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

Editorial Board



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We Encourage Voluntary Repatriation of Refugees, Says Minister Mpango



Minister for Finance and Planning Dr. Philip Mpango addressing National Forum to mark African Statistics Day celebrations held at Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre.

Tanzania will continue to encourage refugees to voluntarily return to their home countries when security situations normalise and join their compatriots to build their countries.

The Minister for Finance and Planning, Dr. Philip Mpango, said as much as Tanzania will continue hosting people who are forced to run away from their countries, it--

expects that when safety is assured in their countries, they would voluntarily return home.

Officiating the African Statistics Day celebrations that reached its climax on the 28th November, 2019, Minister Mpango underscored the importance of closer cooperation and collaboration between the government and its agencies--

on the one hand and all organizations dealing with refugees, especially UNHCR and IOM on the other hand.

“Government and its agencies as well as organisations dealing with refugees and other displaced persons must work together to develop proper mechanism of collecting and managing--

data of the displaced persons in Tanzania,” he noted.

Minister Mpango insisted that it was only with quality data that the government can make informed decisions in addressing challenges facing displaced persons as directed by African leaders during their February, 2019 meeting and informed by this year’s African Statistics Day theme.

Dr. Mpango said he was encouraged to learn that IOM and UNHCR were working hand in hand with Tanzania to implement SDGs programmes for the displaced persons in Tanzania.

He listed among the programmes as including: poverty reduction, food security, health and social welfare, gender equality, clean and safe water, education, affordable and alternative energy, respectable jobs and economic growth and security.

The Finance minister told the forum that up until October, 2018 Tanzania was hosting 330,755 from Burundi (245,964) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (84,170) and 621 from other countries.



Participants to the National Forum to mark African Statistics Day celebration listening to opening speech by Guest of Honour, Finance Minister Dr. Philip Mpango

He said in collaboration with UNHCR, Tanzania has enrolled in primary education 98 percent of children from DRC and 79 percent from Burundi.

Minister Mpango told the well-attended forum that Tanzania has been in the forefront is supporting displaced people and has always been keen to provide durable solution.

“It was in record that in 2014 Tanzania became the first country in the world to offer citizenship to nearly 200,000--

refugees at one time,” he pointed out insisting that such a decision and other measures taken by the government demonstrated Tanzania’s commitment to assisting displaced persons once they are in the country and as per international laws to which Tanzania is a signatory.

He used the opportunity to express his appreciation and that of the government to UNHCR and IOM for partnering with NBS in preparation and conducting this year’s African Statistics Day celebration which he described as being very successful.

Collaboration Key to Producing Quality Environment-related Statistics: Simbachawene

The Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union Matters and Environment), Mr. George Simbachawene, has directed his office and National Statistics Office to create closer working relations to ensure environmental statistics produced in the country are of high quality and internationally acceptable.

Minister Simbachawene was talking during a meeting with National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) team held at his Office located in the Ntumba-government city.

NBS team, led by Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa, visited the minister to present environment report on water situation in Shinyanga Region following Vice President's directive to NBS to undertake such a research.

"Our two offices need to build a very solid collaboration to make sure environmental data our ministry produces and releases meet the required quality and standards set by NBS," Minister--

Simbachawene.

He said the meeting was an opportunity which should open doors of collaboration between his office and NBS, which is the main producer of statistics insisting that working with the later will help the ministry to produce quality statistics.

According to NBS, the report shows continued decline of water in Shinyanga Region. It means, if this trend is allowed to continue, it could lead to desertification of the region.

The minister commended NBS for the job well done and expressed his optimism to see more credible work during his time in the ministry.

He said the work NBS has done in Shinyanga was very commendable and urged his staff to work closely with NBS to ensure it produces quality environment statistics.

"I urged NBS to extend such research to other regions starting with Dodoma, Geita, Singida and Tabora. We need to pull together our resources and fulfil this work," he emphasised.

On environment degradation, he noted that: "The extent of environmental destruction we have seen here compels our ministry to take appropriate measures."

It high time he said for Tanzania to show its commitment to environment protection by acting on her own without excessively relying support from other people.

"We now need to take our responsibility to protect and conserve our environment by encouraging local people particularly the business community to contribute to environmental protection and conversation," he said, adding: "contributors should be given opportunity to decide how their contributions want to be used or applied to".

On the report, Minister Simbachawene, called Vice President's office and NBS to sit together to discuss and recommend the way forward as far as the report findings are concerned.

Iringa RC: Government Recognizes Fundamental Role of Modern Energy Services in Social and Economic Development

The fifth phase government recognises the importance of electricity in achieving social economic development goals and that was why availability of reliable and affordable modern energy services tops among its priorities.

Iringa Regional Commissioner Ally Hapi said the government's commitment to increase access to energy is well articulated in the National Energy Policy (NEP) of 2015.

"The objective of the National Energy Policy (NEP) of 2005 is to ensure access to and availability of affordable energy supplies as well as promoting better and sustainable use which will enable the country to achieve its development targets," the Regional Commissioner said.

Mr. Hapi was officiating at the opening of the training workshop for Enumerators and Supervisors of the 2019--

Tanzania Mainland Energy Access and Use Situation Survey (EAUSS II) held at Iringa Health Institute.

