



NBS NEWS LETTER

ISSUE NO: 35

DATE: APRIL, 2018



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



Tanzania registers huge success in fight against malaria, to offer free treatment



Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Ms. Umy Mwalimu speaking at the climax of the International Malaria Day celebrations in Kasulu, Kigoma

- **under-five malaria cases drop by half**

As Tanzania marked World Malaria Day with a more than half decrease of cases in children under five, the government has renewed its commitment to completely eradicate the disease in the country by declaring free treatment in all public hospitals and health centres.

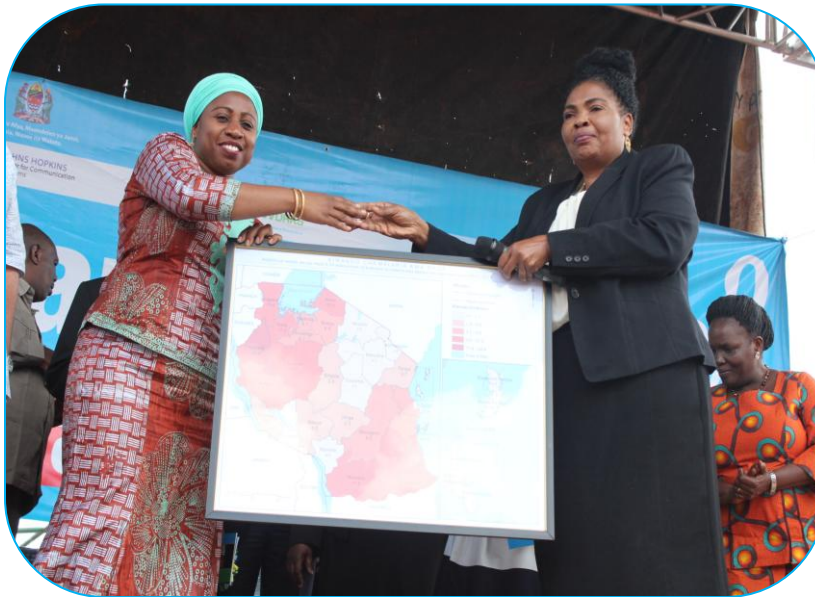
The Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Ms Umy Mwalimu, made the announcement during--

the recent commemorations to mark the World Malaria Day held at national level in Kasulu District, Kigoma Region.

“I direct all regional and district medical officers to ensure that there is no diagnosis and treatment charge in all government health facilities effective from today. There should be no cost charged on patients for malaria treatment,” the minister insisted. She, however, said that patients will continue to pay consultation fees when attending hospitals.

The minister added that the government, in collaboration with other stakeholders, had also devised a malaria treatment co-payment mechanism whereby people diagnosed with malaria will receive treatment or purchase medicines at reduced costs in all private health centres, pharmacies and key medical stores.

The minister quoted the report of the Tanzania Malaria Indicator Survey of 2017 which she launched as part of the commemorations showing a significant drop of cases in--



Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Ms Umy Mwalimu (left) received from NBS' Director General Dr. Albina Chuwa a designated Tanzania map showing Malaria prevalence by region as per 2017 Malaria Indicator Survey.

children under five from 14.5 per cent in 2015 to 7.3 per cent in 2017.

“This is a big achievement which demonstrates our government’s resolve to rid the country off malaria in the country” The minister said but warned that more collaborative efforts are needed to fight the scourge as its prevalence in some parts of the country is still alarming.

The minister told the well-attended rally that despite such achievement, the statistics show that malaria was still a big problem, particularly in rural areas as compared to urban centres where transmission rate-

was 10.7 percent and 3.4 percent respectively.

She therefore called for collective efforts to ensure programmes against malaria are successfully implemented and ultimately provide relief to expectant mothers and children under five who are the most vulnerable.

The minister also warned of the worrying trends among people who treat every fever as malaria and start treatment without diagnosis.

“It is unacceptable. Not every fever is malaria. We should get away from this habit of treating every fever is--

malaria” said the minister and warned people not to use malaria drugs without being diagnosed by qualified medical personnel.

The minister assured the nation of the quality of malaria treating medicine-ALU and insisting that her ministry in collaboration with medical research institutions in the country conducted research to assess quality, efficacy and effectiveness of the drug and proved that it is effectiveness to treat the disease by over ninety percent.

In her speech the minister highlighted various steps taken by the government in partnership with stakeholders including development partners in the fight against malaria.

Among the steps taken include providing preventive drug to expectant mothers (Sulphadoxine Pyrimethamine-SP), increasing malaria diagnosis using malaria Rapid Diagnostic Test (mRDT) to those showing symptoms of the diseases and treatments accordingly. She also mentioned collaborative technics in monitoring and evaluation of various malaria programs including community mobilizations programs against malaria.

Build trust through transparency, NBS chief advises stakeholders



NBS' Director General Dr. Albina Chuwa addresses stakeholders meeting on collection and dissemination of Statistics in broadcasting sector where she emphasized transparency. Left is GeoPoll Chief Executive Officer Nick Becker.

Lack of transparency in collection, processing and ultimately dissemination of statistics in the broadcasting sector is a source of anxiety created by the results from institutions doing Media Audience Measurement Surveys in the country, Dr. Albina Chuwa, the Director General of the National Bureau Statistics (NBS) has warned.

