

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY ENG. PETER MANGITI, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF DEVOLUTION AND PLANNING DURING THE LAUNCH OF
2014 ECONOMIC SURVEY REPORT AT KICC-COMESA GROUNDS ON
TUESDAY 29TH APRIL, 2014**

Honourable Cabinet Secretary (ies),

Fellow Principal Secretary (ies),

KNBS Board Chairman,

Ag. Director General,

Representatives from various Ministries,

Representatives of Development Partners,

Members of the Press,

Distinguished Guests,

All Protocols observed,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me take this opportunity to welcome you all to this official launch of the 2014 Economic Survey Report. The report presents highlights of the performance of the economy for the past five years, with a special emphasis on the performance during the year 2013.

The report has been prepared by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics and provides details on social and economic indicators and is of practical use to leaders, policy makers, investors, business people and the research community.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are all aware that there are great expectations not only from the Ministry but also from the entire government and Kenyans at large, particularly at this time when the nation is seeking ways to foster growth and development. As the government continues to implement the current

constitution which places a lot of emphasis on accountability, it calls for evidence-based policy, planning, decision-making, monitoring and evaluation at the national and at the county levels, and hence the need for comprehensive and quality data.

The 2nd Medium Term Plan (MTP II) which is geared towards achieving the targets for Vision 2030 also requires accurate and reliable statistics. The policies and programmes that have been implemented to bring about rapid transformation of the economy, the social and political life of the nation must be regularly monitored and evaluated

The findings of the 2014 Economic Survey Report therefore provides the Government with a benchmark for monitoring policies, programmes and services which have been put in place to foster development for the betterment of the welfare of all Kenyans.

In addition, since the Millennium Declaration in September 2000, we are now barely a year to the deadline of 2015. It is therefore crucial as a country to take stock of what has been achieved and come up with new strategies to fast track the achievement of Millennium Development Goals. To know whether we are on course, these statistics provides a critical evaluation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are launching this report against the backdrop of emerging data demands for planning purposes. It is also evident that the demand for quality statistics for policy-making, measurable goal setting and effective monitoring system is high. This calls for strengthened linkages and collaboration between producers and users of statistics.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Bureau is therefore expected to strengthen collaboration between users and producers of statistics and also play a leading role in coordinating the

development of the National Statistical System (NSS) in order to create the much needed synergies and promote the build-up of sustainable statistical capacity in the country to enhance the comparative advantage of each of the participating institution and minimize duplication of efforts.

This will provide an environment where the government and other stakeholders will have access to quality statistics (accurate, consistent, timely) to track the progress being made towards meeting our development goals and targets on poverty reduction, job creation, housing, agricultural production, health, education, transport and communication, among others. It will also be responsible for monitoring the emerging trends and ascertain their courses in order for remedial measures to be put in place.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government is committed to provide additional resources to the Bureau in order to finance identified statistics programmes, maintain statistical infrastructure and routine data collection activities.

As I conclude, I would like to extend my special thanks to the management and entire KNBS staff who have worked tirelessly to make the production of this document a success.

It's now my honour and privilege to invite the Honourable Cabinet Secretary to present the highlights of 2014 Economic survey report and launch the report.