In his speech read on his behalf by Iringa District Commissioner Richard Kasesela, the regional commissioner stressed that Rural Energy Agency (REA) was formed to put into practice national vision on rural electrification to stimulate rural economic growth and accelerate poverty reduction.

"Access to electricity is one of the major catalysts to economic growth and development of the rural economies hence bringing electricity to rural areas is a step further to put in motion national, regional and global development goals," he argued.

Mr. Hapi told the workshop participants, through his speech, that according to 2016 Energy Access Situation Survey in Tanzania Mainland, 67.5 percent of population had access to electricity where by access in urban areas was 97.3 percent and 49.5 percent in rural areas.



Iringa District Commissioner Richard Kasesela delivering a speech on behalf of Iringa Regional Commissioner at the opening of the training workshop for Enumerators and supervisors of 2019 Energy Access and Use Situation Survey II (EAUSSII)



Enumerators and Supervisors of the 2019 Energy and Use Situation Survey follow presentation from one of the trainers at the training workshop held at Iringa Health Institute.

He said the 2019 Survey was important as it would highlight the current situation of access levels and energy situation which will help the government to take appropriate measures to address challenges facing rural electrification in the country.

“We urgently need the Survey report as it will help our government to understand success and identify challenges in its endeavour to provide access to and affordable energy service to its people,” said Mr. Hapi.

The Regional Commissioner noted that the survey result will guide policy actions towards achieving national economic development goals through Industrialisation agenda targeting achieving Vision 2025 and second Five Year development Plan (2016/17-2020/21).

He added that the results will also tell Tanzanians how far the fifth phase government has managed to implement the CCM Election Manifesto (2015-2020) on energy and also achieving global Sustaining--

Development Goals (SDGs).

In this regard, the Regional Commissioner called upon all enumerators to keenly follow the training programme and to ensure they are ready to perform their duties according to the laid down procedures.

“It is a very important survey which has bearing on our national future therefore you have to undertake your job in a very professional manner, which will provide our country with quality data for our sustainable development,” he insisted.

Why Tanzania Needs to Include 'Forced Displaced Population' in its National Statistical Surveys



A section of participants to the national Forum to commemorate African Statistics Day follow proceedings of the forum.

Stakeholders at the national forum organised to mark African Statistics Day have generally accepted the inclusion of displaced persons in the national statistics surveys and censuses.

They noted that it was ideal to include displaced persons in various surveys like demographic health surveys (DHS) and household surveys to enable the government and other stakeholders dealing with displaced persons proper capture data on these groups of persons so as to inform decision-making.

This was revealed during panel discussions on the theme of the 2019 African Statistics Day, which was held at the Julius--

Nyerere International Convention Centre in Dar es Salaam.

The theme: "Everyone counts: Quality Statistics for Better Management of Forced Displacement in Africa" emphasises the importance of inclusion of displaced populations in development process, whereby quality data matters.

Betty Talbert from World Bank Dar es Salaam offices told the forum that while other countries like Ethiopia and Uganda do include refugees and other displaced people in their surveys, Tanzania is yet to do so.

She said it was high time now for Tanzania to include refugees and other displaced persons in national surveys including household surveys, all of which produce various vital data.

"There must be special arrangements to include forced displaced people in surveys like they do in Ethiopia and Uganda," she advised.

United Nations system in Tanzania expressed its readiness to work with the government through NBS to provide technical assistance towards capacity building in collection and management of forced displaced populations.

Statistician General: Identification Issue Impedes Refugees Statistics



Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa speaking during the opening of the National Forum to mark African Statistics Day which Tanzania commemorated on the 28th November, 2019.

Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa has said the main challenge facing refugee statistics lies on issues of concept, definition and methodology on how to identify a refugee and that has been part of the agenda of annual conferences of heads of national statistics agencies.

She added that as a result, an inter-continental technical committee has been formed and tasked, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to develop efficient mechanism which would avail quality statistics--

of the displaced population to inform government decisions.

The Statistician General was speaking during a national forum to commemorate African Statistics Day held at the Julius Nyerere Convention Centre in Dar es Salaam.

Dr. Chuwa informed the well-attended forum that the national statistics body collects refugees' data through Population and Housing Census; and through administrative records from ministries, departments and agencies to which Statistics Act--

No.9 provides a smooth collaboration with NBS.

She added that the national statistics agency of Tanzania in collaboration with stakeholders including UNHCR and IOM was now preparing Second Statistical Masterplan (Tanzania Statistical Master Plan II - TSMP II) which would also include formulating efficient and effective mechanism of collecting and managing statistics of the displaced populations in the country.

Statistician General thanked the United Nations system in Tanzania through its institutions, particularly UNHCR and IOM, for the collaboration and support they rendered in facilitating the organization of the celebration.

Meanwhile, Statistician General reiterated her call to statisticians in the country to adhere to professional conduct while performing their duties and ensure every indicator is collected and analyzed according to 10 Fundamental Principles of Official Statistic and African Charter on Statistics.

How Regional Statistics Institution in Tanzania is Crucial



Dr. Tumaimi Katunzi, EASTC Deputy Rector, talking to Enumerators and Supervisors of the 2019 Energy and Use Situation Survey II where he urged youth to join various courses offered by the regional institution including short courses on data collection which qualify them as data collectors.

