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



Editorial Board



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We will Continue Improving Environment for Production of Statistics, Pledges Minister Mpango

The Minister for Finance and Planning, Dr. Philip Mpango, has reaffirmed government commitment to continue improving environment for production and dissemination of official statistics in Tanzania.

He said the Fifth Phase Government led by President John Pombe Magufuli was always keen to see those entrusted with various responsibilities in the government and its institutions are provided with friendly and-

appropriate working environment so that they can perform their duties beyond expectations.

He made the remarks when he was laying the foundation stone for the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) regional office building in Kigoma.

“This office building is one of those efforts to ensure we accord our employees good working conditions that can make them deliver in their duties comfortably and attain-

the expected results like production of quality statistics in the case of NBS staff,” he said.

In his speech, Minister Mpango underscored the importance of quality statistics in planning, monitoring and implementation of plans and programmes and commended NBS for providing the government and other stakeholders with the much-needed quality statistics.



Minister for Finance and Planning Dr. Philip Mpango (right) and Kigoma Regional Administrative Secretary Rashid Mchatta (left) holding the cloth after the minister laid the foundation stone of the NBS office in Kigoma.

“Without quality statistics, there is no way we can accurately measure our progress and that is why with available statistics we have managed to measure and identify all achievements we have so far attained under the Fifth Phase Government,” he explained.

Dr. Mpango acknowledged the support from National Statistics office of Sweden which funded the construction of the first phase way back in 1994 and between that time to date, the government put Tshs. 173.4 million into the project.

The Minister directed Statistician General to ensure the construction work of the--

building is completed as scheduled by September, this year and vowed to ensure the funds set for the work are availed to the national statistics office during the first quarter of the financial year 2020/2021.

“The Fifth Phase Government is determined to ensure the building is completed within the 2020/21 financial year. I direct you, Statistician General, before you retire to ensure this building is completed and I assure you that funds will be availed to NBS in the first quarter of the financial year,” he insisted.

He also lauded respondents of various statistical surveys and censuses for their continued cooperation during data--

collection by providing accurate statistical information according to questions posed by the data collectors.

“Respondents, who are mostly normal citizens, are key in production of quality statistics. I salute them and recognise their contribution which has made Tanzania one of the few countries in Africa which produce quality statistics,” he noted.

“Without quality statistics, there is no way we can accurately measure our progress and that is why with available statistics we have managed to measure and identify all achievements we have so far attained under the Fifth Phase Government,” Dr. Mpango.



Minister for Finance and Planning Dr. Philip Mpango (centre), Kigoma Regional Secretary Rashid Mchatta (right) and NBS Governing Board Chairperson Dr. Amina Msengwa (left) jointly holding title Deed of Plot where NBS regional offices is being constructed.

More Education Needed to Address Problem of Tobacco Use in Tanzania, says Minister of Health



Ministry of Health Hon. Umyy Mwalimu (centre) peruses the 2018 Tanzania GATS Report while others accompanying her at the high table holding up the report signaling its launching.

On 4th June, 2020, Tanzania launched the 2018 Tanzania Global Adult Tobacco Survey (2018 GATS) which shows that at least 2.6 million adults aged 15 years or older used tobacco in the country.

Launching the report, the Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Ms. Umyy Mwalimu, called for more efforts to educate the public about the dangers of using tobacco.

“The survey results show that we have to put more efforts into educating the public on how dangerous tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke is,” she said.

She said apart from other measures taken by the government, creating awareness through meeting the public using various channels of communication is very crucial if the people are to desist from using tobacco.

“Ministry of Health will collaborate with other stakeholders in formulating appropriate strategies and plans to create public awareness on the effects of tobacco use so as to prevent diseases and death caused by tobacco use,” she said.

According the report, 32.9 percent of adults who worked indoors were exposed to tobacco smoke at workplace whereas 13.4 percent of adults were exposed to tobacco smoke at home.

The report also indicates that 77.0 percent of adults were exposed to tobacco smoke when visiting bars or night clubs, 31.1 percent when visiting restaurants and 15.3 percent were exposed when visiting universities.

Minister Umyy noted that the 2018 GATS results will help the government in planning and strategizing on how to address the problem of tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke in Tanzania.

