

**REMARKS DELIVERED BY PROF. TERRY RYAN, BOARD CHAIRMAN,  
KENYA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS, DURING THE 2016  
AFRICAN STATISTICS DAY CELEBRATIONS AT THE KICC, NAIROBI,  
ON 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2016**

Mr. Saitoti Torome, Principal Secretary for Planning and Statistics  
Other Principal Secretary (ies) present,  
KNBS Board of Directors,  
Mr. Zachary Mwangi, Director General, KNBS,  
Representatives from other institutions / organizations,  
Representatives from Development Partners,  
Members of KNBS Staff,  
Members of the fourth estate  
Distinguished Guests,  
All Protocols observed,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning!

It is my great honour that you are here this morning to grace this years' *African Statistics Day celebrations, an important annual event in our calendar*. I am delighted to see each one of you this event given your busy schedules. Strengthening economic statistics for regional integration, structural transformation and sustainable development is quite relevant to the current global environment. Today, the world has become a global village and this requires robust policy making. The challenges we face in the current economic climate requires accurate and timely data for effective policy action, and interventions.

The Bureau, as the premier national statistics office, is fully committed to providing quality statistics for evidence-based decision making and policy formulation for this country. High quality economic statistics are critical to Africa's regional integration and economic transformation, and in achieving the aims set by the United Nations in the Sustainable Development Goals. In its efforts to ensure provision of quality economic statistics, the Bureau through various initiatives such as the World Bank sponsored Kenya Statistics Program for Results (KSPforR) initiative has conducted a number of surveys and censuses to assist to address existing data gaps.

A strong national statistical system with good infrastructure for collection, processing, compilation, analysis, dissemination and archiving of all economic statistics is vital for economic development. The Bureau acknowledges this and is currently reviewing the Statistics Act 2006 to empower it to discharge its mandate. The proposed amendments to Statistics law have been submitted to the Attorney General's office for consideration and onward transmission to Parliament. To strengthen the management of statistics, the bureau has embarked on the process of re-certification to ISO 9001: 2015 Quality Management System (QMS). As you may recall, the bureau was previously certified under ISO 9001: 2008 QMS. This was considered a milestone in the management of statistics as KNBS was the first National statistics office to be ISO certified in Africa.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We all appreciate that the process of regional integration must be supported by high quality, timely and comparable economic statistics. As we invite you to join us in celebrating this year's African Statistics Day, we appeal to all data providers to cooperate with the Bureau by providing data that generate statistics that we use for monitoring the integration process.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Production of quality statistics requires highly qualified, trained and motivated workforce. Over the years, the Bureau has lost a large proportion of its workforce through natural attrition, retirement and exit in search for greener pastures. To address this challenge, the Bureau has advertised existing vacancies to replace the staff leaving the service. In a bid to retain staff, the Bureau with support from the Directorate of Personnel Management in the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs has a proposed a new salary structure for staff. The draft proposal has been submitted to the State Corporations Advisory Committee for review and consideration. In an effort to improve the work environment and motivate staff, the Bureau is planning to move to a new building to accommodate all the headquarter staff who are currently housed in Herufi, Nyayo and Bima houses.

I wish to thank the Cabinet Secretary to the Ministry of Devolution and Planning who could not be with us this morning due to other engagements. I acknowledge and appreciate the support that the Bureau continues to receive from the government in terms of funding of statistical activities.

In conclusion, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me once again take this opportunity to welcome you to these celebrations and to thank all the organizers for their efforts in making it happen. This is a celebration, let us all enjoy in a statistical way.

Thank you.