Tanzania is lucky to have the East African Statistics Training College (EASTC) as it offers specialised courses on statistics some of which are only offered in Tanzania.

The Deputy Rector of the EASTC, Dr. Tumaini Katunzi, said the regional institute, which was established in the early eighties offering certificate and diploma programmes now offers undergraduate and post-graduate programmes--

attracting students from all English-speaking countries in the continent.

He was speaking in Iringa at training of workshops for enumerators and supervisors of the 2019 Tanzania Mainland Energy Access and Use Situation Survey (EAUSS II) and Accelerating Water and Sanitation for All Program, Phase II (ASWA II) held at Iringa Health Institute and Open University conference hall respectively.

Dr. Katunzi told participants that the institute, which started by training government statisticians from East Africa countries, now has 19 members and due to the increased demand the institute was inclined to take various steps to meet such demand.

“Our courses are demand-driven hence we offer the best solution to our clients. EASTC is the only higher learning institution in the--

globe which offers Master's Degree Programmes in official statistics which makes it so unique," he said.

Dr. Tumaini said the institute plans to introduce in the near future new strategic programmes to meet new demands.

He told workshop participants that apart from long term courses, the centre runs short programmes including data collection--a two-week programme--which qualifies participant as data collector.

He explained that the certificate course in data collection is a very fundamental programme which equips one with special skills in data collection and opens opportunities to holders to engage in any research work which requires qualified data collector.

"It is a basic training which anyone can join because it is a computer-based programme which combines both theory and practice focusing on applied knowledge, thus once one finishes he or she does not need to repeat any other practical training," he insisted.

He said the programme was very useful to young graduates from institutions of higher learning as it gives them necessary skills which qualify them for employment in research works like the ones conducted by National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

In this regard, Dr. Katunzi urged young graduates as well as adults to register for the programme in order to strengthen their skills and experience in research and insisting that it was not necessary for one to be good in mathematics as the programme more focuses on practical than theory.



A section of Enumerators and Supervisors of the 2019 Energy and Use Situation Survey II follow presentation from one of the trainers at the training workshop held at Iringa Health Institute.

We are Committed to Capacity Building in Migration Statistics, IOM Chief of Mission says



IOM Chief of Mission Dr. Qasim Sufi (left) insisting a point during a meeting with Statistician General (not in the picture) held at NBS offices Dodoma. Right is his assistant Ms. Halima Sonda.

The Chief of Mission of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Dr. Qasim Sufi, has reaffirmed that UN family in Tanzania will continue supporting Tanzania in building capacity in the area of migration statistics.

The IOM chief made the remarks during a meeting with Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa at Takwimu House in Dodoma during discussions on the preparations of the 2019--

African Statistics Day and other matters regarding cooperation between the two institutions.

Dr. Sufi informed Statistician General that his organisation's participation in this year ASD is an important opportunity as it helps, through networking, to build partnerships with various stakeholders attending the celebration.

He added that IOM will--

continue working with NBS because "the national statistics body is the right institution to work with".

He said statistics of displaced persons, just like that of other populations, are very vital without which the government and other relevant authorities cannot have full development plans.

"Without statistics, one can plan nor make evidenced-based decisions, so we need--

displaced persons' data to make appropriate planning and decision-making concerning their wellbeing," he insisted.

IOM chief of mission said his organisation encourages regular migration (official) against irregular (un-official) migration and that "we focus on smugglers not smuggled since we understand peoples who are

smuggled have reasons to do so".

He said what IOM and other international organisations in collaboration with host countries is to find durable solutions of displaced people.

"It is either voluntary repatriation, resettling in other countries or--

naturalisation of displaced persons in hosting countries" He noted.

Dr. Sufi commended Tanzania for becoming the only country in the world to grant citizenship to nearly 200,000 refugees at a time.

In 2014 Tanzania granted 162 Burundian refugees who were in the country since 1972 Burundi massacres.



IOM chief of Mission Dr. Qasim Sufi shows Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa (right) documents about International Migration when they at NBS offices in Dodoma.

REA Boss Tells Households: Be Cooperative to Data Collectors

Rural Electrification Agency (REA) has called upon all households selected to participate in the 2019 Energy Access and Use Situation Survey II (EAUSS II) to provide all necessary support to data collectors by providing correct information during interviews.

Speaking during the opening of the training workshop for survey's supervisors and--

enumerators held at Iringa Health College, Mr. Barnabas Lupande from REA said the success of the Survey will also depend on cooperation accorded to data collectors during implementation of the Survey.

He told the workshop participants that the results from the Survey would show the progress made in--

improving accessibility of energy and studying its benefits and impact towards improving livelihoods of Tanzanians particularly the rural population.

“This Survey will help us (REA) to measure how far we have managed to implement our strategic plan and achieve our goals,” he said.

He said the objective of --



Representative of Rural Energy Agency (REA) Mr. Barnabas Lupande talking to Enumerators and Supervisors of the 2019 Energy and Use Situation Survey II during training workshop as preparation for the Survey implementation.



A section of Enumerators and Supervisors of the 2019 Energy and Use Situation Survey II follow presentation from one of the trainers at the training workshop held at Iringa Health Institute.

rural electrification was to facilitate industrialisation of rural areas and to improve living standards of rural populations in a bid to rid them from poverty.

