



# NBS NEWS LETTER

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**NBS: "A ONE STOP CENTRE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN TANZANIA"**



## Communicating Statistics is a Challenge, says NBS Chief



*NBS Director General Dr. Albina Chuwa opens the recently held Bureau's Regional Staff meeting in Dodoma where she emphasized close collaboration between NBS regional offices with regional and district statisticians in order to produce quality administrative data.*

THE Director General of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Dr. Albina Chuwa, has admitted that to most of statisticians communicating statistics remains a challenge which the Bureau was determined to overcome.

She told NBS regional staffs during a workshop in Dodoma recently that, notwithstanding excellent work statisticians have been doing in producing statistics, yet they lack communications skills to disseminate them.

“We know that it is a challenge-

to most of us here but we have to overcome this because whatever we produce must be communicated to our stakeholders,” she said.

Dr. Chuwa said she was impressed by the initiative of the department of Finance, Administration and Marketing for the introduction of communication modules in this year's workshop which was new to most members of the staff.

“It was perfect and fitting thing to do for today's environment, that is, to give a snapshot--

of communication skills to our regional staff because such skills will improve their performance in communicating, disseminating and advocacy of statistics products,” the Director General said.

She urged regional statistical offices to become more vigilant to ensure all statistics collected at the regional and district levels follow fundamental principles of official statistics and added that it was the duty of NBS regional offices to support statisticians at those levels.





*Part of NBS staff from regional offices attending recently held meeting held in Dodoma.*

The NBS chief called for continued support to all stakeholders including the media and urged RSMs to work closely with offices of regional commissioners so as to support data collection and dissemination.

She thanked regional offices staff for their hard work and tireless efforts in implementing TSMP which yielded great successes and asked them to support TSMP II which targets improving collection of routine data system and strengthening regional statistics offices.

Dr. Chuwa emphasized that it was very important to convene such meetings as they were a--

good platform to learn new things and share experiences from different duty stations.

Meanwhile, the NBS Field Operation Manager, Dr. Margret Martins, said that the meeting of NBS Regional Offices was key to the successful implementation of institution's strategic objectives as stipulated in NBS Strategic Plan.

She noted that the main objective of the annual meeting was to make Regional offices abreast with ongoing developments in the sphere of statistics profession/system as well as help exchange of experience in performing their duties.

Dr. Martins told participants that the first two days were dedicated to orienting regional staff with issues of communication and publicity which has taken centre stage in today's institutional affairs.

She commended regional offices for the job well done by achieving 80 percent of targets for the year 2017/2018 and pledge to continue collaboration with regional offices but urged more hard work.

Dr. Martins expressed her appreciation to the NBS management particularly director general for accepting to hold the meeting.

# Mwakyembe Lauds NBS



*Minister of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports Dr. Harrison Mwakyembe addresses the opening of the two-day media workshop on Statistics held in Morogoro recently.*

The Minister of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Dr. Harrison Mwakyembe, has commended the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) for conducting media training on how to write statistics-related stories.

Speaking during the opening of the two-day training workshop for editors and senior reporters held at Magadu Complex on the outskirts of Morogoro Town, the minister noted that such trainings were important as they fill the gap left in--

journalism curricular/curriculum which do not offer training in data statistics reporting.

“Editors are the ones who assess/weigh the worthiness/value of the news stories before being published so it is very crucial that they have good statistical literacy,” he said.

The minister emphasized provision of more training to journalists on statistics writing as statistics have now dominated news writing--

because of the increasing use of statistics in daily lives.

“Statistics has dominated our today’s life-be it economic, political, social and sports hence we as journalists cannot shy away from using statistics if we are to achieve quality journalism” Minister stressed.

Dr. Mwakyembe explained that journalism statistics gave them freedom and confidence of what they--

were reporting because it takes the was evidence-based which distance them from any accusation of nepotism, partiality and kickbacks.

By so doing, he added journalists would go hand in hand with Article 18(d) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania which denotes "citizen rights to be informed" accordingly without bias or prejudice.

The minister underscored the importance of media in statistics dissemination not only because of its wide coverage but also the way media personnel can explain how--

useful statistics are to their audiences' daily lives.

Dr. Mwakyembe was impressed to note that there was a close working relationship between NBS and media which he said that relationship is so important because media is acting as facilitator of NBS work of publicity and educating the public on the importance of statistics in the country.

