

**REMARKS BY ZACHARY MWANGI, Ag. DIRECTOR GENERAL – KNBS DURING
THE LAUNCH OF 2014 ECONOMIC SURVEY REPORT AT KICC-COMESA
GROUNDS ON TUESDAY 29TH APRIL, 2014**

Our Chief Guest, the Cabinet Secretary for Devolution & Planning;

Other Cabinet Secretaries present

The Other Cabinet Secretaries present

Other Principal Secretary (ies),

The KNBS Board Chairman;

Government Officials;

Data Providers;

Development Partners;

My colleagues at the Bureau;

Members of the Press;

All Protocols observed

Ladies and Gentlemen

I welcome you all to this occasion of the official launch of the 2014 Economic Survey Report. I thank you for coming to share this launch with us.

Before our Chief Guest officially launches this year's Economic Survey report, allow me to say a few things about the Bureau. We at the Bureau are mandated to collect, compile and disseminate official statistics, to assist government in planning, monitoring and evaluating programmes. In addition, we coordinate the National Statistical System (NSS).

At the Bureau, we do not work in isolation. We rely very heavily on our data providers – you and I. Without timely provision of data, there would be nothing to analyze, and by extension, there would be no base for decision taking. On behalf of the entire Bureau, I offer my heartfelt gratitude to our data providers, and appeal to them to continue partnering with us.

Ladies and Gentlemen

KNBS is undertaking a number of activities. Key among them include:

- Developing a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). The NSDS will present a comprehensive and unified framework for continual assessment of evolving user needs and priorities for statistics and for building the capacity needed to meet these needs in a more coordinated and efficient manner.
- Currently, in liaison with the Ministry of Health and other development partners, we are undertaking the 2014 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey. The 2014 KDHS is the first survey of its kind that will provide both national and county-level demographic and health indicators.
- We are also in the process of revising and updating our national accounts statistics in line with international best practices. Detailed National Accounts will be available from the third quarter of this year.
- The Bureau is now at an advanced stage in the planning of the implementation of a Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIHBS II). The survey is the primary source of poverty statistics and the consumption basket used in calculation of inflation.

Ladies and Gentlemen

As we make available the statistics contained in this report today, I am confident and encouraged that we shall continue to use the information to foster evidence based planning and policy making.

This year's Economic Survey Report also presents the highlights of two other reports namely the 2013 Foreign Investment Survey and Spatial Dimensions of Wellbeing. The main reports will soon be launched. In addition, a new

chapter on Information and communication technology has been introduced. Their inclusion underscores the importance the Bureau places on continuous improvement of statistical processes, emerging issues and research.

As we move forward, the Bureau will endeavour to provide the necessary information for the continuous monitoring and evaluation of both national and county governments' programmes in order to achieve the aspirations of all data users.

I wish to recognize with appreciation, the continued technical and financial support we have received from the Government and our development partners over the years. I urge the development partners to continue partnering with us in supporting statistical activities for the benefit of our nation. By and large, the demand for statistics is growing, hence the need for increased facilitation, both technical and financial support.

In conclusion, Ladies and gentlemen, KNBS, as stated in its mission statement is committed to inculcating the culture of evidence-based decision making through the provision of reliable, comprehensive and timely statistics.

Thank you.