Mr. Barnabas revealed that the baseline survey was done in 2010 which paved the way for the first Survey which was conducted in 2016 hence the 2019 EAUSS II was important to measure the achievements and identify challenges faced the implementation process.

For his part, a representative of Iringa Regional Administrative Secretary, Mr. Luvanda underscored the importance of the Survey as the results will--

lead to evidenced-based development policy on electrification.

He emphasised that statistics is-

the only credible evidence when it comes to making development decisions and called for more efforts to produce statistics to support the country’s decision-making process.

Mr. Luvanda noted that the survey is the ideal process of evaluating the success of the country’s programme to provide electricity to rural populations and its importance cannot be over emphasised.

“The Survey is important both at individual level as well as at national level. Your (enumerators) main task ahead is to professionally and diligently implement the Survey that will guarantee us quality statistics for our national development,” he noted.



Enumerators and Supervisors of the 2019 Energy and Use Situation Survey II during Training workshop held at Iringa Health Institute

Call: Improve Statisticians Work Environment

Statisticians--mainly from Ministries, Departments and Government agencies--have pledged to improve their working environment in order to ensure they fully apply their knowledge and experience to produce quality statistics.

Contributing to the discussion during a national forum to commemorate the African Statistics Day, statisticians said their current work environment in the government was not ideal as they continue to face a myriad of obstacles.

One of the obstacles that they pointed out was lack of recognition, something that resulted in misallocation of statisticians in the ministries, departments and agencies hierarchies.

“We are mainly used as data collectors and regarded as supporting staff which is very discouraging for a professional statistician,” lamented one participant.

They also said that there was lack of training programmes in analysis and translation of data, hence hindering their career development as they are unable to acquire new skills, knowledge and experience.

“We need to build our capacity in data analysis and translation as well as remain abreast with digital age technologies which now facilitate data collection, processing and analysis,” said one participant.

Participants noted that one of the problems facing the government presently was using multiple softwares in data collection and processing, hence proposed harmonisation of technologies to enable interoperability.

“NBS as the national coordinator of national statistical system can lobby on this within the government as it is paramount not only to the production of--

quality statistics but to the overall development of statistics profession,” suggested one participant.

Discussion followed two presentations on the Role of Non-Traditional Data Sources in Production of Official Statistics which was presented by the NBS’s acting Director of Population Census and Social Statistics, Ms. Ruth Minja, and another on ICT Statistics System and Infrastructure-Production of Official Statistics at Local Government Authority (LGAs) by Ms. Yasinta Kijuu from the President’s Office-Regional Administration and Local Government.



Ms. Yasinta Kijuu, representative from Local Government making a presentation during National Forum to mark African Statistics Day held on 28th NOVEMBER, 2019 at Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre

Uphold Good Image to Facilitate Smooth implementation of Surveys, says Statistician General



Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa talking to Enumerators of the Accelerating Water and Sanitation for All Programme, Phase II (AWASH II) survey during training held at Open University conference in Iringa Municipality. The survey will be conducted in Iringa and Mufindi district councils.

Enumerators who have been enlisted to take part in the Accelerating Water and Sanitation for All Programme Phase II (ASWA II) have been urged to work diligently and hence show integrity during the entire survey period.

Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa reminded the enumerators that good conduct and adherence to survey ethics was important--

in making the exercise successful.

“Presenting yourself in a humble and pleasant way is very important. The image you portray to interviewees represents that of the institution you’re representing,” she insisted.

Dr. Chuwa made the remarks when she visited a training session organised for the survey enumerators at the--

Open University of Tanzania Conference Hall in Iringa Municipality.

The ASWAH II, which is a UNICEF funded programme, intends to improve the health, nutrition and wellbeing of poor people in targeted rural villages, especially women and girls and other vulnerable groups.

She told enumerators of the-



A section of Enumerators of the Accelerating Water and Sanitation for All Programme, Phase II (AWASH II) Survey listening to Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa who visited the training session which was held at Open University conference in Iringa Municipality. The survey will be conducted in Iringa and Mufindi district councils.

30-day Survey, which will be implemented in Iringa and Mufindi districts, that the survey was very important as the result will be used to improve water and sanitation in the two councils.

For his part, survey coordinator Deogratus Malamsha informed Statistician General that the survey will be implemented in 55 Enumeration Areas (EAs) among those, 30 in Iringa District Council and the remaining 25 in Mufindi District.

According to Mr. Malamsha,--

statistician at the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the ASWA II programme seeks to improve sanitation and hygiene practices in rural areas and in some villages, to provide improved water supply.

He added that a number of communities, schools and health centres will also benefit from the programme.

Mr. Malamsha said that the survey will be carried out through a combination of methods including interviews with households, community leaders, managers of clean--

water provision projects, as well as with key informants in schools and health facilities.

Other methods will include observation of the water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities and characteristics of these locations; and water quality testing of sample of water supplies and stored drinking water in the households.

The same survey will be repeated later in order to assess the difference before and after the implementation, and evaluate the level of success of the ASWAH II programme.

UNHCR: Inclusion is the best strategy in addressing Refugees Problem



Ms. Chansa Kapaya (right), Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Tanzania in a meeting with Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa at NBS offices in Dodoma

Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Tanzania, Ms. Chansa Kapaya, said she was happy to see that the 2019 African Statistics Day theme focused on raising awareness on the importance of statistics when dealing with forcibly displaced persons to meet the SDGs targets and the Africa Agenda 2063.

