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“Making Every Woman and Girl Count”



Editorial Board



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Our commitment to Gender Statistics Never in Doubt, Dr. Chuwa Affirms



Statistician General Dr. Alбина Chuwa addressing members of the press at the end of UN Women Regional Director of Eastern and Southern Africa Dr. Izeduwa Derex-Briggs (left) visit at NBS where she held talks with NBS management on the project of gender statistics. Right is UN Women Country Representative Ms Hodan Addou.

Tanzania has reaffirmed its readiness to continue cooperating with partners in producing gender statistics in order to deliver on both its national and global commitments in gender equality and women empowerment.

The Statistician General of Tanzania, Dr. Alбина Chuwa, told the Regional Director for East and Southern Africa UN Women, Dr. Izeduwa Derex-Briggs, that Tanzania's commitment to gender--

statistics has never been in doubt for the country believes it is fundamental if it is to achieve its longstanding goal of attaining social equality.

Statistician General made the remarks during talks with UN Women delegation led by Dr. Derex-Briggs held at NBS offices in Dodoma. The talks focused on strengthening production of gender statistics in Tanzania through global project of 'Making Every Woman and Girl Count'.

The Making Every Woman and

Girl Count (MEWGC) is a project which aims at providing updated and harmonised official gender statistics for formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national, regional and international programmes and policies.

Dr. Chuwa told the UN Women regional director, saying: "We (Tanzania) have political will and are committed to implementing this project as it is very important to our country". She added that the minister responsible for gender-

was championing to make this goal a success.

Statistician General insisted that the primary responsibility of national statistics body is to produce quality statistics, including that in gender, and avail them to policy makers, decision makers and other stakeholders for application.

She commended UN Women support in this area, a support which has made things move in the right direction as Tanzania, for the first time ever, has been able to integrate gender time use

in the recently ended Tanzania Household Budget Survey (2017-18 HBS) which will produce a very important aspect of gender statistics.

“The 2017/18 HBS will be of its kind because it has integrated time use module to determine how many hours or minutes women devote to various activities in a day and also has adopted multi-dimensional poverty approach to capture poverty levels among household members including women,” she elaborated.

Statistician General revealed further before the UN Women delegation that next year Tanzania was planning to conduct agricultural census, which will incorporate gender module, whereby she expressed her optimism that the UN body and other partners will support it.

During her visit, UN Women Regional Director Derex-Briggs announced that the UN body has granted Tanzania a total of US\$ 1 million to support implementation of ‘The Making Every Woman and Girl Count’ project.



NBS management team and UN Women delegation led by its Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa Dr. Izeduwa Derex-Briggs in a meeting held at NBS offices in Dodoma to discuss how to improve gender statistics in Tanzania.

Parliamentary Budget Committee Commends NBS, EASTC



A section of members of Parliamentary Budget Committee follow presentations from NBS and EASTC during a capacity building seminar on how to compile National Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) held at NBS offices in Dodoma.

Members of the Parliamentary Budget Committee showered praise to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the East African Statistics Training Centre (EASTC) for being in the forefront to support government efforts to turn the country into the middle income status through initiating application of new technologies.

They expressed their appreciation during a day-training workshop on Electronic Population Registration System (e-PRS) and Mobile Geographic Information System-technology held at NBS offices in Dodoma.

During the workshop, committee members learnt about how e-PRS system, which was developed to replace the old registration system, functions and briefed of the successful use of the system in Songwe Region after a pilot study done in Bagamayo District.

They also learnt about new technology in data collection known as Mobile Geographic Information System-Technology which was presented by Head of Geographical Information System at NBS, Mr. Benedict Mugambi.

The committee members urged the government to put aside in its budget enough funds to support use of these new technologies, which is rightly contributing to facilitate smoothing Tanzania's road towards a middle income country.

Committee members said "the two institutions have shown their relevance" to the country hence it is up to the government to ensure these programmes are fully implemented countrywide through allocating enough resources.

Gender Statistics a Must if Africa is to Achieve SDGs, Says UN Women Regional Rep

UN Women has said gender statistics is a flagship agenda for Africa to ensure the continent achieves Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The UN Women Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, Dr. Izeduwa Derex-Briggs, said it was unthinkable that the continent could live to the promise of achieving the SDGs call of “leaving no one behind” without gender statistics.

The UN Women Regional Director made the remarks during a meeting with NBS management under Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa at NBS offices in

Dodoma.

During the meeting, Dr. Izeduwa announced that the UN body will give Tanzania USD one million to support production of gender statistics through implementation of global project of “Making Every Woman and Girl Count”.

“If data can’t capture women and girls and we say we don’t want to leave any one behind, we will not achieve our goals,” she argued.

Dr. Izeduwa said there was the strong need to produce gender statistics as currently most such-

data were coming from non-official sources like NGOs, which were not accountable to most National Statistics Organisations (NSOs), hence the data they produce cannot be relied upon.

