

REMARKS BY SAITOTI TOROME, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF DEVOLUTION AND PLANNING, DURING THE LAUNCH OF 2016 MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES SURVEY BASIC REPORT AT KICC ON MONDAY 24TH OCTOBER, 2016

Honourable Cabinet Secretary (ies),
Fellow Principal Secretary (ies),
KNBS Board Chairman,
KNBS Director General,
Representatives from IDS,
Representatives from MSEA,
Representatives of Development Partners,
Representatives of various Ministries,
Members of the Press,
Distinguished Guests,
All Protocols observed,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning

Let me take this opportunity to welcome you all to this official launch of the 2016 Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Survey Report.

As the government continues to implement the current constitution, there is need for comprehensive and quality data to facilitate evidence-based policy, planning, decision-making, monitoring and evaluation at both the national and county levels. In particular, the need for adequate knowledge of the MSME sector in Kenya is fundamental as the sector plays a key role in employment creation and poverty alleviation.

I note with regret that the last comprehensive survey on the sector was undertaken about 17 years ago, yet the sector is key in employment creation and poverty alleviation. I therefore wish to start by congratulating KNBS for carried out the 2016 MSME survey which provides up to date indicators pertaining to the MSME sector. This information is expected to be of great practical use to leaders, policy makers, investors, business people and the research community.

I am pleased to note that the MSME survey has culminated into a Basic report out of the strengthened linkages and collaboration between KNBS, development partners, Key stakeholders, producers and users of statistics. In particular, the key players in the National steering committee were the Institute for Development Studies of the University of Nairobi (IDS-UON) , the African Centre for Economic Growth (ACEG), Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), Micro and Small Enterprises Authority

(MSEA), KREP and the Ministry of industrialization. I note with appreciation the wide consultations that were made during the design and implementation of the 2016 MSME survey. I believe these consultations ensured that all data gaps were addressed.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 2015/16 MSME Survey was carried out with the specific objectives being to:

1. Measure the size and magnitude of the MSMEs
2. Measure the total employment of the MSMEs
3. Determine the contribution of the MSME sector to GDP, through an estimation of production, intermediate consumption, wages and income, and value added by industry, enterprise size, and gender of the operator.
4. Assess the dynamics of the MSME sector through the comparison with the 1999 MSE baseline survey, and the analysis of business start-ups and closures, changes in business activity, value added etc.
5. Provide information and key indicators on the potential harboured and the constraints faced by the MSME sector and
6. To capture the evolving nature and variety of the MSME sector by enterprise activity, geography, rural/urban and gender distribution etc.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The report we are launching today presents qualitative and quantitative highlights of issues pertaining to the MSME sector of the economy. I acknowledge that the findings provide the Government with a benchmark for monitoring policies, programmes and services which have been put in place to foster development of the MSME sector as a means for the betterment of the welfare of all Kenyans.

KNBS is expected to continue strengthening collaboration between users and producers of statistics. This is in addition to playing a leading role in coordinating the National Statistical System (NSS). This will for sure create the much needed synergies and also promote the build-up of sustainable statistical capacity in the country. Through this networking, there will be an environment where the government and other stakeholders will have access to quality statistics (accurate, consistent, timely) to be used in tracking progress being made towards meeting our development goals and targets on poverty reduction, job creation, and other social economic issues.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we launch this report, the ministry and particularly KNBS is faced with the ever emerging data demands to facilitate informed policy formulation, measurable goal setting and effective monitoring and evaluation of

development initiatives. 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 2016 MSME Survey Basic survey report and to launch the report.

Thank you