She said the inclusion of refugees in these global and regional development programmes was the best strategy as it would address--

the problem of phobia when it comes to sharing of development resources in refugees hosting countries.

The UNCHR representative made those remarks at Takwimu House in Dodoma when she paid a courtesy call to the Statistician General, Dr. Albina Chuwa, where the two discussed various issues of mutual interest including preparation of 2019 African Statics Day which was held on 28th November, 2019.

“Refugees seem to be invisible but are visible. If--

today are here tomorrow will go back home or elsewhere and whatever is invested them will be used to benefit the locals,” UNHCR chief noted.

She said although Tanzania has been hosting refugees for decades but still they are not included in many statistics projects like censuses and surveys.

“Inclusiveness is key and SDGs have addressed some of the challenges facing displaced population in Africa,” she said and expressed appreciation to UNECA for this year’s theme which reads: “Everyone counts: quality statistics for better management of forced displacement in Africa”.

Ms. Kapaya said she was more than happy to partner with NBS in preparation and hosting of the African Statistics Day celebration with the view of creating awareness of the importance of statistics in addressing refugees’ problems as embedded in the celebration’s theme.

Statistician General: ASD Brings Together Statistical Community

Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa said African Statistics Day (ASD) celebration is a very important occasion as it provides opportunity for the statistical community to meet and discuss developments in production and dissemination of official statistics in the country and beyond.

“For us at NBS and the entire statistical community in the country, this celebration is an important platform to meet, discuss and share experiences and new innovations on the statistical profession,” noted SG.

The NBS boss told UNHCR Country Representative, Ms. Chansa Kapaya, who paid a visit at Takwimu House in Dodoma that with this year’s theme, NBS as coordinator of the event, decided to involve key partners who are dealing with displaced persons to come together and organise the event.

This year’s theme reads: “Everyone counts: quality statistics for better management of forced displacement in Africa”. It is in line with the theme of African Union Summit held in February, 2019.

The theme of African Union Summit was: “The year of refugees, returnees, and internally displaced persons: towards durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa”

“For this year’s theme, we thought it was ideal to engage major stakeholders dealing with displaced persons, UNHCR among them, just to ensure we organise a very successful African Statistics Day to meet the celebrations’ objectives,” said Statistician General.

On the refugees’ statistics, Dr. Chuwa noted that it is one of the agenda which is always discussed

in high level continental statistics bodies in an effort to provide better mechanism of collection and management.

So far, in Tanzania refugees’ statistics are compiled through administrative processes by the Ministry of Home Affairs through its respective departments and organs in collaboration with other stakeholders particularly UNHCR.

However, Dr. Chuwa stressed that there is still much to be done to synchronise refugee data collection to ensure quality and accuracy.



Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa welcomes Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Tanzania Ms. Chansa Kapaya at NBS office in Dodoma.

Dr. Chuwa Commends Media for Promoting Statistics

Dr. Chuwa commended media for promoting development of statistics in the country through creation of public awareness on the importance of and use of statistics in social and economic development.

“Media is our main partner in production and dissemination of statistics as they are at the centre of our communication and dissemination activities,” she said.

The national statistics agency boss assured members of the media that NBS would continue to provide training on effective coverage of statistical issues in a bid to create a very competent media in the field of statistical reporting and ensure proper reporting of statistics products.

On the introduction of annual Media Excellence Awards as part of African Statistics Day celebrations, she said, this was one of the steps to encourage media practitioners to focus on statistical writing.

Media Excellence Award was introduced for the first time this year where journalists in print and online media competed for the award.

The Minister for Finance and Planning, Dr. Philip Mpango, presented certificate and cash awards to Mr. Daniel Samson of Nukta Africa -- a data driven Kiswahili news site, Ms. Veronika Mrema of Jamvi la Habari newspaper and Mr. Halili Habibu Letea, a journalist from Mwananchi newspaper as first, second and third winners respectively.

On the Secondary School Essay competitions, Statistician General congratulated students who took part in this annual competition which has now become one of the hallmarks of African Statistics Day celebrations.

Winners of this year's competition were Samwel Charles Kazungu from St. Peter Claver Secondary School and Newman Weston from Salesian Seminary Secondary School both from Dodoma--

who emerged the first and second winners respectively. The third award went to Miss Hellena Lyimo of Tambaza Secondary School of Dar es Salaam.

In his speech, Minister Mpango, who was the guest of honour, commended NBS for the efforts it has been making to create awareness among secondary school students on the importance and use of statistics.

He said secondary school essay competition as well as Media Excellence Award were very important tools which would motivate these sections of the population which are key in spreading of statistical messages.

“Media is our main partner in production and dissemination of statistics as they are at the centre of our communication and dissemination activities.”

UN emphasizes Partnership in Displaced Persons' Data

Partnership is key if the world is to improve data of the ever increasing displaced populations, says Chief of Mission of the International Organization of Migration (IOM) in Tanzania Dr. Qasim Sufi.

Dr. Sufi was speaking during the forum to mark the African Statistics Day which took place on the 28th November, 2019 at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre in Dar es Salaam.