He challenged editors to make a self-assessment of how they report statistics information in their news stories to see if they abide with ethics of journalistic--

writing.

"You need to ask yourselves which types of statistics you are reporting, and which ones you do not, how do you report them, the motives behind such reporting or otherwise. Is it professional motives or political one?"

Minister Mwakyembe used the occasion to thank NBS management for the support rendered to its ministry in preparation of the ministry's statistics and expressed his optimism that NBS will continue its support in the future.



*Part of editors and senior reporters follow presentation from one of the resource persons (not in the photograph) during the two-day media workshop on Statistics organized by NBS recently in Morogoro.*



## NBS to Continue Working Closely with Media

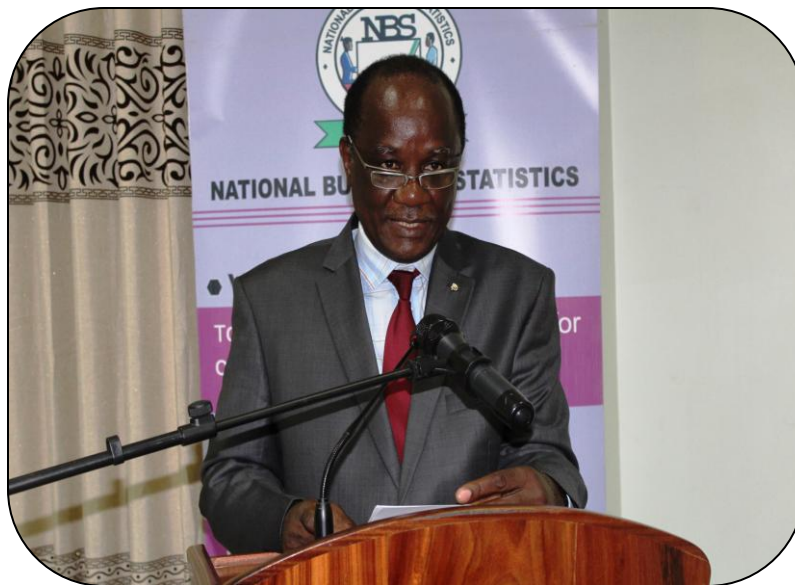
THE National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) will continue to work closely with media in its efforts to educate the public on the importance of statistics and its usage.

The Director General of NBS, Dr. Albina Chuwa, made the pledge in a speech read on her behalf by Director of Statistics Operations, Mr. Irenius Ruyobya, during the opening of two-day workshop for editors and senior reporters from mainstream media on statistics activities held in Morogoro recently.

In her speech, Dr. Chuwa paid tribute to the long established working relations between NBS and media which she said had immensely contributed to the development of statistics in the country.

“Media are our immediate partners; they are part and parcel in almost all major data collection exercises involved from preparations until release of data collected,” she said.

She further explained that it was an established norm that before



*NBS Director of Statistics Operations Irenius Ruyobya make a statement on behalf of NBS Director General Dr. Albina Chuwa during the opening of the media workshop on statistics organised by NBS in Morogoro recently.*

like Household Budget Survey, Population Census and the like, NBS prepares special orientation program with media to inform them about the survey so as to educate the public and call for their participation.

She said such involvement underlines the importance NBS attaches to the vital role that the media plays in promoting statistical activities and in educating the public on the importance of statistics in national development.

The NBS boss pledged to continue organizing training --

programmes for media practitioners to enhance their knowledge and skills in statistical reporting and increase statistics literacy among members of the media.

According to the NBS Director General, the workshop was part of the implementation of NBS Communication and Publicity programme aiming at educating the public on NBS activities as stipulated in 2015 Statistics Act. Indeed, she said holding such training fulfils objectives of the 2014-2015 Client Service Charters.

## Tanzania's Annual GDP Grows by 7.1 percent

Tanzania's annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from January to December, 2017 has grown by 7.1 percent.

The GDP at current prices in absolute terms for the year 2017 increased to TZS 116.1 trillion from TZS 103.1 trillion in 2016.

According to the Annual GDP report released through NBS website, the value of annual GDP in 2017 at constant prices in absolute terms has increased to TZS 50.5 trillion in 2017 from TZS 47.1 trillion recorded in 2016, equivalent to an increase of 7.1 percent.