“I call upon all stakeholders who participated in facilitating and implementing this survey to come forward to continue working together to find--

solutions to this daunting challenge,” the Minister urged.

Meanwhile, Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa said the 2018 Tanzania GATS was the first to be conducted in Tanzania since independence.

She told participants to the dissemination meeting that the main objective of 2018 Tanzania GATS Survey was to provide statistics at the national level on adult tobacco use and tobacco control measures that are comparable across countries.

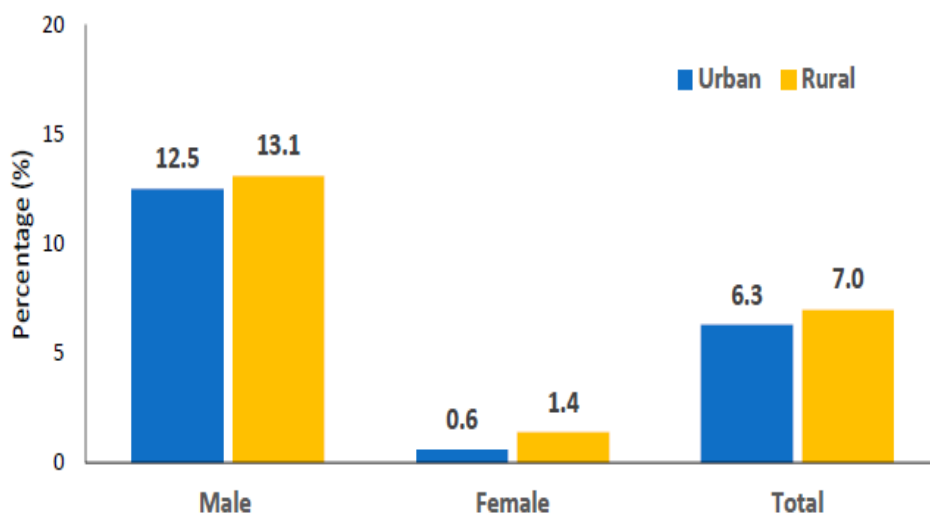
Dr. Chuwa added that another

survey objective was to provide information on key indicators of tobacco use and regulatory efforts.

The survey was conducted jointly by National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and Office of Chief Government Statistician, Zanzibar (OCGS) in collaboration with Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children and Ministry of Health, Zanzibar.

Technical support was provided by WHO, CDC, RTI International with financial support from CDC Foundation through a grant from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Figure 1: Percentage of adults aged 15 or above who are current smokers of any smoked tobacco product, by gender and residence – GATS Tanzania 2018



- **NBS Constructs First Regional Office**
- **Board pledges to complete the building as per schedule**



Kigoma Regional Statistical Manager Moses Kahero shows NBS Governing Board Chairperson Dr. Amina Msengwa and Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa boundaries of NBS plot where NBS regional office is being constructed.

The chairperson of the Governing Board of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Dr. Amina Msengwa, has assured the minister for Finance and Planning, Dr. Philip Mpango, that construction of the new office building in Kigoma will be completed as scheduled by the end of September, 2020.

Dr. Msengwa made the remarks when she was giving a statement during the ceremony to lay the foundation stone for the--

construction of new NBS regional office building in Kigoma which was officiated by Minister for Finance and Planning, Dr. Mpango.

“Our target is to complete the construction work by end of September, 2020...I therefore promise you the board will closely monitor the implementation of the work plan to see to it that it is going according to schedule but also to ensure quality and value for money,” Dr. Msengwa reiterated.

The Kigoma Regional office is the first to be constructed by NBS as all its regional offices are housed within regional commissioner’s offices of respective regions. The new building will provide ample space for NBS staff as well as other government institutions in need of office space.

The board chairperson thanked the Fifth Phase Government under President John Pombe Magufuli for setting aside Tshs. 700--

million which is enough for the completion of the building whose construction started in 1994 through support from Statistics Sweden.

She asked the Minister to avail the funds within the first quarter of the financial 2020/21 in order to facilitate the construction work in time which the former promised to do immediately after the financial year starts.

