

**SPEECH BY THE CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF
DEVOLUTION AND PLANNING, MS. ANNE WAIGURU, OGW,
DURING THE AFRICAN STATISTICS DAY CELEBRATIONS AND
THE KNBS ISO 9001:2008 CERTIFICATION HELD AT KICC ON
18th NOVEMBER, 2013**

Fellow Cabinet Secretaries

Eng. Peter Mangiti, Principal Secretary for Planning

Other Principal Secretaries present

Mr. Edwin Osundwa, Chairman KNBS Board of Directors

Representatives of Development Partners
Representatives from other institutions/organizations
CEOs and Heads of Departments present,
Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is a great pleasure for me to join you this morning as we celebrate the 2013 African Statistics Day. Under our government, the responsibility for gathering statistical data, analyzing it, and disseminating it to the Kenyan public rests primarily with the Kenya

National Bureau of Statistics in the Ministry of Devolution and Planning. In my capacity as the Cabinet Secretary in that Ministry, I am acutely aware of the vital role that statistics play, not just in devolution and planning, but also in our overall public resource allocation and distribution according to gender (as in the Women Enterprise Fund), or by age (as in the Youth Enterprise Fund), and in all the devolved funds.

Good data is essential for evidence-based policy –making which is what the Jubilee Government has pledged to follow. Sound and

timely data is also indispensable for tracking progress towards nationally agreed targets under Vision 2030, and internationally agreed-upon development goals like the MDGs.

The Kenya Government therefore is pleased to join other African governments in celebrating "Africa Statistics Day". This year, its theme is "Quality Data to Support African Progress". The reason why we, as African Ministers in charge of economic planning and development chose that theme is that we recognize that African economies have been on the path of sustained growth since 2000.

Africa's GDP grew by an average of 5% yearly over the last decade, defying the 2008 global financial crises. It is our best performance of any decade since the 1960s. We all need to track that progress in all its details, so that we can keep up the growth momentum, improve the livelihoods of the African people, and avoid any shocks that could throw us off the road to sustained and inclusive growth. In other words as we move forward, we need high quality and timely data for sound economic management, planning and implementation, monitoring and evaluation. All African governments now recognize this, and the ministers concerned have jointly pledged to do the best

they can, given the resource constraints, to provide our governments and people with better and more timely statistics.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Coming to Kenya, I would like to mention that my ministry has initiated reforms that are necessary to provide our country with quality data using modern electronic technology. We realize that having set the goals of the Second Medium Term of Vision 2030 and those of devolution, we need some data we do not presently collect. We now have the added responsibility of collecting and recording

data by county, and of providing the county governments with the full capacity to collect and analyze data within the counties as provided for under schedule 4 of the constitution.

In the pursuit of continuous improvement of the quality of our official statistics at all levels, the country has implemented a number of programmes in the recent past. These include the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS), Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS), Education Management Information System (EMIS), the Health Management Information

System (HMIS) and the KENINFO data dissemination system. Through the Statistical Capacity Building Project (STATCAP), the country established the National Statistical System (NSS) with the objective of creating a platform for coordinated statistical development among institutions and capacity building for data producers as a way of enhancing the quality of our national statistics. These are the systems under which we intend to incorporate county data in cooperation with our county governments.

I wish to thank all our development partners who supported STATCAP and look forward to further cooperation as we implement

the necessary reforms in statistical capabilities as required by the constitution.

Currently, the Government through KNBS is drawing up a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). This is expected to provide the country with a strategy for developing statistical capacity across the national statistical system. It will have both medium and long term targets. The national statistical system will be a comprehensive and unified framework for continual assessment of user needs and priorities in statistics. It will also provide a road

map for building the capacity needed to meet needs in a more coordinated and efficient manner. The new reforms will provide a framework within which the gathering and breakdown of our official statistics will be made compliant with devolution.

In implementing the NSDS therefore we are also acutely aware of the role that our county governments, private sector, civil society, academic research staff, and our international development partners will continue to play in utilizing our statistics. In line with the participation requirements of the Constitution, I urge them to suggest

policy reforms and innovations, and to indicate better ways of collecting and disseminating official data, of the type that they use. I would like to take today's opportunity to assure all our partners, and all those who rely on data from KNBS, that we welcome feedback from you as we proceed to implement the NSDS in order to i serve all of you, and all Kenyans, much better.

In recognition of important role played by the KNBS under current reforms, the Government is in the process amending the Statistics Act 2006, which established the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics as an

independent agency, in order to align it with the current constitution. The proposed amendments to the Act will cater for standards and methodology in collecting data, supervision of the statistical system at national and county level, and technical support to the County Governments. The same amendment will also designate the rules to be followed in sample surveys, and the linkage of the county data sets to the national database. With these amendments the mandate of the Bureau under the new Constitution will be clearer and this will allow for comparability of statistics at the county, national, regional and international levels. It will also lead to harmony, and avoidance

of duplication, resulting in efficiency in production of statistics and service delivery.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The Ministry of Devolution and Planning continues to receive requests from our country governments to support them in building capacity for integrated county planning, strategic urban planning and all-round capability to track economic and social change in the counties. To meet that demand, KNBS will produce County Statistical Abstracts that should be a one stop shop for county based statistics, in the

same way that “Huduma Centres” will become a one-stop-shop for public service generally.

In the same spirit, the household and establishments master sampling frames from which guide all our surveys are being re-organised in order to provide data that is more accurate at both the county and national levels. In addition, the Government will undertake a second round the Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIHBS). We particularly need that data in order to understand what has happened to poverty since the first KIHBS survey of 2005.

It will also provide us with more reliable data on the state of family incomes, housing, health, employment, access to clean water, literacy, trade and agriculture activities.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

As you may be aware, it is now a requirement under the Government performance regulations for all Ministries and Departments to work towards realization of the ISO Quality Management Systems. This year's celebration of the "**African Statistics Day**" coincides with the award of ISO 9001:2008 Certificate to the Kenya National Bureau of

Statistics. The ISO 9001:2008 Certificate of compliance to Quality Management Systems was issued by SGS to KNBS in April 2013. This followed a rigorous and successful process of implementing quality management systems. As the Minister for Devolution and Planning I wish to congratulate the KNBS on this achievement, as it raises the number of agencies in the ministry that are ISO certified.

Good statistics should tell the full and honest story of the population from which they are collected. Over time, they should tell us what is happening in the economy, our society, and our capacity to govern

ourselves in accordance with the Constitution and our laws. Collecting reliable data largely depends on cooperation from the people of Kenya, first and foremost, and on all the stakeholder organizations represented here today. I want to thank them all for the cooperation and honesty with which they respond to requests for information by KNBS.

I would also like to thank our international development Partners for both technical and financial support that they continue giving towards statistical development in Kenya. As we proceed to implement the

reforms I have outlined, we shall continue to rely on this cooperation that has served Kenya so well.

It is now my pleasure, Ladies and Gentlemen, to declare this years' Statistics Day Celebrations officially opened. In addition I call upon all of you to join KNBS fraternity in also celebrating attainment of ISO 9001:2008 QMS.

Thank you.