Sectors that recorded growth in 2017 and which increased significantly the rate of GDP included mining and quarrying, water supply, transportation and storage, information and communication; and construction.

Mining and quarrying activities that include extraction of minerals occurring naturally such as solids (coal and ores), liquids (petroleum) or gases (natural gas) increased in 2017 to TZS 1.98 trillion from TZS 1.68 trillion recorded in 2016 which is the equivalent of 17.5-

percent.

The growth of mining and quarrying activities happened concurrently with increase in natural gas production, diamond and coal. Coal production was increased due to the government decision to ban import of coal while natural gas production increased to meet the demand of gas for electricity generation and new industries connected to the gas pipeline.

Agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishing activities, which include crop harvesting, animal production, crop harvesting from plantation plants and wildlife products, fish production and fish products also increased in 2017. The added value for the sector at constant prices increased to TZS 10.3 trillion in 2017 from TZS 9.9 trillion in 2016, equivalent to an increase of 3.6 percent.

The report indicates that another activity which resulted in growth of GDP is crop production, which increased to TZS 5.3 trillion from TZS 5.1 trillion recorded a year before,--

being the equivalent of 3.7 percent growth.

Growth recorded in crop production was due to an increase in the harvest of different crops such as maize that increased by 8.7 percent from 6,149 thousand metric tons in 2016 to 6,681 thousand tons in 2017, Sorghum/millet increased by 6.1 percent from 1,003 tons in 2016 to 1,064 thousand tons in 2017.

At the same time, beans/peas increased by 18.3 million from 1,959 thousand tons in 2016 to 2,318 thousand tons in 2017. Potato (round and sweet potatoes) increased by 34.7 percent from 1,491 thousand tons in 2016 to 2,800 thousand tons in 2017.

The mining and quarrying activities increased to TZS 1.98 trillion from TZS 1.68 trillion in 2016 equivalent to an increase of 17.5 percent.

Not only that but also, manufacturing activities have added value to the tune of TZS 3.719 trillion increase in 2017 up from TZS 3.473 trillion recorded in 2016 which is equivalent to an increase of 7.1 percent.

## Journalists urge NBS to Use Simple Language

Media has urged the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) to use simple language in disseminating statistical information to enable better understanding of statistics to all stakeholders.

The call was made during a two-day media workshop on statistics which was organized by NBS and held at Magadu Conference Centre in Morogoro Region.

Editors and senior reporters from main stream media and some from Morogoro radio and television stations who attended the workshop were of the view that statistical language is still full of technical jargon hence they face difficulties to communicate statistical message to their audiences.

“It is a purely technical language which is difficult for a normal person to grasp,” said one of the participants and insisted that “simple language is at the heart of any successful communication.”

They noted that it was high time for NBS to find a solution to this problem and to start --

with, they requested NBS to translate into Kiswahili its book titled Concepts and Definitions which they said was fundamental in understanding statistics reports.

The workshop proposed introduction of statistics in journalism curriculum and urged NBS to play a bigger role in persuading colleges and universities of the matter.

Apart from expressing their appreciation to NBS--

management for holding the workshop the journalists proposed these workshops to be held regularly to build partnership for the betterment of statistical system in Tanzania.

*“It is a purely technical language which is difficult for a normal person to grasp,” said one of the participants and insisted that “simple language is at the heart of any successful communication.”*



**Minister of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports Dr. Harrison Mwakyembe (middle) in a group photograph with editors and senior reporters who attended the two-day workshop on Statistics organized by NBS recently in Morogoro**



## NBS Annual Regional Offices Staff Meeting a Success, says FOM



*Field Operation Manager (FOM), Dr. Margret Martin speaks during the opening of the NBS regional staff meeting held in Dodoma recently.*

The two-week annual review meeting of National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) staffs from regional offices was a success, says Field Operation Manager (FOM) Dr. Margret Martins.

Dr. Martins said apart from usual official business, the staff took their time to jointly recreate through organized sport bonanza which was a thrilling one.

She said she was satisfied with the way this year's meeting was organized and thanked all heads

of departments for their support which ultimately led to a successful conclusion of the meeting.