Dr. Msengwa told the minister that since its inception last year, the board has been performing

its duties and responsibilities as per article 8 of Statistics Act and NBS has also been implementing its activities according to section 351 of Statistics Act.

“During the stated period, I want to assure you that all statistics produced adhered to all the international approved standards and principles thus satisfying stakeholder’s statistical needs,” she said.

The board chairperson congratulated Minister Mpango for “the successful and fruitful completion of the process of formulating--

and approving the National Development Plan and the 2020/21 national budget”.

“Our target is to complete the construction work by end of September, 2020...I therefore promise you the board will closely monitor the implementation of the work plan to see to it that it is going according to schedule but also to ensure quality and value for money,” Dr. Msengwa reiterated.



Head of GIS unit Benedict Mugambi explains to Chairperson of NBS Governing Board Dr. Amina Msengwa Kigoma spatial information as appeared in the map prepared by the unit.

SADC Statistics Protocol in the Offing

Heads of National Statistics Offices (NSOs) from Southern African Development Community (SADC) have unanimously approved draft Statistics Protocol which is a legal Framework governing statistics activity in the region.

Briefing the media at the end of the 27th SADC Statistics Committee at the Mwalimu Nyerere International Convention Centre last Friday, the Statistician General, Dr. Albina Chuwa, said the protocol aimed at enabling and enhancing statistical development and innovation across the region.

She said the protocol was a very important instrument for statistical development as it recognises the central role statistics play in development and its importance in planning development agenda in SADC.

Dr. Chuwa, who heads the committee, explained further that the regional statistics protocol will help to bring about political will among Member States on production, dissemination--

and promoting use of statistics in planning, implementation and monitoring of development plans and programmes in the region.

“Without political will, nothing can be achieved! Since inauguration of the regional body production, dissemination and use of statistics depended on individual country’s will but the protocol calls for collective political will by all Members States,” she emphasised.

Dr. Chuwa elaborated that the protocol will help to ensure harmonisation of concepts, definitions and methodologies as well as harmonisation of compilation and dissemination of official statistics in Member States.

“By doing so, it will ensure quality of statistics produced in Members States as they will use common quality assurance framework which include producers and users of official statistics through their respective national statistical systems,” she noted.

She said the approved protocol will be submitted to higher authorities in Members States-

for further consideration.

The sixteen-member Committee chairperson informed the press that during the meeting members also shared their experiences on how COVID-19 affected statistics activities in their respective countries and how they strategized at combating the impacts of the pandemic without compromising quality of statistics produced.

“Today, it is novel coronavirus and tomorrow it will be something else, so we have agreed to look into other ways of doing our work and move away from the traditional ways of thinking to modern ones in this area of producing statistics,” she stressed.

“Without political will, nothing can be achieved! Since inauguration of the regional body production, dissemination and use of statistics depended on individual country’s will but the protocol calls for collective political will by all Members States,” Dr. Chuwa emphasised.

WHO to Support Tanzania Accelerate Tobacco Use Cut

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has pledged to continue working with the Government of Tanzania and other stakeholders to speed-up reduction of tobacco use and avert years of debilitating illness and preventable deaths in the country.

WHO's Country Representative to Tanzania, Dr. Tigest Mengestu, said on (GIVE DAY and DATE) in Dodoma during the launch of the first Global Adult Tobacco-

Survey (2018 GATS) Country Report that the document was an important milestone in the fight against use of tobacco in the country.

Launching of the report, which was held at Takwimu House in Dodoma, was officiated by the Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Ms Ummu Mwalimu.

"The GATS results serve a very important benchmark for the country to continue monitoring its progress in tobacco control and impact of containment measures currently in place," she said.

She added that the report places Tanzania in a better position to fulfil its obligations as per the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and have in place laws and regulations that are compliant with the convention.



Dr. Edwin Swai gives a statement on behalf of WHO country representative Dr. Tigest Mengestu who noted that the launching of the 2018 Tanzania GAT report demonstrates government's commitment to track and monitor tobacco use and key tobacco control measures using global acceptable standards.

In a speech read on her behalf by Dr. Edwin Swai, the WHO Country Representative said the launching of the report demonstrated Government's commitment to track and monitor tobacco use and put key tobacco control measures using global acceptable standards.