He said bringing together diverse institutions at the forum with the theme of the celebration focusing on issues of forced displacement in African was an indication of the importance of partnerships in addressing the problem.

“We value our partners and believe that collaboration will be crucial to enhance the data landscape, deepen our knowledge on the data that’s needed to accelerate implementation of the SDGs, and appropriately act upon it,” Dr. Sufi noted.

He further noted that there was increasing interest in statistics on refugees, asylum seekers, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugee related populations at both national and international levels.

He explained that complete, accurate, timely and internationally comparable estimates of the numbers of people displaced are becoming more relevant for official statistics, which need to take into account the forcibly displaced populations in a consistent manner.

The IOM chief of mission told the forum that due to such importance, United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2018 adopted The International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS) to help improve national statistics on the stocks and flows of refugee and refugee related populations in their countries, and to help make such statistics comparable internationally.

The recommendations, according to Dr. Sufi provide a set of specific recommendations that countries and international organizations can use to improve the collection, collation, disaggregation, reporting, and overall quality of statistics on forcibly displaced populations.

He said as displaced persons remain among the most vulnerable, that will assist countries to implement the 2030

Agenda for Sustainable Development which makes an ambitious commitment of leaving no one behind in its implementation.

“Data disaggregation guidance has been prepared, which identifies priority SDG indicators to be disaggregated by displacement status,” he said and commended the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators for tentatively accepted the addition of a refugee-themed indicator into the SDG framework.

Dr. Sufi reiterated commitment of the United Nations system in Tanzania of continued support to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) as the former recognizes the latter’s integral role in implementation of the SDGs.

“Achieving the SDGs will require an integrated approach to social, environmental and economic challenges with a focus on those who have been left furthest behind – and data is central to the integrated approach that is required,” he insisted.

Why Professionalism is Crucial in Collecting Data of Displaced Person



Representative of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr. Emmanuel Kayuni addressing the opening of the National Forum to mark African Statistics Day. In his speech, he called for a continued collaboration between his Ministry, NBS and other agencies as a way to ensure data of displaced persons are well managed for the betterment of both the country and the displaced persons.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has insisted that it is very important to stick to professional practice during collection and management of data on displaced population.

A representative of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr. Emmanuel Kayuni, told the national forum during African Statistics Day celebration that it was imperative that such data be collected in--

a professional manner as it is a very crucial tool in decision making process.

“Once refugees and other related population data are used in decision making they must be of high quality and that can only be achieved if it was collected according to the set standards,” said Kayuni.

Mr. Kayuni, who is the director of Personnel and Administration, lauded--

long established and good working relations between the ministry and the national statistics office, NBS. He was particularly referring to the relationship with the Police.

He called for the extension of such relations with NIDA which provides identity cards to nationals, refugees and immigrants.

Dr. Chuwa: IOM Must Work with African Regional Statistics Training Institutions to strengthen Migration Statistics

Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa has challenged the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to team up with African regional statistics training institutes to train migration statistics so that Africa can have enough experts in migration statistics.

She said while migration issue is becoming a reality with millions moving around the globe, Africa is lagging behind in collection and management of migration statistics.

“It is high time now for IOM to consider working with African regional statistics training institutions like ESTAC to integrate migration statistics course in their curricula so that Africa can have many experts in that area,” she insisted.

Statistician General was speaking with IOM chief of Mission in Tanzania, Dr. Qasim Sufi, who paid a visit to Takwimu House where the two discussed various issues including preparation for the African Statistics Day celebration which was marked in Tanzania on 28 November, 2019.

She told Dr. Sufi that this year’s celebration was unique as African leaders want to bring attention to the plights of displaced persons in the continent urging for their inclusion in development process in the hosting countries.

“African leaders want to see that the displaced population is included not only in the implementation of SDGs but also in national development programmes to ensure no one is left behind,” Dr. Chuwa said.

Statistician General said statistics of the displaced persons including immigrants is very important as it helps hosting countries and humanitarian organisations in providing necessary support needed.

She told IOM chief of mission that NBS was proud to work with IOM and thanked the UN organisation for conducting capacity building training on migration statistics in Tanzania in which NBS was part of it.

She said every year during African Statistics Day celebrations, NBS invites special stakeholders to partner with it according to the theme of the particular year.

Statistician General told Dr. Sufi that with the theme “Everyone counts: quality statistics for better management of forced displacement in Africa” IOM and other institutions dealing with displaced persons are the right stakeholders to partner with.

“NBS, as coordinator of this event, invites you and other stakeholders to join hand with statistical community in Tanzania in preparations of the celebrations,” she said.

“NBS, as coordinator of this event, invites you and other stakeholders to join hand with statistical community in Tanzania in preparations of the celebrations,” Dr. Chuwa

All is Good with NBS, Says Iringa RC

Iringa Regional Commissioner Ally Hapi has lauded the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) for its efforts towards improving and strengthening statistics and related matters resulting in increased integrity and professionalism in the field.

He, however, noted that for the profession to consolidate its image and reputation before the public measures must be taken to ensure enough and competent statisticians are produced and availed in district councils which he said many are lacking such much needed human resource.

“We lack competent statisticians at council level which contributes to poor formulation and implementation of development plans in our councils,” he said in his speech read on his behalf by Iringa District Commissioner Richard Kasesela.