Dr. Martins noted that she was delighted and encouraged by the enthusiasm shown by the participants throughout the meeting and commended them for their commitment to work.

During the meeting, participants discussed and shared experiences on the--

implementation of various programmes and also had the opportunity to learn contemporary issues surrounding production and dissemination of official statistics.

This year's meeting was unique as it admitted some staffs because apart from routine program, part of the session was used to orient them on communication and publicity issues.

The communication content was tailored to suit communication and publicity needs for regional offices particularly regional statistical managers who by virtue of their position represent Director General.

The training was aimed at imparting skills and knowledge on how to communicate statistical information to stakeholders including media, issues of institutional image building and protecting institutional reputation.

As NBS regional spokespersons, participants were also briefed on the

content of the 2016 Access to Information Act which guarantees citizen of any information from public office which was not restricted by law.

Introduction of this Act was very pertinent since regional statistics offices were among the keys sources of information in their respective regions particularly that of statistics.

The staff under field operation section had the opportunity to visit new NBS office building situated at Makulu and took souvenir photographs which they--

shared in social media.

What was more fascinating in this year's meeting was leisure aspect of the gathering where the group organized a sport bonanza which attracted old and young sports men and women. It was a gathering to remember!

*“Participants discussed and shared experiences on the implementation of various programmes and also had the opportunity to learn contemporary issues surrounding production and dissemination of official statistics.”*



*Some of the NBS regional staff including regional statistics Managers listens to presentation from one of the facilitators during the recently held meeting in Dodoma.*

## Inflation Rate Continues Declines Further

The headline inflation rate for June, 2018 has decreased to 3.4 percent from 3.6 percent compared with that of May, 2018.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam when releasing the National Consumer Price Index (CPI) for May, 2018 the Director of Population Census and Social Statistics of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Mr. Ephraim Kwesigabo, said the decrease of the CPI was caused by the decrease of the speed of price change for commodities in June, 2018 compared to the speed of price change recorded in the previous month.

“The CPI continues to decrease as now in this month June, 2018 it dropped to 3.4 percent compared to 3.6 recorded earlier. The decrease was mainly due to fall in speed of price change in June, 2018 and resulted to drop in overall index to 112.81 from 113.24 recorded in May, 2018.

Mr. Kwesigabo further that said the decrease of the overall index was caused by the decrease in price for non-food items. For example, beer decreased by 1.1 percent, maintenance and repair--

of carpentry and floors by 1.4 percent, cooking gas by 0.6 percent, firewood by 6.3 percent, maintenance and repair of transport equipment by 8.5 percent, electronic equipments by 2.0 percent, food and drinks from restaurants and hotels by 0.2 percent and hair dressing for women by 0.1 percent.

He said the inflation rate for food consumed at home and away from home has increased by 3.8 percent in June from 3.2 percent recorded in May while the 12 month index change for non-food products has decreased to 4.0 percent from 4.5 percent recorded in May, 2018.

The trend of CPI continued to drop from January which was 4.0 percent, February 4.1 percent, March 3.9 percent, April 3.8 percent, and May 3.6 percent and June 3.4 percent.

*“The CPI continues to decrease as now in this month June, 2018 it dropped to 3.4 percent compared to 3.6 recorded earlier. The decrease was mainly due to fall in speed of price change in June, 2018 and resulted to drop in overall index to 112.81 from 113.24 recorded in May, 2018.”*



**NBS director of Population Census and Social Statistics Mr. Ephraim Kwesigabo announces National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) for June, 2018. Left is Ruth Minja, NBS Environmental Statistics and Analysis Manager**



## NBS PICTORIAL NEWS



*Environmental Statistics and Analysis Manager at NBS Ms Ruth Minja addresses the media during the stakeholder's workshop on Sustainable Goals (SDGs) held at CAG conference hall in Dodoma recently.*



*Communication and Public Relations specialist from Ministry of Work, Transport and Communication Mr. Innocent Mungy presents a paper titled Communication for Managers during NBS regional staff meeting held in Dodoma recently.*

# NBS PICTORIAL NEWS



*Stakeholders at the fifth workshop on assessing data gap for Five Year Development Plan and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the theme make cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable held in Dodoma at CAG conference Hall recently.*



*Stakeholders at the workshop on assessing data gap for Five Year Development Plan and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) held in Kigoma recently*



# **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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