework.

Other sectors under the NSS who are part of the NSDS framework have also embarked on preparing their Sector Statistics Plans. I wish to applaud the Agriculture Sector Agencies who in collaboration with the Bureau are embarking on the preparation of the Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Rural Statistics (SPARS) and encourage other sectors to fast track the process of preparing their Sector Statistics Plans.

Production of quality statistics is a collaborative effort among KNBS, other producers and data suppliers. I therefore appeal to all our data producers and suppliers to avail data sought by the Bureau on time to avoid delays in processing and dissemination. I assure you on the confidentiality of data supplied to the Bureau as guaranteed under the Statistics Act, 2006. The information provided is used for development related purposes only and is divulged in an aggregated form to safeguard privacy.

In conclusion, this day would not have been celebrated without the continued cooperation and willingness of establishments, households and institutions to provide information requested by KNBS. I appeal for your continued support in facilitating increased information dissemination. Together, let us celebrate the 14th Statistics Day.

## Statistics an essential tool in public administration

### Message from the Director General KNBS



**Mr. Zachary Mwangi**

Today, we join our colleagues across the continent in commemorating the African Statistics Day. As we celebrate, we take cognizance of the many achievements we have made in statistics. Kenya in particular has made great strides in the realization of importance of statistics as evidenced by the increased demand of statistical information from the public, private sector, development partners and the government.

KNBS would like to acknowledge the very significant role that statistics play, because they are an essential tool in public administration. They are instruments that ensure transparency in decision-making and are a very important link between national and international data, based on international sound methodologies.

Our statistical products are readily accessible in various platforms. The Bureau currently avails statistical products on the website, online data portals and in printed reports. These platforms ensure transparency, accountability and inclusiveness in decision-making.

In the last one year, our key achievements in the production of statistical information include:

- Release of annual reports such as the Economic Survey Report, Kenya Facts and Figures and the Statistical Abstracts. In addition, the Leading Economic Indicators and the Consumer Price Indices are produced monthly. Other reports produced on a quarterly basis include the Producer Price Indices and the Gross Domestic Product.
- Utilization of sound methodologies and international best practices in production of statistics.
- Rebasings of National Accounts that have rated Kenya as a lower middle income country.
- Conducting socio-economic household based surveys such as the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) and Kenya Urban Reproductive Health Initiative (KURHI).
- Production and dissemination of Socio-Economic Atlas of Kenya

I encourage you to interact with our website ([www.knbs.or.ke](http://www.knbs.or.ke)) for a comprehensive list of statistical releases and other open data portal links.

We are grateful to the government, development partners; all the users, producers and suppliers of statistics, for the continued support and collaboration. In particular, we would like to single out households and operators of various establishments who usually respond to the various questionnaires administered to them by the Bureau.

The Bureau appreciates the role played by the media in disseminating statistical information.

## Good work wins government UNFPA's praise

### Message from UNFPA Representative to Kenya



**Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee**

As we celebrate this year's Africa Statistics Day under the theme "Open Data for Accountability and Inclusiveness", the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) commends the Government of Kenya for successfully conducting censuses regularly from 1969 as recommended by the United Nations. We also congratulate the Government of Kenya for winning the United Nations Publicity Award for successfully conducting the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census.

The Government has also made great strides in ensuring that other surveys such as the Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey, Kenya Service Provision Assessment Survey, and Kenya Demographic and Health Survey among others, are conducted in a timely and professional manner in order to provide data for evidence planning and decision making.

This is a demonstration that Kenya recognizes the importance of data in its development agenda as a critical input for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Open data is, therefore, a mechanism that will improve the lives of Kenyans over the next decade when every planner, especially in the

current context of devolution, can easily access data for use in policy and decision-making. UNFPA strongly believes that the achievement of the Vision 2030 can only be enhanced through plans and strategies that are evidence-led and informed by accurate data, which in turn will lead to better policy options.

All data collected must be made available and easily accessible to the public either freely or at a surcharged cost that is not discriminative or prohibitive. The data should also be packaged in formats that are friendly to various categories of users ranging from researchers, academicians, planners, policy makers, commercial and private corporations.

As we produce and disseminate data for development planning and policy formulation, attention needs to be paid to improving the quality and coverage of census and survey data as these datasets provide the baseline numbers for many development indicators at national and county levels and monitoring of their attainment. They also form the basis for drawing nationally representative sampling frames for a great many surveys and other data collection exercises.



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We applaud the Government of Kenya for launching its first Open Data Initiative in July 2011. This initiative allowed for key government data to be freely available to the public through a single online portal, which demonstrates the Government's commitment to the UN Principles on Freedom of Information enacted in 2000. The Kenya Open Data initiative will ultimately enhance good governance, public and private partnership, and hasten the implementation of Vision 2030.

Over the years UNFPA has worked closely with the Government to conduct its population and housing census among other surveys by providing technical and financial support to these important exercises and we share the joy for the successes so far achieved. Currently, UNFPA is working with the Government through KNBS to build capacity in collection, analysis and dissemination of data at national and county levels.

Additionally, UNFPA in collaboration with UNICEF, WHO and other development partners is providing technical and financial support to the Government through the Civil Registration Department to attain 100 per cent coverage of birth and deaths in the country. This will ensure the achievement of the Government's vision to develop a national population register.

I conclude by reiterating UNFPA's full commitment to support the Government of Kenya in all its efforts to promote generation and dissemination of data for development.