The regional commissioner recommended registration of all statisticians in the country but before being registered they must be tested to--



Iringa District Commissioner Richard Kasesela commended NBS for strengthening statistics and related matters resulting in increased integrity and professionalism in the field.

determined their competence and if need be given special training to bridge the gap.

He said statistics, which is very crucial in social and economic developments is a very sensitive issues which if not well managed can jeopardise national security therefore it was appropriate for the country to establish such precautionary measures like registration of all statisticians in the country.

Meanwhile, the Regional Commissioner urged Eastern Africa Statistics Training--

Centre (EASTC) to introduce business statistics course to help Tanzania produce and build strong business.

“As a nation, we lack this type of business skill which is very important in creating and building strong and well established business community competent to compete in other economies,” ee said and insisted that under current circumstances it is very hard to produce billionaires.

Our Mission is Successful, says World Bank

The head of World Bank delegation from Washington, Mr. Bob Swinkels, said the four-day mission at the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) headquarters was a success as it met the expectations of both sides.

Speaking during a press conference at the end of the mission, Mr. Swinkels told the media that during the four-day mission the two institutions discussed on how to strengthen working relations on issues of mutual interests.

“We have a four-day successful mission in Tanzania. We have been working with NBS for many years and undertake many statistics projects which have proved very successful and today Tanzania is the second best country which produces quality statistics,” he said.

The mission head said World Bank was “proud to be part of the process” and revealed that during the four-day mission they discussed how the two--

institutions could further their partnership.

“We have been working together in strengthening statistical development in the country. We want to continue with our cooperation through building from what we have achieved from Tanzania Statistical Master Plan (TSMP I) and enter into a new phase (TSMP II),” Mr. Swinkels elaborated.

He told the media that during the implementation period of TSMP I many surveys were conducted and

a lot of statistics products were produced and disseminated.

He added that during the period, Tanzania witnessed the introduction and application of new technologies in data collection mainly using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) which is cost effective, efficient and timely.

He said the Bretton Woods institution will continue supporting Tanzania through NBS in building--



Head of World Bank delegation from Washington, Mr. Bob Swinkels stressing a point during press conference held at NBS offices in Dodoma following a four-day mission which he said was very success as it met the expectations of both sides.



World Bank delegations with NBS management pose for a group photograph in front of Takwimu House after their successful consultation meeting.

its capacity in production and dissemination of statistics.

Mr. Swinkels added that the bank, in collaboration with African Union, have set aside funds to develop and strengthen statistics in Africa and the bank expects Tanzania will be able to access the funds and continue with its capacity building process.

Meanwhile, World Bank Senior Economist Nadia Belhaj Hassine Belghith urged Tanzania to elevate basic education to at least to lower secondary school--

level due to increasing needs of new skills in job market.

Ms. Nadia noted that most jobs in the current environment require skills like information technology which one needs at least lower secondary education to be able to learn.

She said Tanzania has registered tremendous progress in access to basic education but due to current circumstances compulsory education should be elevated from primary to lower secondary.

Addressing the media during a press conference held at NBS at the end of bank's mission, Nadia lauded progress Tanzania has made in poverty reduction since 2007.

“There is progress in reducing poverty in the country from 2007 to date with increasing access to basic education, property ownership, structural progression, access to finance but all these must be accelerated,” she said.

Ms. Nadia told the press that the bank, in collaborating with NBS, is doing poverty analysis using various data collected by NBS to understand poverty trends in Tanzania.

“World Bank is working with NBS to analyse different data collected to understand poverty trends. Since 2007 to date there is progress in poverty alleviation due to government efforts to strengthen service provision,” noted Ms. Nadia.

NBS Role is to Assist MDAs to Ensure Good Data Management, Says Statistician General



NBS head of GIS unit Benedict Mugambi (right) explains to the Minister of State in the Vice President's office George Simbachawene and his team the state of environmental degradation at lake Salunga in Dodoma where it has recorded severe loss of water.

The Statistician General, Dr. Albina Chuwa, has noted that it is the national statistics office's responsibility to assist ministries, departments and government agencies to ensure they collect and manage data in ways that are appropriate and meeting the set international agreed standards.

Speaking during the meeting with the Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union Matters and Environment), Mr. George--

Simbachawene, Dr. Chuwa said coordination function of the national statistics system mandates NBS to assist those players within the system in production of statistics.

"NBS is working closely with the Vice President's Office and all environment committees and pledges to continue that working relations as you have emphasised for the benefit of protection and conservation of our--

country's environment," Dr. Chuwa told the minister.

The meeting was convened to brief the minister on the report of water loss in Shinyanga Region following a directive by Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan in March, 2019 who directed NBS to investigate the state of water in the region.

Statistician General informed the minister who was accompanied by--

Permanent Secretary, Ambassador Sokoine, and other senior staff that during the investigation, NBS used African Regional Data Cube (ARDC) technology to investigate water loss in Shinyanga Region and results showed continued decline of water.

Dr. Chuwa promised upon completion, NBS would bring the report and concurred with the minister's proposal that NBS and VPO need to establish a joint committee which will recommend measures to be--

taken to address the problem. NBS team which comprised staff from Geographical Information System (GIS) unit under the headship of Mr. Benedict Mugambi also briefed the minister on the state of environmental degradation in some parts of Dodoma Region, particularly the alarming loss of water in Lake Salunga.

