

**REMARKS DELIVERED BY THE BOARD CHAIRMAN, KENYA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS, DURING THE 2017 AFRICAN STATISTICS DAY CELEBRATIONS AT THE KICC, NAIROBI, ON 17TH NOVEMBER, 2017**

**Hon. Mwangi Kiunjuri, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Devolution and Planning**

**Other Cabinet Secretaries present,  
Mr. Irung'u Nyakera, Principal Secretary, State Department of Planning and Statistics,  
Other Principal Secretaries present,  
KNBS Board of Directors,  
Director General, KNBS  
Representatives of Development Partners,  
Representatives from other institutions/organizations,  
CEOs and Heads of Departments present,  
KNBS Staff,  
Distinguished Guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is my pleasure to welcome you here this morning to participate in this year's African Statistics Day celebrations. This is an annual event observed by the African Statistical Community to raise public awareness on the importance of statistics in all aspects of social and economic life. I appreciate each one of you for your attendance. I wish to specifically thank the Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Devolution and Planning for finding time to be with us today and appreciate the support that the Bureau is receiving in its statistical activities from the Ministry.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This year's African Statistics Day Celebrations theme "Better lives with better economic statistics" is quite relevant to the current local and international environment. Availability and appropriate use of good economic statistics can translate into better lives for people through provision of evidence based decision making. Robust policymaking requires accurate and timely data for effective policy action and interventions.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

A strong national statistical system with good infrastructure for collection, processing, compilation, analysis, dissemination and archiving for all economic statistics is vital to the national economy and development. The Bureau recognizes this and has continued to work closely with various line Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in an effort to generate better economic statistics. The Bureau has also encouraged stakeholder participation through user/ producer forums as a way of addressing data needs and requirements.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

During the year the Bureau was re-categorized from PC3A to PC4A a higher grade in the State Corporation Advisory Committee Classification. This makes Bureau a competitive employer able to attract and retain highly qualified staff. Further we have has acquired ample office space at Real Towers, in Upper Hill to accommodate all Headquarter staff in Nairobi. Office design works is in progress and we expect to move into the new offices by early next year.

To improve service delivery, the Bureau was certified to ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System on 27th September 2017. At the moment, the

Bureau is awaiting the ISO 9001:2015 certificate which is being processed by the certification body. This is a demonstration that the Bureau is committed to meeting its customers' needs thus ensuring their satisfaction.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

To discharge its mandate, the Bureau is empowered by the Statistics Act, 2006. This Act is currently being reviewed so as to have a strong legal framework for production and co-ordination of official statistics, which is in conformity with the Constitution. The review process is awaiting Cabinet and Parliament approval.

We all appreciate that better lives will be achieved through better policies formulated from high frequency, reliable, consistent and timely statistics. The Bureau acknowledges the financial support it receives from development partners to undertake its statistical programmes and activities geared towards provision of quality statistics for evidence based decision making. In particular, the Bureau takes cognizance of the World Bank sponsored Kenya Statistics Program for Results (KSPforR) initiative through which it has been able to undertake benchmark surveys and censuses to assist in providing the much needed statistics.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As we invite you to join us in celebrating this year's African Statistics Day, we appeal to all our data providers to cooperate with the Bureau as it endeavours to provide high quality data which is relevant to a wide array of stakeholders such as the general public, researchers, media, academia, policy makers among many others.

As I conclude, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me once again take this opportunity to welcome you to this celebrations and to thank all the organizers for their efforts in making it a success. The Bureau urges each one of us to be champions of better economic statistics for better lives for all.