“These are complimentary data which are very important and above all we need them,” she said, adding that the key issue is to develop a methodology on how to capture these data and that what the Kigali meeting was assigned to do.

The Kigali meeting focused on fostering dialogue on the one hand between National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and emerging new data producers such as academia, civil society organisations (CSOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and dialogue, on the other hand, with data users including policymakers, decision makers, and civil society organisations.

The meeting aimed at identifying new and emerging opportunities to fill in gender data gaps within the framework of tracking progress with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as Agenda 2063 of the ‘Africa We Want’.



UN Women Regional Director of Eastern and Southern Africa Dr. Izeduwa Derex-Briggs speaking to the press about her visit and talks with NBS management which she held before facing the press.

Expert: Electronic Population Registration System (e-PRS) to Provide Real Time Population Data

Use of Electronic Population Registration System (e-PRS) is a step further to guarantee the country with real time population data and related information.

Introducing the system to members of the Parliamentary Budget Committee during capacity building workshop held at NBS offices in Dodoma, Dr. Frank Mkumbo, the rector of the East Africa Statistics Training Centre (EASTC) said the system was very efficient and effective because it is user friendly and provide real time data.

He told committee members that the program/system uses mobile smartphone or tablets using android application. However, he insisted that such a gadget must be registered.

“By using mobile phone, the system is a very efficient, which not only registers people but can distribute information and messages to residents in a very short time,” he said.

He added that the system also provides space to add more details of registered person which can be transferred when one relocates and with that it can assist in identifying fugitives.

He said after a rather slow start of-



Rector of Eastern and Southern Africa Statistics Training Centre (ASTC) Dr. Frank Mkumbo briefing parliamentary budget committee on new developed electronic Population Register (e-PRS) during capacity building seminar held at NBS offices in Dodoma.

the system in Bagamayo District, it was successfully implemented in Songwe Region and attributed the success to regional leadership commitment to the project and political will to implement it.

Dr. Mkumbo noted that the good thing about the system was that it was adaptable to and can be used with other systems, citing examples from the joining of National Addresses and Postcode Systems under the Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA).

He informed the committee that EASTC has now refined the system to enable registration to be done using normal mobile phones, which most people can afford.

The EASTC chief, however, noted that the only challenge so far experienced with is laxity on the part of village leaders and functionaries to transfer information in time.

He added that many institutions have shown interest to join EASTC in application of the system, which includes NIDA, NEC, RITA, TCRA etc.

The EASTC boss told the committee that his institution was working closely with NBS because of its wide knowledge and experience with stakeholders.

The new electronic population registration system is designed to replace the old system which uses non electronic system.

Activities under the Dissolved Planning Commission not Degraded, says Dr. Kazungu

The government has insisted that all activities under the disbanded Planning Commission were transferred to the Ministry of Finance and Planning and are now under the commission of national programmes.

Responding to queries from members of the Parliamentary Budget Committee, the Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Dr. Khatib Kazungu, said the commissioner of national programmes--

coordinates all activities which were under the planning commission.

“The activities were not cancelled, but they are well coordinated by the Commission of National Programmes which is under a commissioner with three deputies,” he insisted.

Some committee members showed concern because they were not aware of how the activities, which were under the disbanded commission, are being

handled in the ministry.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Permanent Secretary assured committee members that the Government acknowledges the importance of those two programmes and it was in the interest of the government to see to it that they were fully implemented and yield the intended results.

He emphasized that since the budget was a “participatory one” he will urge other ministries to allocate funds to facilitate their implementation.



Deputy Permanent Secretary Ministry of Finance and Planning Dr. Khatib Kazungu responding to questions from members of Parliamentary Budget Committee during capacity building seminar held at NBS offices in Dodoma.

UN Women Gives USD One Million to Tanzania



Members of UN Women delegation which was led by its Regional director for Eastern and Southern Africa, Dr. Izeduwa Derex-Briggs during talks held at NBS offices in Dodoma.

UN Women has announced to support Tanzania with a total of USD 1 million to strengthen production of gender statistics in the country.

Addressing members of the media at the end of her meeting with National Bureau of Statistics management, the UN Women Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, Dr. Izeduwa Derex-Briggs, said the UN body will provide the fund to facilitate implementation of 'Making Every Woman and Girl Count' Project, which aims at strengthening production of gender statistics in--

the country.

She told reporters that her organisation has come up with Making Every Woman and Girl Count project specifically to address the data gap in gender statistics, which if not properly solved can frustrate Africa's aspirations to achieve regional and global development goals.

"The reason why we came out with Making Every Woman and Girl Count is because any time you look for data on women and girls they are not there," Dr. Izeduwa noted.

According to Dr. Izeduwa, the project, which focuses on Policy aligned to gender, production of gender statistics and Gender statistics use in policy and decision making will run for three years from 2018 to 2020.