Presenting the report, Mr. Mugambi said in conducting the research, a data cube algorithm was created to evaluate long-term--

(year 2000 thru 2017) water and vegetation trends for the Shinyanga Region.

He explained that the hypothesis was set that the region has experienced increasing dry conditions and reduced vegetation which may be the result of reduced rainfall or increased farming and livestock.

GIS head further explained that the analysis was done to investigate whether there were any trends in water extent or vegetation for the given region and time period.



Minister of State in the Vice President's office George Simbachawene talks to NBS delegation which went to brief him of the implementation of Vice President's directives to NBS to investigate water situation in Shinyanga region. Right is Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa and left is Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Vice President' Office Ambassador Joseph Sokoine.

Partnership Makes Us Stronger, Says Statistician General

Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa has said strengthening partnerships with stakeholders is key as it makes the national statistics organisation stronger.

She said World Bank is one of Tanzania's leading partners in not only production and dissemination of statistics but also strengthening national statistical system.

Dr. Chuwa was speaking during a press conference held at NBS offices in Dodoma to brief the media about the outcome of Bank's four-day mission to Tanzania.

"The delegation was here for four-day consultations with NBS management on how to strengthen our partnership and explore new areas of cooperation," she said.

She noted that such partnership is in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) 17 which emphasises on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalise the global-

partnership for sustainable development.

"Our four-day consultation meeting focused on how to enhance our cooperation. We are grateful that we have had a very fruitful meeting," said Dr. Chuwa.

She explained that Tanzania's strength in statistics is a result of contribution of many stakeholders particularly the Bretton Woods institution for its enormous technical and financial support during the implementation of Tanzania Statistical Master Plan (TSMP I).

"The accolade Tanzania received today as the second best country in the continent in production of official statistics is a result of World Bank and its allies support in implementing TSMP," Dr. Chuwa noted.

She added that the bank's mention of credibility of the statistics Tanzania is producing clears doubt and confirms that the country's statistical products are--

produced according to national and international set methods and standards.

"We are glad that due to the successful implementation of TSMP, both sides are eager now to build from that success to take this partnership further through formulation of second TSMP," she said.

Dr. Chuwa informed the press that the second TSMP will focus on building capacity on the use of new technologies is data production, supporting the process of integrating non-traditional data sources in production of official statistics, strengthening collection and management of administrative data.

The implementation of the first TSMP was completed in June last year and the second TSMP is expected to start implementation from 2019/2020 to 2024 /2025.

Rising Food Prices Push up Inflation Rate

Tanzania annual inflation rate for November, 2019 further climbed to 3.8 percent from 3.6 percent recorded in October, 2019 amid continue food price increase.

Addressing media in Dodoma, the Acting Director of Population Census and Social Statistics, Ms. Ruth Minja, attributed the inflation upsurge to the continued rise of prices of food and non- food items.

The increase of the inflation explains that the speed of price change for commodities for November, 2019 has increased compared to the speed of price change recorded in October, 2019.

The acting director said further that the overall index during the month has increased to 116.39 from 115.84 recorded in October, 2019 which was caused by such price increase on food and non-food items.

Ms. Minja mentioned food items that contributed to the increase as follows with their



Members of the media at press conference during the release of November Consumer Price Index (CPI) at NBS offices in Dodoma

percentages shown in the brackets: maize grains (2.1 percent), maize flour (4.3 percent), sorghum grain (1.3 percent), sorghum flour (4.5 percent), groundnuts (3.6 percent), coconut (5.5 percent), vegetables (1.6 percent), beans (3.5 percent) and cocoyam (4.7 percent).

On non-food items that contributed to the increase, she listed kerosene, which increased by 1.5 percent, diesel by 2.3 percent and petrol by 2.9 percent.

Likewise, the CPI release--

showed that the inflation rate for food and non-alcoholic beverages for November, 2019 has also increased to 6.1 percent from 5.1 percent recorded in October, 2019.

The acting director also revealed that the inflation rate for food consumed at home and away from home in November, 2019 has also increased by 0.7 from 6.0 percent in October 2019 to 6.7 percent whereas the 12-month index change for non-food products in November, 2019 has decreased to 2.4 percent from 2.7 percent recorded in October, 2019.

NBS PICTORIAL NEWS



**Dr. Amina Msengwa,
Chairperson NBS
Governing Board**

"We need to work hard and diligently, going hand in hand with technological advances; forging new partnerships to further our profession and because we have the capacity, what is important is to work together as professionals and adhere to our professional ethics."



**Statistician General, Dr.
Albina Chuwa**

"We, statisticians, must justify our existence through hard work, upholding our professional integrity and produce quality statistical products through which the country can really take note of our importance."

NBS PICTORIAL NEWS



Members of 2019 African Statistics Day Publicity team Senior Statistician Rainer Kiama (standing right) and Statistician Joyce Msoka (far left standing) at Dodoma Secondary School during awareness campaign on the importance of and the use of statistics in social and economic life as part of this year's African Statistics Day celebration



NBS Principal Statistician Mr. Joel A. Weja talks to students of Meriwa Secondary School in Dodoma on importance of statistics in their daily life. This was part of awareness campaign to mark 2019 African Statistics Day.

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