

**REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR CHARLES K. MTALEMWA, PERMANENT
SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF PLANNING, ECONOMY AND
EMPOWERMENT DURING THE CLOSING CEREMONY
OF THE 2007 AFRICAN STATISTICS DAY AT KARIMJEE HALL
ON 21st NOVEMBER, 2007**

Chairperson,

Your Excellencies the Ambassadors and High Commissioners,

Permanent Secretaries,

Distinguished Heads of Development Agencies,

Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to have this opportunity to make some closing remarks at the end of this important occasion of marking the 2007 African Statistics Day. Admittedly, at such occasions, what needs to be said is usually brief and to the point because the audience has just emerged from half a day intensive presentations and discussions. Therefore, my remarks are going to be very brief indeed.

Chairperson, there are many challenges that need to be addressed in the area of labour policies, however I will mention only two. One is to improve employment and related indicators to better inform labour policies and programmes in Africa in general and in Tanzania in particular. Second, is to reduce child labour employment in both rural and urban areas so as to ensure that a higher percentage of our children is attending school as required.

In 2001 the child labour ratio was 25 percent, which came down to 21.1 percent in 2006. Unemployment rate for the population 10 years and above was 11 percent in 2006 compared to 12.9 percent in 2001. More efforts are required as the target is to reduce this rate to 6.9 percent by the year 2010.

Chairperson, let me call upon all the participants to make full use of the major findings generated from key labour market indicators. I also wish to strongly urge the general public to actively and effectively use statistical information for quality planning and implementation of various development programmes at all levels of the economy. It is said that, "if you can't measure it you can't manage it".

Chairperson, we all recognize the role and importance of statisticians and economists in the country. Let me take this opportunity to urge them to continue working together tirelessly to provide quality and timely statistics required for development planning to improve the lives of all Tanzanians. The motto should be "STATISTICS FOR QUALITY PLANNING".

Chairperson, I trust that, all of us here will find time to attend the next year's similar event and possibly invite others to come forward and participate not only in the Statistics Day but also in other statistical related events organized and undertaken in the country.

Chairperson, at the start of my statement I promised to be brief. But before coming to the end of my remarks, let me kindly thank all the guests for participating in this important event and the NBS for coordinating and facilitating the occasion.

Chairperson, let me wish all the participants a safe journey back to your respective areas hoping that recommendations made during the discussions will be adopted to improve the statistical system in the country. With these few remarks, I now declare the commemoration of the 2007 African Statistics Day is officially closed.

Thank you for your kind attention.