She explained that due to gender data paucity, her organisation had to seek assistance from other stakeholders to address the challenge to make sure Africa and other developing countries were able to produce gender statistics to monitor implementation of SDGs and other national development plans.

Dr. Izeduwa told reporters that Tanzania was one of the three countries in the region along with its neighbouring countries of Kenya and Uganda to pilot the project.

She added that the section of Tanzania was based on NBS' expertise and experience in production of gender statistics and it has decided that it was appropriate to start with such experienced institution with a well established system.

With such support, UN-Women will send international consultant



UN Women Country Representative Ms. Hodan Addou informing the press how cooperation between her office and NBS will pave the way for Tanzania to produce quality gender

in gender statistics to Tanzania and will be based at NBS offices in Dodoma. This, according to Dr. Izeduwa, will provide gender statisticians at NBS gain more experience and strengthen their capacities in gender field.

Meanwhile, UN Women Rep to Tanzania, Ms. Hodan Addou, told reporters that in SDGs there were specific gender indicators that UN Women thought were critical for countries to strengthen gender statistics to ensure implementation of those global goals.

She emphasised that the programme will definitely enhance the capacity of the National Bureau of Statistics to produce quality gender data that will be available on the one hand to users and on the other hand enable the country to track implementation of SDGs through strong gender data.

On other hand, Ms. Mariam Kitembe, who is the gender statistics focal person at NBS, said:, “Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda are the three countries to pilot this project.

Other countries are expected--

to learn from our experience. Our two statistics offices NBS and OCGS will collectively implement this project. We will work closely with UN Women to ensure we attain the three envisioned projects outcomes which are creating enabling policy environment, production of quality, comparable and regular gender statistics and ensure gender statistics are accessible to all users.”

“The reason why we came out with Making Every Woman and Girl Count is because any time you look for data on women and girls they are not there,” Dr. Izeduwa noted.

Application of New Technology will Ease Financial Burden to Government, Says Statistician General



Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa speaking during capacity building seminar for members of Parliamentary Budget Committee held at NBS Offices Dodoma.

“Whereas MGIS-T will reduce cartographic work at an unimaginable rate, rollout of e-PRS, will necessitate reduction of many questions in census questionnaire and that means saving huge amount of money,” she said.

She added that the saved money will be a major boost to the government as it would put it in other activities like improving social services in the country.

Dr. Chuwa told committee members that by adopting those technologies the scheduled--

The rolling out of Electronic Population Registration System (e-PRS) and application of Mobile Geographic Information System-technology (MGIS-T) are expected to greatly reduce financial burden to government in the next Population and Housing Census.

Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa told the Parliamentary Budget Committee that the two technologies, apart from easing census preparatory work and enumeration exercise, will also have a huge positive impact on financial matters.



Part of NBS staff listening to presentations on how to compile National Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) during a one day capacity building seminar for members of Parliamentary Budget Committee held at NBS offices in Dodoma.



Members of Parliamentary Budget Committee had seen with NBS management team and Eastern African Statistics Training Centre (EASTC) staff during training for the former on various NBS functions including how to compile National Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Consumer Price Index (CPI).

2022 Population and Housing Census would be less constraining and that they would make it possible to gather more information in a very short time, but more importantly, with the highest rate of accuracy.

She informed the committee that when it comes to statistics, Population and Housing Census is primary and that “the 2022 census will be a real time because we target to produce population census results of down to the village level,” she observed.

On rolling out of e-PRS, Statistician General told committee members that she was confident that the e-PRS would roll out the country and she will be happy to report to the committee of its implementation.

“There is a political will from the ministerial level to high leadership level. The Prime Minister experimented this system in Songwe Region and gave a nod to it. We expect that it will roll out soon,” she confidently asserted.

She urged Members of Parliament, including committee members, to assist the national statistics office by championing its functions.

The Statistician General promised to continue building capacity to Members of Parliament through provision of more workshops and concurred with the suggestion to take them to the field to get the feel of matters on the ground and have a clear understanding of the work.

Be Our Good Ambassadors in Parliament, Deputy Minister for Finance urges Parliamentary Budget Committee members



Deputy Minister for Finance and Planning Dr. Ashatu Kijaji responding to questions from members of Parliamentary Budget Committee during a one day seminar on how to compile National Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) held at NBS offices in Dodoma. Left is Committee chairperson, Kibakwe MP George Simbachawene, Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa and Central Bank Director of Economic Policy and Research Dr. Suleiman Missango.

The Deputy Minister for Finance and Planning, Dr. Ashatu Kijaji, has urged members of the Parliamentary Budget Committee to be good ambassadors to fellow members in the National assembly.

Wrapping up discussions during a one-day capacity building seminar held at NBS offices in Dodoma, the Deputy-Minister emphasized that statistics produced in the--

followed prescribed rules and procedures and that was why they were internationally comparable and accepted.

