



# Africa Statistics Day

## Statement from the Minister for Planning

THE African Statistics Day is an important day commemorated by all statistical authorities in Africa. The day was set aside by African ministers responsible for Economic Planning and Development in order to raise awareness of the role and importance of statistics in national development. In celebrating this day, the Government recognizes the need for accurate, reliable, and timely data to monitor achievements and set targets contained in the Investment Programme for Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment creation 2003-2007 (IP-ERS). Similar data is needed for assessing the country's achievements towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Government notes with satisfaction the positive steps taken in enhancing capacity of the statistical system to measure these indicators.

The theme of this year's celebration is "*The 2010 Round of Censuses: An opportunity to improve statistical information for monitoring African Development Agenda*". The theme is therefore in line with the Strategic Plan of the National Statistical System (NSS), as the country plans to undertake population and housing Census in 2009. The population and housing census is the single most extensive and expensive statistical operation the government undertakes, in terms of logistical and administrative arrangements. I am happy to note that the country has undertaken decennial censuses in line with international standards since independence. My Ministry has already initiated the preparatory work on the 2009 census.

Under the general ambit of the New Partnership for African Development (Nepad), Kenya is among four countries in a pilot project for African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

The objective of the APRM initiative is to deepen the culture of economic governance, corporate governance, political governance, and measuring progress in socio-economic indicators. I note with satisfaction that CBS provided assistance in the APRM process. Preliminary findings of APRM have already been released and evaluated by the regional assessment committee on governance.

In September 2005, the fourth Kenya Human Development Report was launched. The report contained a summary of Human Development Indices derived from the NSS. These took into account Adult Literacy Rates, Income Per Capita and Life Expectancy.

It is therefore very clear, that the need for accuracy and integrity of both economic and social statistics generated by NSS cannot be overemphasized.

My Ministry recently released volume II of Geographical Dimensions of Wellbeing in Kenya, which contains poverty estimates at the constituency level for the whole country.

It is important to point out that a hybrid of data from the 1999 Population Censuses and Welfare Monitoring Survey (1997) data have been used to generate the estimates. The poverty estimates have found use in allocation of Constituency Development Funds, Constituency Bursary Funds and other Government initiatives.

The Ministry, through the CBS, is undertaking the Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIHBS) 2005/06. Data from the survey will update the current poverty estimates as well as inform policies on health, education, and national development agenda.

In order to compliment the quantitative aspects of KIHBS data, a Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA) survey is also in progress. My ministry, in collaboration with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) of University of Nairobi, is in the process of setting up a Chronic Poverty Research Centre. The centre's objective is to deepen understanding of dimensions of poverty and prescribe corrective remedies.

An important area in the development process of the country is the Small and Medium Sized Enterprises sector. This sector has been of interest to Government and other stakeholders due to its potential to enhance growth, generate employment and reduce poverty. A sessional paper on development of Micro and Small Enterprises for Wealth and Employment Creation was launched in October 2005. To initiate the implementation, the Ministry will carry out a survey of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) early next year to provide current data on SMEs.

The Government is in the process of developing an Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E) system to provide an institutional mechanism for monitoring and tracking Government policy interventions, as well as the delivery of public services. Towards this end the National Statistical System will complement the M & E system in all aspects of data collection.

I am happy to note that within the overall statistical reform programme, the Government has moved forward towards strengthening statistical capacity and is in the process of enacting a new Statistics Bill. The Statistics Bill has already been published in the *Kenya Gazette*, and will soon be tabled in Parliament for debate.

The Government appreciates the role played by the development partners namely; Dfid, Unfpa, Unicef, Undp, World Bank, USAid, Sida and other bilateral and multilateral partners in supporting the field of statistical capacity.

I also wish to thank Kenyan households, enterprises, the private sector and civil society, for their good cooperation in provision of data. My ministry also takes note of the important role played by the media in informing the general populace of results, developments and new events in the statistical field and thereby facilitating debate.

In conclusion, the ministry has expectations that new opportunities for co-operation and statistical development shall continue to emerge, both at national and international level.

This is in particular reference to collaborative arrangements with research institutions, universities, development partners and other stakeholders to widen frontiers of assimilating developments in statistics and information technology in economic planning.

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

## Message from the

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 agencies. It is also an opportunity for the statistical fraternity to raise awareness, review achievements and challenges and therefore scale up commitment towards achievement of agreed relations 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 Round of Censuses: An opportunity to improve statistical information for monitoring Africa's Development*".

The choice of the theme is timely, 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 done over a 3year 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.

## Message from the Director of Statistics

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In conclusion, the ministry has expectations that new opportunities for co-operation and statistical development shall continue to emerge, both at national and international level.

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## Message from the Permanent Secretary

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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 (KIHBS 2005/06) has used the integrated approach. Since the National Statistical System (NSS) is part of the wider public service, it will continue to work in line with the ongoing Public Sector Reforms.

Dr Nehemiah Ng'eno, HSC

## The Director of Statistics

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## Message from the Director of Statistics



STATISTICAL information is increasingly becoming an indispensable tool of management of the development process. We celebrate today the African Statistics Day commemorated annually on November 18th all 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 by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) under the provisions of the Statistics Act (Chapter 112) of the Laws of Kenya. The broad objective of census undertaking through the years has been to provide benchmark data on population size and other social statistics for the country.

The planning and management of the census activities require effective organizational

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For example adoption of the latest technologies in 1999 census led to improvements on data collection, analysis, processing and dissemination techniques. These efficiency gains therefore greatly reduced the turn around time and led to timely release of census data.

The Bureau faces data collection and dissemination challenges. First, some respondents are unable to adequately complete the questionnaires due to their technical nature. Second, increasing demand for statistics has put pressure on respondents. Plans are underway to harmonise CBS survey instruments to address the issues.

Among other important surveys and censuses, the Bureau will be conducting within the Statistics framework of 2003/04- 2007/08 Strategic plan are a Small and Medium Enterprise survey, Census of Agriculture and Livestock and Census of Industrial Production respectively.

The following statistical initiatives are aimed at improving quality of off-

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- 2) **General Data Dissemination System (GDDS):** The system was established to assist countries in placing the development of their statistical systems in the broader context of emerging trends in the international statistical community. The country's metadata is posted in the IMF web-site.
- 3) **International Comparison Programme (ICP)** is a global initiative involving national and international agencies.
- It aims at producing internationally comparable price levels, expenditure levels, and Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) estimates to inform national policy about the relative well-being of citizens of participating countries.
- 4) **Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS 21)** is consortium of multilateral and bilateral institutions established 1999 with the aim of

improve policy decision-making process. The PARIS 21 initiative provides a platform for sharing statistical knowledge and resources towards sustainable statistical capacity.

- 5) **Improving Sampling Frames:** The Central Bureau of Statistics maintains two sampling frames namely, the Central Business Register and the National Statistical Sampling and Evaluation Programme (NASSEPIV) which are used to conduct Establishment and Household based surveys respectively. Plans are at advanced stage to improve the Business register.

In conclusion, the Bureau recognises the good relations developed over time between users and producers of official statistics.

The CBS appreciates the role played by households/ individuals and enterprises of the country; in freely volunteering data for censuses and surveys. CBS would therefore wish to maintain this cordial relationship into the future. More information on activities of Central Bureau of Statistics can be accessed through the CBS website