

**REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN, KENYA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS
BOARD OF DIRECTOR, MR. EDWIN OSUNDWA, CBS, DURING CEREBRATIONS
TO MARK THE AFRICAN STATISTICS DAY AND THE LAUNCH OF THE KNBS ISO
9001:2008 CERTIFICATION TO BE HELD AT KICC ON 18TH NOVEMBER, 2013**

Ms. Anne Waiguru, the Cabinet Secretary for Devolution and Planning,

Cabinet Secretaries present,

Eng. Peter Mangiti, Principal Secretary for Devolution and Planning

Other Principal Secretaries present

Mr. Zachary Mwangi, the Acting Director General, KNBS

Representatives from other institutions/organizations

Representatives from Development Partners

Members of Staff, KNBS

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning;

I am delighted to join you today as we celebrate both the African Statistics day whose theme is *Quality data to support African Progress* and the attainment of the Bureau's ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management Systems certification. This theme fits well with our ISO achievement that aims at increasing the Bureau's competitiveness and also establishes clear criteria to be used consistently in all areas of operations. The ISO attainment makes continuous improvement the norm rather than an option.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Informed policy decision making requires data of high quality. As we mark this day, we take cognizant of the growing demand for reliable and timely statistics. Against this backdrop, the Bureau will continue to embrace high standards of statistical production. May I inform you that, we are in the process of reviewing

the statistics Act 2006 with the main intention of instituting appropriate policies to ensure compliance with the constitution and adherence to quality standards. Accordingly, the scope of coverage will be increased in tandem with the increasing demand for statistics.

Among the strategies adopted to improve the quality of statistics is development of the National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS). To this end, the country has started the process of developing an NSDS whose main focus will be the entire National Statistical System (NSS). This process will involve various stakeholders and we expect positive input to ensure comprehensiveness of the strategy. Further, the formulation of the forthcoming strategy will be a departure from the focus adopted during the development of the previous strategic plan. As we do this, we take note that production of statistics will take place in all levels of Governments. In this regard, KNBS will ensure that the methodologies employed in producing statistics are sound and conform to international best practices. The KNBS will extend the necessary support in any statistical initiatives aimed at generating official statistics.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In order to live up to today's theme of *Quality data to support African Progress*, we need to appreciate that quality statistics require huge investment both in financial and physical resources. To this effect, the Bureau acknowledges that there are gaps in generation of statistics that are demanded by the various users owing to limited resources. It is therefore my appeal to the national Treasury and our development partners to consider increasing the level of budgetary support to enable the Bureau expand the scope of its activities to meet the ever increasing demand for statistics.

As I conclude, it is imperative to bring to your attention madam Cabinet Secretary the fact that our Bureau does not have adequate office space. Various directorates are housed in different buildings which undermines the Bureau's capacity to provide statistical services efficiently. In most countries, National Statistical Offices are housed in their own buildings which are easily accessible, with ample parking space for clients. It is therefore my kind request that your ministry facilitates the Bureau to acquire appropriate office space.

Lastly, let me take this opportunity to sincerely express my appreciation to all Kenyans for providing the required statistics which we require on a continuous basis. This information is critical in informing the country's development agenda.

To the users of statistics, we appreciate your continued engagement with us and we therefore encourage feedback from you. This ensures we continuously improve on the quality of statistics and services we offer.

I also wish to thank the management of KNBS under the leadership of Acting Director General, Mr. Zachary Mwangi and the entire KNBS fraternity for their efforts in providing quality statistics.

Equally, am grateful to the Cabinet Secretary and the Principal Secretary and all other guests present for gracing this occasion. It portrays the importance that the Government attaches to statistics.

Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I take this opportunity to thank you all for sparing time to join us as today as we celebrate both the African Statistics Day and the attainment of the ISO 9001:2008 certification.

Thank You.