During the discussion, some committee members expressed concerns over some statistics released by the national statistics body but were later satisfied following clarifications from NBS staff.

Dr. Kijaji reminded committee--

committee members to seriously take President John Pombe Magufuli's recent call to all Tanzanians to have confidence in local professionals by supporting them rather than simply criticizing them for no reason.

She also urged them to put aside their political differences and support amendments to the Statistical Regulation of 2017 in order to safeguard national interests.

“It is our duty as members of the National Assembly and citizens of the United Republic of Tanzania to safeguard our national interests and amendments of Statistics Regulations of 2017 were made for the purpose of solely safeguarding our national interests,” Dr. Kijaji asserted.

On the economy, the Deputy Minister told committee members that the country’s economy was on the right track and that was why it was ranked the third among the six fastest growing economies in Africa.

On tax base, she told committee members that the government through her ministry was keen in widening tax base and that was why it assigned the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) with the sole responsibility of tax collection, whereas the ministry has set tax policy unit to identify sources of revenues.

“In a bid to increase revenue, our ministry has strengthened tax policy unit to improve tax base by identifying revenue sources and handed it to the revenue body to register them in the list of revenue sources,” Dr. Kijaji said.

She said the TRA research unit will now be conducting research on issues hindering implementation of its--

responsibilities and not researching about sources of revenue.

She said on the mining sector, the ministry was targeting small scale miners by issuing them with Identity Cards in an initiative similar to what has been done with the small traders, commonly known as machingas so as to identify their locations and make it easy for them to pay the relevant taxes.

“If some minerals are discovered in a region, then it will be the responsibility of Regional Commissioners and District Commissioners to identify those involved in mining so that they would be issued with IDs to facilitate payment of taxes,” she said adding that the regional and district leaders were to supervise and monitor the business to ensure everyone paid tax.

We have improved our payment system by introducing Government electronic-Payment Gateway (GePG) which allows us, the Government, to spot every payment made anywhere and at any time.

“With this system, my ministry recognizes where, when and who made payment or collected the revenue,” she affirmed.

Dr. Kijaji urged committee members and the entire National Assembly to support the system--

when placed before it and added that the payment system has been used in beverage companies where she said it proved very successful.

“We are no longer running after these companies’ managements ...the system is very transparent,” she stressed.

Responding to members’ concerns on why the so called ‘fast economic growth rate’ did not reflect on the lives of ordinary citizens, Dr. Kijaji was adamant that the GDP was not solely measured in terms of people having plenty of money in their pockets.

“GDP increase can be measured in various terms not through money in the pockets and people can see through benefits in the form of improvement, availability and access to various services provided by the government,” Dr. Kijaji elaborated.

She said the 3.5 annual inflation rate for the year 2018 was not coincidental but was a result of a call from President Dr. John Pombe Magufuli to the nation that “no government food, if people don’t work” and people heeded to the call by producing more food which contributed to lower the inflation rate.

Strengthen Data Collection at Source, Urges Parliamentary Budget Committee



Chairperson of Parliamentary Budget Committee George Simbachawene (centre) making a point during capacity building seminar for members of Parliamentary Budget Committee held at NBS offices Dodoma. On his right is deputy Minister for Finance and Planning Dr. Ashatu Kijaji and left is Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa.

The Parliamentary Budget Committee has urged the Ministry of Finance and Planning to devise a comprehensive data collection system, which would entail strengthening of data collection mechanism at the source.

Members of the committee expressed concerns over government's laxity to--

allocate enough statisticians at the district level where most of administrative data was collected.

They made the remarks during the capacity building workshop on how the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and National Consumer Price Index (CPI) were compiled.

During the workshop, which--

was organised by the Ministry of Finance and Planning, and facilitated by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), committee members stressed that for the government to do away with disaggregated statistics, it was to employ competent and enough personnel and place them at all sources of data in the country.

During discussions, some--

committee members raised alarm on some available statistics, which they said did not express the real situation as data was sourced from incompetent sources.

Committee members proposed to the government to strengthen agricultural statistics for the country to have a comprehensive data base in the sector, including cost of production of major crops, number of farmers and production size.

They said having all that can help government to formulate--

good policies on production and prices of products to serve farmers' interests.

However, committee members noted that much as the government recognised the importance of statistics, it has been reluctant to allocate adequate funds to support statistical activities. They therefore, they urged the government to invest more in production of quality official statistics.

The members also discussed the need for the government to-

review the criteria used in allocating resources to regions because some were of the opinion that the current methodology was not working for all regions.