Dr. Mengestu noted that Tanzania has now joined five other countries from the continent to have implemented the GATS and released data; and mentioned those countries as being Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda.

She told participants at the launching of the report that tobacco kills half of its users and smokers have a higher risk of severe diseases and death if infected with COVID-19 and insisted that "All forms of tobacco use are harmful and there is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke".

On the state of tobacco use in the continent, she said there were 94 million men and 13 million women, and one in five adolescents use tobacco products.

Dr. Mengestu said it was disturbing to see the increasing use of tobacco--

among 13-15 year old girls and increasing use of tobacco products other than cigarettes in Africa.

"Every year, 146,000 Africans die from tobacco related diseases. Illnesses related to tobacco use accounts for 3.5 percent of annual total health expenditure in region," she noted.

The WHO Country Representative lauded efforts made by many governments in Africa to combat tobacco related illnesses and deaths despite facing industrial interferences. The global health monitoring body pledged to continue working-

with countries to counter those interferences to debunk manipulation tactics and strengthen healthy practices.

She pointed out that 26 countries in Africa have banned smoking in public places, among them have implemented comprehensive bans and 34 have banned tobacco advertisements, promotion and sponsorship.

"However, in trying to protect their citizens, many governments are confronted with industry threats and legal action to weaken those measures," explained Dr. Mengestu.



Stakeholders attentively listen to the Guest of Honour's speech (not in the picture) during the official launch of 2018 Tanzania GATS Report.

Dr. Chuwa: Improving Regional NBS Offices Is Our Priority



Invited guests follow events at the ceremony to lay the foundation stone of NBS Kigoma Regional Office building which was officiated by Minister for Finance and Planning Dr. Philip Mpango.

Improving and building new regional offices is a priority for the national statistics office in order to ensure that whatever new technology adopted and used at head office in Dodoma can also be easily and efficiently embraced at the regional level, said Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa.

She said the application of new technologies in data collection, processing and dissemination of official statistics products reduces cost hence it was indispensable for NBS to upgrade or build new--

regional offices which can accommodate modern technological needs.

She added: “The construction of new office block in Kigoma demonstrates yet the continuous efforts by the national statistics body to ensure its regional offices are upgraded and modernised to easily embrace new technologies in production of official statistics”.

Speaking during the--

ceremony to lay the foundation stone of NBS regional office building in Kigoma, Dr. Chuwa said NBS targets to continue strengthening regional offices in mainland Tanzania whenever resources are available, particularly after the country’s economy has recovered from impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

She added that NBS was ready to continue working with development partners in pursuing this goal as it has done before with Statistics--

Sweden, World Bank, DfID and Canada.

Dr. Chuwa told the gathering that Tanzania was one of the few countries in Africa which have improved statistical infrastructure including office buildings, and that this has significantly contributed to the acknowledged achievements, particularly during the Fifth Phase Government.

She noted that during the past five years NBS has managed to build its modern office building in Dodoma and it targets to complete the Kigoma office by end of September, this year.

“This event marks the implementation of our promise we made to President Magufuli when he was laying the foundation stone of Takwimu House in Dodoma on the 20th December, 2017,” she said.

She told the minister for Finance and Planning, Dr. Philip Mpango, who was the guest of honour, that the governing board and NBS management were committed to ensure the construction work would be completed in the scheduled time.



Guest of honour minister of Finance and Planning Dr. Philip Mpango poses for a group photograph with NBS management. On his right (seated) is Dr. Amina Msengwa NBS Board Chairperson and Dr. Chuwa Statistician General and on his left is Kigoma Regional Administrative Secretary Rashid Mchatta and Kigoma District commissioner Samson Anga

Statistician General expressed gratitude to Kigoma Regional Commissioner Brigadier General (Rtd.) Emmanuel Maganga for providing office space which is used by NBS regional office staff and indeed for his continued cooperation with NBS in producing official statistics.

Dr. Chuwa assured the regional commissioner's office that NBS was ready to assist the regional authorities in preparation and production of *Kigoma Investment Report* that can help to attract more investors into the region.

