

REMARKS BY PROF. TERRY RYAN, BOARD CHAIRMAN, KENYA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS, DURING THE LAUNCH OF ECONOMIC SURVEY 2014 AT KICC-COMESA GROUNDS ON TUESDAY 29TH APRIL, 2014.

**Honourable Cabinet Secretary (ies)
Principal Secretary (ies),
Ag. Director General, KNBS
Representatives from various Ministries
Representatives of Development Partners
Distinguished Guests;
All Protocols observed**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First let me take this opportunity, to thank His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya for honoring me with this great opportunity to serve this country by appointing me the chairman of the management board of the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics.

Secondly, on behalf of entire Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) family, I wish to take this opportunity to welcome you all in this launch of the 2014 Economic Survey Report. It is a very important document in our planning cycle as it presents a summary of the performance of various sectors of our economy in the last five years. The information contained in the report, as the Honorable Cabinet Secretary will reveal, provides us as a country, the opportunity to monitor and evaluate the policies and programmes implemented based on statistical evidence.

Ladies and Gentlemen

KNBS will always endeavour to provide users and policy-makers with timely and reliable statistics to facilitate decision-making. The Bureau will also strive to place greater value on further strengthening its statistical management systems in order to continuously improve the quality of the statistics we provide.

To address quality of statistics, the Bureau is designing a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). In accordance with international “best practice” the NSDS design process follows a sectoral (or bottom-up) approach whereby a Strategic Plan for Statistics (SPS) is designed for each sector. The design of the NSDS also takes place at a time when a current Constitution has come into force. More quality statistics are required to inform policy and programme formulation at all levels of government.

KNBS has also established various forums for key producers, users, development partners and other stakeholders mandated to address statistical and other technical issues. Sectoral working group committees have also been established and meet on quarterly basis. All these are aimed at improving the quality of statistics.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In April 2013, the Bureau attained an auditable Quality Management System (QMS) that led to the certification of the organization to ISO 9001:2008 QMS. This is an assurance by the Bureau of its commitment to provision of quality statistics. In addition the Bureau is also reviewing its Statistical Act in order to align it with the current Constitution. This is all aimed at ensuring that Bureau meets the increasing data demands by various users.

Ladies and Gentlemen

In line with the current constitutional dispensation, the Bureau has strengthened the National and County Statistics Offices in order to improve on service delivery. One of the challenges that the Bureau faces currently is that the headquarters staff are accommodated in three different locations which impacts negatively on service delivery. As Chairman of the KNBS Board, I wish to appeal for additional funding to not only support the planned statistical activities but also put the staff in a single location.

I wish to recognize with appreciation, the continued technical and financial support we have received from our development partners over the years. I urge

them to continue partnering with us in supporting statistical activities for the benefit of our nation.

As we launch this years' report, I wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to our respondents and other stakeholders who provided the much needed information for the purpose of compiling the Economic Survey 2014. I appeal to all data providers, to tirelessly continue providing these valuable resources which are necessary for planning processes of this country.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

To conclude, let me congratulate KNBS staff for the efforts they have put to have the Economic Survey 2014 report ready in time. I note with much appreciation the crucial roles and responsibilities the Bureau has in helping shape the broader picture of the country's economic progression by providing quality and timely statistical information.

I now invite the Principal Secretary to make his remarks and thereafter to invite the Cabinet secretary to launch the 2014 Economic survey report.

Thank You.