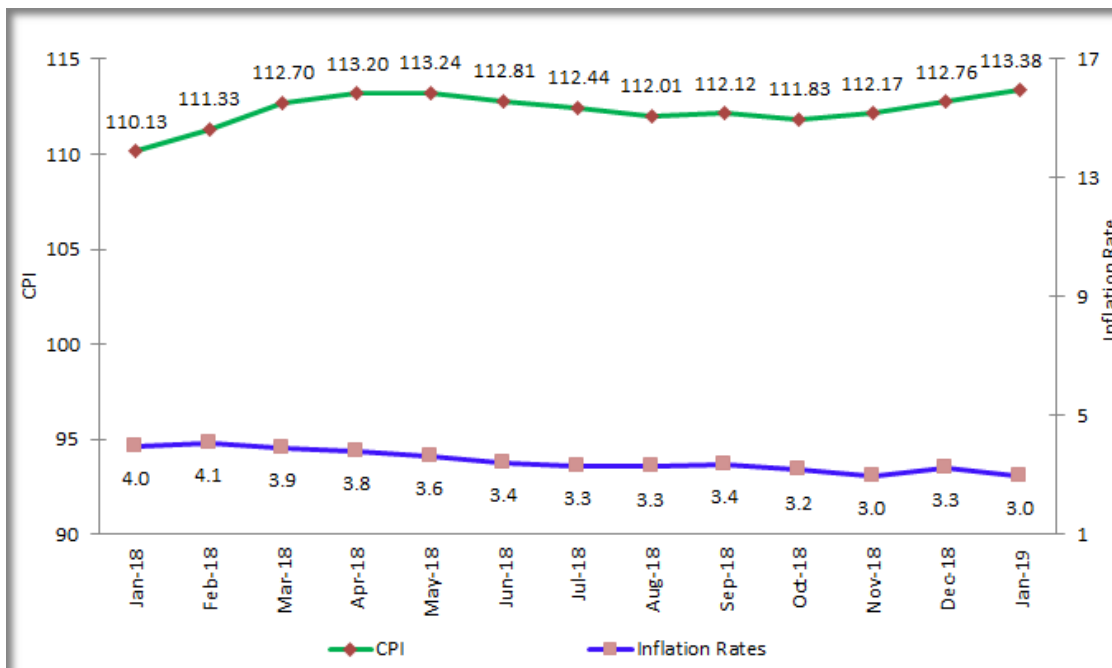
“The government to strengthen agricultural statistics for the country to have a comprehensive data base in the sector, including cost of production of major crops, number of farmers and production size.”



Deputy Minister for Finance and Planning Dr. Ashatu Kijaji (first right) chats with NBS and EASTC staff at the end of the one day seminar for Parliamentary Budget Committee held at NBS offices in Dodoma.

January Inflation Rate Drops to 3.0 Percent

Movement of National Consumer Price Indices (NCPI) and Inflation Rates from January, 2018 – January, 2019. (Dec., 2015 = 100)



Inflation rate for January, 2019 has decreased to 3.0 percent from 3.3 percent recorded in December, 2018.

Addressing reporters in Dodoma when releasing the Consumer Price Index (CPI) figures, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Director of Population Census and Social Statistics, Mr. Ephraim Kwesigabo, said the decrease of CPI in January was caused by the decrease of price change of commodities compared to speed of price change recorded in December, 2018.

Mr. Kwesigabo said the overall index increased to 113.38 in--

January, 2019 from 112.76 recorded in December, 2018.

“The CPI figure has dropped to 3.0 percent in January, 2019 but the overall index increased because of some food and non-food items that contributed to its increase,” noted Mr. Kwesigabo.

He mentioned some food items that contributed to such increase as rice, which increased by 2.8 percent, white maize grains by 6.3 percent, vegetables by 1.2 percent, round potatoes by 4.5 percent, sweet potatoes by 2.6 percent, dry cassava by 2.4 percent and cooking bananas 6.0 percent.

On non-food items which contributed to increase in index figure, he named children’s school uniform which increased by 5.0 percent, private primary school fee by 2.2 percent and private secondary school fee by 2.6 percent.

Mr. Kwesigabo said the inflation rate for food consumed at home and away from home has decreased to 2.3 percent in January, 2019 from 2.6 percent recorded in December, 2018 while the 12 month index change for non-food products in January, 2019 has decreased to 5.1 percent from 5.4 percent recorded in December. 2018.

Five Percent Inflation Rate favourable for our Economy, says Central Bank of Tanzania

Tanzania has set, for long term economic targets, five percent inflation rate as favourable rate for the national economy.

The Central Bank's Director of Economic Policy and Research, Dr. Suleiman Missango, told the parliamentary Budget Committee that the rate was within the range set by both regional blocs to which Tanzania is a member.

He said the East African Community (EAC) member states had agreed on an inflation rate of not above 8 percent, whereas the Southern African Development Community (SADC) had set--

the rate between 3 percent and 7 percent.

Responding to questions from committee members, the Director said that inflation was not a bad thing an economy, but it only became problematic when it reached the level of hyperinflation or when the rate changed frequently.