She pointed out that the new building will provide more space for the implementation of the coming Population and Housing Census scheduled in 2022.

“The construction of new office block in Kigoma demonstrates yet the continuous efforts by the national statistics body to ensure its regional offices are upgraded and modernised to easily embrace new technologies in production of official statistics”. Dr. Chuwa

Consumer Price Index to Use New Base Year in December, 2020



Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa stresses a point when she was speaking to stakeholders attending CPI rebasing consultative meeting held at Pius Msekwa conference hall in Dodoma. Right is Acting Director of Population Census and Social statistics, Ms. Ruth Minja

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) is in the process of reviewing Consumer Price Index (CPI) and consultation with stakeholders has started.

Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa told stakeholders meeting held at Pius Msekwa Conference Hall in Parliament grounds in Dodoma that the rebasing process will involve various stakeholders--both local and foreign.

She told participants that the meeting was very crucial and urged them to make the most--

of their expertise and experience to ensure the rebasing process attains the expected results.

Dr. Chuwa said CPI gives stakeholders ideas about price changes in the economy and can act as a guide in order to make informed decisions about the economy.

“CPI is one of the key economic indicators which can guide issues of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), investments, insurance and pension schemes,” she noted.

Statistician General informed the meeting that the rebasing was necessary “due to global economic changes, commodities and services also changes which result in changes of expenditure at household level according to income and the lifestyle,” she said.

Dr. Chuwa explained that with such changes, some commodities disappear and new products as well as services emerge due to innovations which make some commodities and services invalid in compiling of CPI.

Statistician General explained that the process will involve migrating from old list of services and commodities set on COICOP 1999 to new list from COICOP 2018.

“The original COICOP dates back to the late 1990s and consumer markets have since changed, consequently some categories of the classification have become obsolete,” she said adding that new products--

and services were difficult to classify in the existing classification, and boundaries between categories became less clear.

“The bottom line of this process is aimed at making sure the index represents current household expenditure patterns,” she added.

Statistician General told participants that “the process must be completed as soon as possible so that the December CPI should be calculated using new commodity prices as registered in 2017/18 Household Basic Survey instead of prices from 2011/12 Household Basic Survey”.

She noted that it was encouraging to see food consumption pattern was changing showing a decrease, which translates into positive trends of population consumption.

“When food takes the lion’s share of household consumption it may sound that the household is not doing much on other key areas which can improve its wellbeing like savings and investment,” she said.

The Consumer Price Index measures the average change in prices over time that consumers pay for a basket of goods and services. It is commonly known as inflation.

Earlier, the acting director of Population Census and Social statistics, Mrs. Ruth Minja, told participants that the current CPI basket of goods and services was comprised of 278 items which include 97 food and beverages and 181 non-food items which are monthly compiled from all regions of Tanzania mainland.

She added that CPI compilation has various technical stages, one being its rebasing which involves consultation with stakeholders who are informed about the process, expected changes, get their needs and receive their inputs which can improve the compilation process of CPI.

“NBS is in early stages of CPI rebasing process from 211/12 base year to 2017/18 using 2017/18 Household Budget Survey results as main source, however, other sources will be used to update some commodities and services.

Mrs. Minja told the meeting that the process which is done in every five years will also involve updating CPI weights and update CPI basket of goods and services.

