

**SPEECH BY (AMB.) UKUR YATANI, EGH, CABINET SECRETARY,
THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND PLANNING, DURING THE
LAUNCH OF THE REPORT OF THE SURVEY ON SOCIO-
ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON HOUSEHOLDS:**

19TH MAY 2020, NAIROBI.

**Members of the Press,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good Morning!

Let me take this opportunity to welcome you all to this official launch of the Report on Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households survey. The survey, whose data was collected during the month of May 2020, highlights the impact of COVID-19 on Health, Labour Market, Transport Cost and Housing Sector.

The World is battling to contain the Corona Virus disease (COVID-19) which has been ravaging the global economies. The first case of COVID-19 in Kenya was confirmed on 13th March 2020 and as of Monday, 18th May 2020 the confirmed cases stood at 912. The disease which is highly contagious has led to many countries taking drastic measures in order to curb its spread. In Kenya, the Government has introduced a raft of measures including banning of all passenger flights, temporary closure bars, suspension of learning in all education institutions, dusk to dawn curfew, cessation of movement in and out of some high-risk areas among others.

Ladies and Gentlemen

These inevitable measures and the looming uncertainty about the disease have had knock-on effects on businesses and workers' incomes. Expectedly, a number of business owners have introduced several cost-cutting measures aimed at ensuring that their businesses remain afloat. The enterprises have had to delay investments, purchases of goods and the hiring of workers, while others have resorted to salary cuts for their employees, temporary layoffs and in some cases total closure. This continues to have adverse effects on incomes, particularly for informal and casual workers.

The Government's response to COVID-19 and its effects on the economy has taken a comprehensive and multi-pronged approach and is led by H.E. The President of the Republic of Kenya. He established a National Coordination Committee on Response to Corona Virus Pandemic (NCCRCP) which provides leadership and policy guidance on the overall response to the Pandemic. Among the working groups of the committee is the National Economic and Business Response Working Group which leads Kenya's response to the macro and micro economic impact of COVID-19.

Ladies and Gentlemen

For targeted response and sound formulation of strategies and policies, accurate quality data is important. It is in recognition of this that the National Economic and Business Response Working Group tasked the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics to undertake a survey on Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households.

The survey, which is population-based, will be implemented in 6 waves until July 2020. The objectives of the survey include measurement of the impact of COVID-19 on health, labour market, transport, and housing. The survey is

also aimed at assessing the awareness of COVID-19 and the appropriate protective measures. The data collection for the first wave was undertaken from 2nd to 9th May 2020. The survey is being implemented using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI) approach in which the interviews are conducted through telephone.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Among the key findings of the report in the first wave of the survey include;

Economic Activity

Participation rate of the population aged 18 years and above in the seven days preceding the survey was 56.8 per cent. About two thirds (65.3%) males were in the labour force while slightly more than half (51.2%) of the females were found to be outside the labour force in the reference period. Almost half of the respondents who were absent from work said that it was due to lockout or stay away instructions as guided by the Government and/or employers.

Transport

Overall, there has been a 51.7 per cent increase in the cost of transport. Migori County recorded the highest increase while Turkana County recorded the least at 77.2 and 24.4 per cent respectively.

Rent

The results show that 21.5 per cent of the households in Kenya, who usually pay rent on the dates agreed with landlords, were unable to pay rent for the month of April 2020. Reduced income/earnings was cited by majority (52.9%) of the households as the main reason for their inability to pay rent. Only a small proportion (8.7%) of households received waiver/relief from their landlords for the same month.

Health

Findings from the survey show that 17 per cent of the households reported having at least one member with a pre-existing medical condition. About 12.4 per cent of households reported having a member who had sought health services during the period under review.

Knowledge on Corona Virus

Almost all (99.4%) adults age 18 years and above have heard about Coronavirus. Majority of those who had heard about corona virus acquired the information through Radio and Television at 82.0 and 63.3 per cent, respectively. According to the survey, 97.2 per cent of households cited soap and water for hand washing as the main method that one can use for protection against Coronavirus.

Coping Mechanism on Learning

Nationally, more than half (57.9) of the households have members who usually attend learning institutions. Home schooling was reported as the main coping mechanism used by majority (42.8%) of the households for their members to continue with learning. Notably, 24.6 per cent of households with members who usually attend any learning institution were not using any method to continue with learning at home.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to extend my special gratitude to the management and entire staff of KNBS for their commitment in provision of reliable, comprehensive, timely and quality statistics. My Ministry will continue to offer both financial and other support required by KNBS in undertaking its activities. I would also

like to offer my heartfelt gratitude to the general public for their continued cooperation in provision of data to the Government which facilitates it in formulation of policies geared towards offering quality services to the citizenry.

I also wish to recognize the technical and financial support provided by United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-women).

In Conclusion and as mentioned earlier, the survey on the Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households is being implemented in 6 waves. Data collection for the second wave will begin on Saturday, 23rd May 2019. I appeal to those who have been selected to participate in the subsequent waves of this survey to respond to all the questions when contacted via telephone.