"Frequent change of inflation rate is not healthy to an economy that is why countries mandate central banks to regulate it to ensure it remains low and stable," he said.

He further explained that when inflation stands at zero percent, it is also not good for the economy because it is likely to go down to negative which is bad because when it reaches that point it causes massive drop in production.

"When it is negative, it pushes prices of goods down, which ultimately discourages production and as a result the country can experience economic down fall," elaborated BOT director concluding that a negative inflation was bad to the economy as much as an inflation of above 10 percent.

Citing examples from SADC economic bloc, the director pointed out at Zimbabwe, which in October, 2018, it had registered an inflation of 20.9 percent, in November 2018 inflation stood at 31 per cent; Angola registered 18 percent in October, 18.4 percent in November; and Malawi 10 percent during the same period. Other countries, he said, registered single digit inflation rate.



A section of members of Parliamentary Budget Committee follow presentations from NBS and EASTC during a capacity building seminar on how to compile National Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) held at NBS offices in Dodoma.

The Rebasing of National Account Is at an Advanced Stage, Says Statistician General

Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa said rebasing of the National Accounts is on the advanced stage and expected to be released soon.

Speaking during a meeting with Development Partners Poverty Monitoring Group (PMG), Dr. Chuwa noted that the process was on the final stage and thanked the International Monetary Fund - East Africa Technical Assistance Centre (IMF – East AFRITAC) based in Dar es Salaam for its technical support.

Statistician General informed PMG members that NBS has completed incorporating all comments given by IMF and World Bank during the last review and hoped that the latter would respond soon to it.

“Among issues raised by IMF and World Bank was on data sources, we have worked on the comments and we expect to release a new rebased national account immediately when we receive clearance from the duo,” Dr. Chuwa explained.

She admitted that rebasing of national Account is not an easy

task in the whole of Africa and added that the last time Tanzania received a technical support from Statistics Denmark but she noted that she now sees “a built capacity” in the department of national accounts as the staff can now compile Supply and Use Tables used for the rebasing process.

“During the process we received technical support from IMF East AFRITAC which supported strengthen capacity of National Accounts Department at NBS,” she said.

The current released GDP series used the 2007 prices to compile real GDP.

Rebasing is the process of replacing old base prices with the recent base prices that reflect the production, consumption and investment patterns that have happened in the economy in the recent past. Rebasing updates the list of products available in the economy as continuous developments and innovations lead to new products to appear in the--

market while obsolescence cause old products to disappear from the market.

Meanwhile, it was mentioned during the meeting that since the rebasing of national accounts relied on censuses and surveys as well as administrative data, checking of data sources and quality was a concern that was why it was recommended to NBS to recheck them to ensure there was no compromise on quality.

Therefore, it was recommended that special emphasis should be put on improving data collection procedures at MDAs, departments and agencies to ensure compliance not only in reporting but also quality of reporting.

On service industry data, it was further urged that more surveys were conducted to collect data on the service industry in order to establish how much the industry contributed to the national income.

Advocate Use of Statistics, SG urges MPs

Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa has asked Members of National Assembly to advocate use of statistics in planning, implementation and monitoring of national development programmes.

She said Parliament has a big role to play to ensure national development plans and programmes were a result of evidence-based decision making process not based on opinion.

“The main task of all National Statistics Offices around the world is to show the real situation of the country’s affairs through statistics and leave to government, policy makers, and decision makers, and businesses to make use of them,” she said.

It is through statistics, Dr. Chuwa said, that policies can be reviewed and improved, decision can be made and programmes can be evaluated and nation can understand if it was still on the right socio-economic track or otherwise.

The Statistician General emphasized that it should be the interest of parliamentarians

to see to it that statistics defines the country’s destiny by encouraging its use in all government businesses.

Dr. Chuwa told the committee that the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) will continue with advocacy work to educate stakeholders on the importance of statistics and its use.

“We normally engage our stakeholders when we have a big survey ahead of us and at dissemination stage using our communication and advocacy strategy according the available resources,” she noted.

She informed the committee that in producing economic statistics, NBS worked closely with the Bank of Tanzania and the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and hinted that a process was underway to establish a one-stop statistics centre for all national data.

Dr. Chuwa further explained that in its efforts to strengthen production of quality statistics, the government was currently targeting to improve

data collection at the lower level by employing competent data collectors, specifically those who have undergone training in official statistics at the East African Statistics Training Centre (EASTC).

“In order to have statisticians at this level in all district councils, government also targets to build statistics offices in every district encompassing NIDA, RITA and NBS to work together to establish a common database,” she explained.

Meanwhile, Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa said there was the urgent need of build a strong mechanism, which will enable the government to collect real data in the mining sector. It seems, according to Dr. Chuwa, currently available statistics on minerals were not authentic enough.