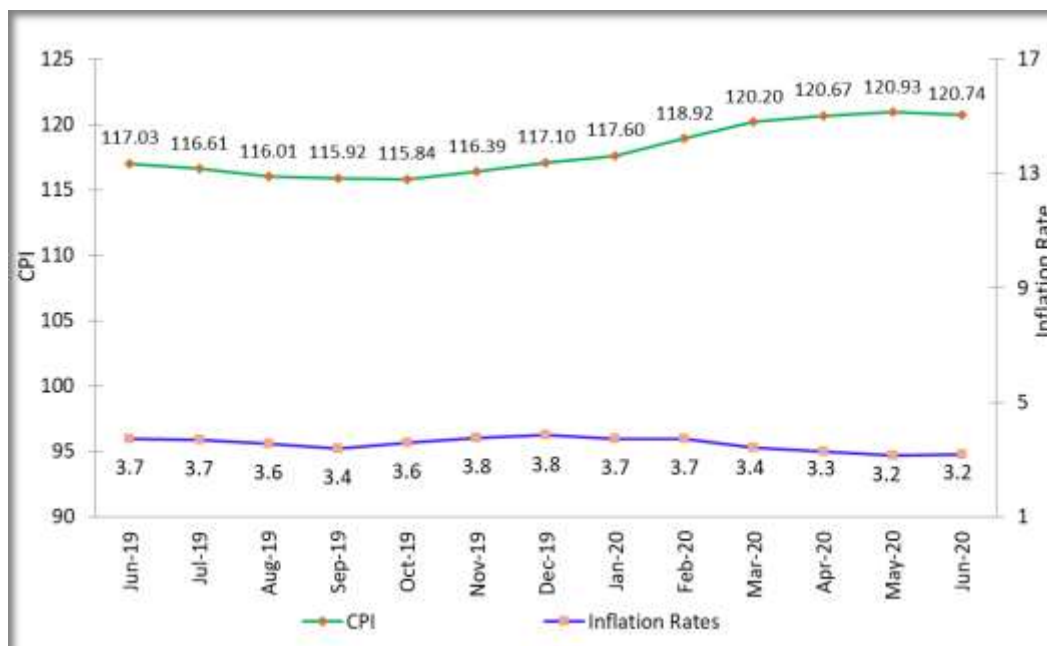
Before discussion, Mr. Paskas Sawaki, a senior statistician from NBS made a presentation on rebasing highlighting key issues sounding the process of CPI rebasing.



Members of stakeholder’s consultative meeting on CPI Rebasing follow presentation from NBS senior statistician Paskas Sawaki (not in the picture).

Inflation Rate Unchanged in June, 2020

Chart 1: Movement of National Consumer Price Indices (NCPI) and Inflation Rates from June, 2019 – June, 2020. (Dec. 2015 = 100)



Consumer Price Index (CPI) in Tanzania remained unchanged at 3.2 percent in June from 3.2 percent recorded in May, 2020.

However, according to the acting director of Population Census and Social Statistics Ruth Minja, whilst such stagnation, the overall index went up by 3.51 from 117.23 to 120.74.

Briefing the media, Mrs. Minja revealed that inflation rate for food and non-alcoholic beverages for the month of June was 0.6 percent down the previous month which was 4.4 percent.

According Mrs. Minja, in June consumers paid less on maize flour, fruits, Irish potatoes and cassava which prices dropped by 1.6 percent, 2.1 percent, 5 percent and 13.3 percent respectively.

Likewise, she said the annual inflation rate for food consumed at home and away from home during the same month decreased from 5.2 percent to 4.7 percent – a 0.5 percent drop.

The acting director added that, in June 2020, consumers paid more on non- food items than it was in June 2019 as prices hit--

at an increase of 2.7 percent (clothes), 7.8 percent (cooking gas), 11.2 percent (charcoal), 2.7 percent (furniture) and 1.5 percent (school textbooks).

Additionally, Mrs Minja noted that the annual inflation rate which excludes food and energy for the month of June 2020 increased to 2.6 percent from 2.2 percent in May 2020.

National Consumer Price Index measures the change overtime in cost of fixed basket of goods and services that are purchased by a representative sample of households.

NBS PICTORIAL NEWS



Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa (far right) chairs the 27th Virtual SADC Statistics Committee meeting held at Mwalimu Nyerere International Convention Centre, Dar es Salaam. The meeting which comprised of heads of NSOs of SADC members countries unanimously approved draft Statistics Protocol to govern statistics activities in the region.



Guest of honour Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Ms. Umy Mwalimu poses for a group photograph, in front of Takwimu House, with invited guests after launching of the 2018 Tanzania GAT report.

NBS PICTORIAL NEWS



Acting Director of Population Census and Social statistics, Ms. Ruth Minja speaks during stakeholder's consultative meeting on CPI rebasing held at Pius Msekwa hall Dodoma.



Washirika cultural group from Kigoma Ujiji entertain invited guests during ceremony to laid foundation stone for the construction of a new NBS Kigoma regional office building.

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