Statement from the Minister for Planning

The African Statistics Day is an important day in the calendar of the African Union and the African Ministers of Planning. It is a day to celebrate the importance of statistics in development and to highlight the role of statisticians and Statistical Offices in making progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In order to comply with the UN General Assembly resolution on the importance of the UN Statistical System, the Government has undertaken a series of initiatives to enhance the quality and accessibility of statistical data in Kenya. These initiatives include:

- The establishment of the National Statistical Office (NSO), which is responsible for collecting and disseminating statistical data.
- The implementation of a national survey system, including the Kenya Integrated Household Survey (KIHS) and the Kenya National Income and Wealth Survey (KNIWS).
- The development of a statistical database system, which allows for easy access to statistical data.
- The training of statisticians and statistical officers to enhance their skills and knowledge.

The purpose of these initiatives is to ensure that statistical data are available to all sectors of the economy, including the private sector, government agencies, and international organizations. This will enable stakeholders to make informed decisions and to plan effectively for the future.

Hon. Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o, EGH, MP

Message from the Director of Statistics

The Director of Statistics emphasizes the importance of statistical information in decision-making and development planning. He highlights the role of the National Statistical System in providing data that are essential for informed decisions and policy-making.

The Director also calls on all stakeholders to support the statistical system by providing accurate and timely data. He mentions the importance of statistical capacity building and the need for international cooperation to ensure that statistical systems are robust and effective.

Hon. Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o, EGH, MP

(SNA92): CBS has adopted the new SNA, which replaces the previous 1993 standard.
The purpose of this day is to bring forth to the public domain, the importance of statistics in informing policy and decision-making process in the development agenda. It is also an opportunity for the statistical fraternity to raise awareness, review achievements and challenges and therefore scale up commitments towards achievement of agreed resolutions with producers and users of statistics. This is the third consecutive year the day is being celebrated in Kenya.

The theme for this year is "The 2010 Round of Censuses: An opportunity to improve statistical information for planning and development of Africa’s Development".

The choice of the theme is timely for Kenya, bearing in mind that we are in the planning stages for the 2009 Population and Housing Census. Population and Housing censuses generate important data, to evaluate and guide economic policy, and more importantly they form the basis upon which resources are allocated for poverty reduction programs in the country. It is necessary to note that undertaking censuses has been a challenge to Kenya and other African countries, due to the heavy financial, technical and human resource requirements.

Another major challenge in the collection of census data is its reliance on public trust. In order to gain public trust, official statistics must therefore respect the principal of confidentiality and impartiality, a tenet that the Central Bureau of Statistics has rigorously observed.

In Kenya, census preparation activities are due over a 3-year period prior to the actual count. It is against this background that preparatory activities for the Kenya Population and Housing Census 2009 have commenced. Combinations of population censuses results and surveys data (such as Welfare Monitoring Surveys (WMS)) have also been used to monitor and evaluate effectiveness of public policy interventions.

The ministry, with support of development partners, is undertaking statistical capacity building activities geared towards strengthening of the National Statistical System (NSS), including the Bureau, line ministries and other key government institutions. Co-ordination of statistical activities has been recognised as one of the prerequisites for statistical development of the National Statistical System.

In light of the requirement, strategies have been designed to strengthen mechanisms for co-ordination among producers and users of statistics in the country. All these initiatives constitute parts of the wider reform agenda for the NSS.

As we celebrate this day, liberalization of markets, emergence of governance issues the need for gender statistics, and development of poverty indicators, HIV/AIDS pose challenges to statistical development. Forums like the African Statistics Day are therefore necessary to bring to focus these problems. These challenges require continuous review and adoption of new approaches to data collection and analysis. New innovations to improve data quality, timeliness and accessibility are also continually being adopted. These include advances in the Information Technology, Geographical Information Systems and the use of the Internet. The Ministry’s and the Central Bureau of Statistics websites are important sources of information to users.

Enhancement of statistical capacities for the NSS, inevitably require substantial amount of resources, which calls for efficient and effective use of available resources. In observing this principal the Ministry through CBS emphasizes conducting of surveys in an integrated manner. The on-going Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIBHS) and the National Statistical System (NSS) to improve policy decision-making process. The PARIS 21 initiative with the current, ongoing Public Sector Reforms.

Hon Prof. Anyang’ Nyong’o, EGH, MP

Dr Nehemiah Ngeno, HSC
Message from the Director of Statistics

STATISTICAL information is increasingly becoming an indispensable tool of the development process. We celebrate today the African Statistics Day commemorated annually on November 18th in various countries over Africa. The theme for this year's festival is: "The 2010 Round of Censuses: An opportunity to improve statistical information for monitoring African Development Agenda.

Population and Housing Censuses and other surveys are carried out annually by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) under the provisions of the Statistics Act (Chapter 112) of the Laws of Kenya. The main objective of censuses is to provide benchmark data on population size and other social statistics.

The planning and management of the census activities has been a cornerstone of the CBS's work. The 2010 Census is expected to provide updated information on the population and housing conditions, which will be used to inform policy and development plans.

The CBS has also adopted the new SNA, which re-examines and updates the current sources of data in the Commission for the SNA in the country.

1) National Dissemination System (GDDS): The system was established to assist countries in placing their statistical systems in the broader context of emerging trends in the international statistical community. Its metadata is posted on the IMF web site.

2) International Comparison Pro-gramme (INCP): The Programme (INCP) which is used to conduct Establishment and Household based surveys respectively. Plans are at advanced stage to improve the Business register.

In conclusion, the CBS appreciates the good relations developed over time between users and producers of official statistics. The CBS welcomes the role played by households to support and improve the quality of data.

The CBS also supports, to the extent possible, efforts to improve the quality of data by providing regular updates on statistical methods and techniques.