Statistician General promised the committee that NBS would work on its request to establish the cost of production of major crops to assist the government to set indicative prices to protect producers from loss.

Stakeholders: There is Urgent Need to Improve Collection and Quality of Administrative Data



Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa speaking during development partners' Poverty Monitoring Group meeting held at African development bank conference hall in Dar es Salaam. During the meeting Dr. Chuwa briefed participants on current status of Rebasing of Tanzania National Accounts and status of the 2017/18 Tanzania Household Budget Survey.

Given the fact that administrative data is increasingly becoming important, stakeholders have urged the government to put more efforts in improving its collection and ensure its quality.

During a recent consultative meeting between the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the Development Partners Poverty Monitoring Team (PMT), participants expressed the pressing need for the government to strengthen the mechanism of collection of--

administrative data to ensure quality because the data form a major component of the national statistical ecosystem.

According to Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa, the meeting, held at the African Development Bank (AfDB) Office's conference hall along Shaaban Robert Street in Dar es Salaam, was aimed at updating members of PMT Group of rebasing of the Tanzania National Accounts and status of the 2017-18 Household Budget Survey--

(2017-18 HBS).

Ms. Elizabeth Talbert, from World Bank, who was a co-chairperson of the group emphasised quality of administrative data because any rebasing of the national accounts heavily relies on such data.

“Whereas the exercise mostly relies on administrative data, its quality is very important, that is why we advise you to review your data by checking sources and quality to ensure--

there was no compromise on data quality,” she advised.

Ms. Talbert added that strengthening the means of obtaining quality administrative data will be a big step towards achieving the global goal of not leaving anyone behind as this would provide quality data that will help in monitoring efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For her part, Statistician General Dr. Chuwa informed the meeting that the government acknowledged the significance of administrative data and the role it plays in the national data ecosystem.

She said administrative data is global issue hence strengthening its collection is crucial given the weight it carries in the national statistics.

Dr. Chuwa said by having effective and efficient administrative data collection mechanisms, the government was poised to get quality data as well as save money from surveys.

“Surveys are very costly, but if we are able to reliably collect administrative data, then there will be no need to conduct--



Ms. Alexandra Silfverstolpe Managing Director of the Sweden based DataActLab addressing media on Development of SDG Portal for Tanzania at African Development Bank Offices in Dar es Salaam

many of them because already administrative data will provide most of the required data,” she insisted.

Dr. Chuwa told the meeting that Tanzania has been exemplary in taking drastic measures towards strengthening its national statistics system citing the decision to obtain a credit for the purpose of implementing the National Statistical Master Plan, which was successfully completed last June.

Currently, she added, the government was weighing its options whether to take another loan to finance the--

second Statistical Master Plan, of which strengthening the administrative data was one of the priority areas.

During the meeting, members were also briefed on the development of the Tanzania Development Portal, which targets enabling Tanzania to track progress against SDGs and the Second Five Year National Development Plan (2016/2017-2020/2021).

Tanzania to Establish Special Web Portal to Track Implementation of SDGs

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), in collaboration with its stakeholders, is developing a web portal to enable Tanzania to track progress of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Second Year National Development Plan (FYDP II, 2016/2017-2020/2021).

Presenting progress report on the development of the portal to the Development Partners Poverty Monitoring Group (PMG), Ms. Alexandra Silfvestolpe of DataActLab from Sweden said the portal, christened Tanzania Goal Tracker, will improve transparency and accountability for all actors engaged in implementation of the 2030 agenda.

Describing about the portal, Ms Silfvestolpe said it will help Tanzania to track performance at the national, district or city levels, broken down by gender and age; learn whether the country and the districts were meeting their targets for 2030 and get insight into data via maps, bar

charts and line graphs.

She further explained that the digital portal will benefit a range of users from public, who are curious to learn key facts about SDGs, Tanzania 2030 and Agenda 2063, to technical experts, who are interested in producing complex analytical outputs that could shape countries' national policies.

These include central and local government officials, parliamentarians, international organisations and donor community, media, civil society, academia, research institutions and business community.

Meanwhile, Ms. Silfvestolpe told members of the press at the end of the meeting that she was impressed that there was strong commitment on the government side to support the portal which is very important given the fact that it will be accessible to more stakeholders.

"The most important thing is for leadership to be behind it and turn data into accessible--

information. It is understood that data which cannot be accessed, which cannot be used has no value to anyone," she explained and added that that was why her team was excited to work with government of Tanzania through NBS and start to track data that exists in Tanzania.

Ms. Silfvestolpe further told the press that there were a lot of data that was missing but "we can now know what data is missing and what is available and one can have a good discussion on how one can fill that data gap".

She emphasised that data is absolutely crucial to drive information, decision making and impact on results because unless "we know where needs are, where we have improved and where we have not, it will be very difficult to decide where exactly resources should be targeted and address those needs".

The other stakeholder collaborating with NBS in the construction of Tanzania's Goal Tracker portal is Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation of Sweden.

Development Partners Shower Praise on NBS



Ms. Alexandra Silfverstolpe Managing Director of the Sweden based DataActLab explaining to PMG members and NBS team on how Tanzania will be able to track progress against SDGs and its second Five Year Development Plan through created SDG Portal.

Development Partners' Poverty Monitoring Group (PMG) has showered praise on the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) for successfully conducting the 2017/18 National Household Survey (2017-18 HBS).

Speaking during the group meeting with NBS Management at the African Development Bank Offices in Dar es Salaam, co-chairperson of the group, Ms. Elizabeth Talbert from World Bank said it was pleasing to see NBS had now built a strong capacity to undertake such surveys without

much assistance from outside.

“The capacity building made to NBS through World Bank has made the national statistics body more competent and moved further in professionalism,” Ms. Talbert said and reaffirmed the bank’s continued support to NBS.

She told members of the group that whereas the HBS report was in the final stages, there were some gaps in poverty analysis and urged members to kindly chip in for those who were ready with resources.

She noted that the application of new technology had prompted NBS to be able to finalise the survey report much earlier.

In a brief presentation on HBS status, the Director of Statistics Operations, Mr. Irenius Ruyobya, said data cleaning process was going on well and it was expected that key findings would be ready by the end of January, 2019 and main report was expected to be released in March 2019.

MPs' contributions/interventions During Statistical Training



- In order to get a fair deal, the government needs to make a comprehensive review on how it allocates resources to reflect needs of every region. Five regions (not named) have been allocated insufficient fund over the years and when we asked, the minister had no clear answers. The government, through NBS, must collect data on cashew nut farmers and the production that will assist the government to have clear picture of cashew nut sector. – *(Hon. Abdallah Chikota; Dodoma, 16 January, 2019)*
- “These programmes must be sustainable. On ePRS, I am worried about the capacity of the people who are supposed to implement/collect information; hence the government must strengthen their capacity”. – *(Hon. Abdallah Chikota; Dodoma, 19 January, 2019)*



- It is high time now for the government to employ statisticians in every data/statistics source to ensure smooth collection of all available information/statistics. More education is needed to make sure producers mainly those who own industries cooperate with government in data collection. - *(Hon. Albert Obama; Dodoma, 16 January, 2019)*
- Government must allocate more resources to NBS to enable it run these programmes to ensure sustainability. - *(Hon. Albert Obama; Dodoma, 19 January, 2019.)*



“These type of training are vital to enhance our knowledge. It is therefore important to be extended to all Members of Parliament. It will be more of beneficial if such training will also involve some practical’s as suggested by one of the resource persons”- *(Hon. Medrad Lutengano Kigola; Dodoma, 19 January, 2019)*



“We hope this technology (Mobile Geographic Information System) will help to solve boarder conflicts which is rampant in many places in the country particularly in new districts. If not resolved some people may be left uncouncted during the coming census”. – *(Hon. Allan Kiula; Dodoma, 19 January, 2019).*



- “Our target is to reduce poverty among our people. Here, we need a thorough discussion on how to make informed decision on resource allocation in national budget to target the poor. Do we really have statistics about people who are involved in labour/production and those who are not?”
- As we speak peasants are becoming poorer and poorer because of low prices against cost of production. Therefore, the Government must establish cost of production of all major crops and set minimum price at the market to help peasants to at least recoup their cost. That will make our agriculture more sustainable!” – *(Hon. George Simbachawene; Dodoma, 16 January, 2019)*



“I am always surprised to see Kigoma being regarded as the poorest region in the country while we have never experienced famine like other regions. Are our statistics genuine? On ePRS, it must be rolled out country wide. NBS and PORALG must sit together and advise the government on how to allocate resources including Constituency Development Fund (CDF) on the basis of available statistics” – *(Hon. Asna Mwilima; Dodoma, 19 January, 2019)*

NBS PICTORIAL NEWS



Ms. Alexandra Silfverstolpe Managing Director of the Sweden based DataActLab explaining to PMG members and NBS team on how Tanzania will be able to track progress against SDGs and its second Five Year Development Plan through created SDG Portal.



Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa answers questions from members of the press at the end of Development Partners' Poverty Monitoring Group (PMG) meeting held at African Development Offices, Dar es Salaam.

NBS PICTORIAL NEWS



Participants to the Training workshop on Global Programming System (GPS) to Implementing Partners (IP) – Phase II; the workshop was held at NBS Conference Room, Dodoma.



Part of supervisors of the 2018/19 National Panel Survey at a training session held at former NBS office headquarters along Kivukoni Front, Dar es Salaam.

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)

VISION

To become a one-stop centre for official statistics in Tanzania.

MISSION

To produce quality official statistics and services that meet needs of national and international stakeholders for evidence based planning and decision making.

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