Speaking during a day-long stakeholders' meeting on collection and dissemination--

of Statistics in the broadcasting sector held recently at Mwalimu Nyerere Convention Centre, Dr. Chuwa said the only way to get rid of that anomaly was to bring on board all stakeholders to create an atmosphere of confidence and mutual trust.

She concurred with stakeholders' proposal of establishing a joint media audience measurement committee to set common standards of how to conduct--

such surveys.

“A committee with assistance of technical team will help us harmonise the methodologies which will iron out all these inconsistencies stakeholders are complaining about,” said Dr. Chuwa adding that such committees were in place in other countries too.

She explained that the--

committee would think loud about harmonization of methodologies and NBS would be there to offer the technical support for it.

She said stakeholders had “to come up with something everyone among us is satisfied or at least is part of it and that will help create confidence and trust among ourselves (stakeholders)”.

The NBS chief emphasized that as in demographic surveys, where there was a team that did set standards, then the same should be applied in broadcasting surveys and insist that everybody must be put on board “to see your plan, your sample, your questionnaire and all these kinds of things”.

She reminded participants to the meeting that NBS role was to coordinate all producers and consumers of official statistics and in doing so NBS was to ensure producers observe all fundamental principles of production of official statistics.

She said stakeholders had “to come up with something everyone among us is satisfied or at least is part of it and that will help create confidence and trust among ourselves (stakeholders)”.

“A committee with assistance of technical team will help us harmonise the methodologies which will iron out all these inconsistencies stakeholders are complaining about,” said Dr. Chuwa adding that such committees were in place in other countries too.”



Part of participants at the stakeholders’ meeting on collection and dissemination of Statistics in broadcasting sector follow meeting proceedings.

Mwakyembe: we hold no grudges against geopoll

The Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Dr. Harrison Mwakyembe, has hailed management of GeoPoll Company for the way it responded to the government suspension of its activities in the country.

Talking to the GeoPoll delegation in his office recently in Dodoma, the minister insisted that the government had no ill feelings with GeoPoll, however, what it wanted was for the later to comply with the laws of the land.

“Surveys in Tanzania like in other countries are guided by the law so what we wanted was for your institution to legally register in the country and follow other rules and regulations governing your activities” The minister told the delegation headed by its Chief Executive Officer, Mr Nick Becker.

The minister said he was happy that the company acted swiftly and contacted relevant authorities and was now fully registered.

For his part, GeoPoll CEO Becker thanked the government for the cooperation accorded to his company during the process of making GeoPoll legal in the country. He expressed special tributes to NBS management, particularly its Director General, Dr. Albina Chuwa, for assistance and support to his company.

He pledged to continue cooperation and collaboration with all relevant institutions and also stakeholders in the broadcasting sector.

Earlier, briefing the minister, the Permanent Secretary to the ministry, Ms Susan Mlawi, said government banned GeoPoll in September last year from disseminating its data in the country following grievances from stakeholders in the broadcasting sector.

“The stakeholders were questioning how GeoPoll could conduct such a survey in absentia and wanted to know the methodologies as well as basic issues in the survey,” the Permanent Secretary explained to the minister.

The meeting was also attended by the Director of Information Services (MAELEZO) who doubles as chief government spokesperson, Dr. Hassan Abassi, and NBS Senior Legal Officer Oscar Mangula.

“Surveys in Tanzania like in other countries are guided by the law so what we wanted was for your institution to legally register in the country and follow other rules and regulations governing your activities” The minister told the delegation headed by its Chief Executive Officer, Mr Nick Becker.

Establish joint media audience assessment committee, stakeholders urged



Chief Executive Officer of the US-based company GeoPoll Nick Becker (centre) speaks during stakeholders' meeting on collection and dissemination of Statistics in broadcasting sector held recently at Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre. Right is NBS' Director General Dr. Albina Chuwa and left is Irenius Ruyobya NBS's Director of Statistics Operations.

Stakeholders in the broadcasting sector have advised the government to establish a Joint Media Audience Assessment body to coordinate collection, processing and dissemination of statistics in the sector.

In a meeting held in Dar es Salaam at the Mwalimu Nyerere International Convention Centre recently, stakeholders recommended establishment of the committee in a bid to stop complaints following the release of statistics by some research organisations.

The meeting, which was a follow up of the one held in September 2017, was aimed at finding a better way in coordinating and supervising the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics in broadcasting sector.

The meeting drew representatives of various media houses, advertisers and research institutions in the broadcasting sector.

“Media audience assessment, be it television viewership, radio listenership and newspapers readership, is--

crucial as its results influence advertisers' decisions on where to place their advertisement,” said Mr. James Mumbo from IPSO.

Mr. Mumbo added that due to huge amount of money poured into the media as advertisement and promotional fees around the globe, advertisers and individuals would like to know if they were making the right decisions and that was where audience assessment became mandatory.

Speaking at the meeting, GeoPoll's Chief Executive--



Deogratius Malamsha statistician from NBS makes presentation on official statistics at the stakeholders' meeting on collection and dissemination of Statistics in broadcasting sector held recently at Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre.

Officer Nick Becker stressed the importance of data driven decision making and said that was what his institution was doing to help stakeholders in the sector arrive at evidence-based decision making.

“With data we can create opportunities for our young people, build our economies and indeed bring new technologies,” he said and added that GeoPoll believed that partnership between all stakeholders would bring more prosperity to the industry.

Mr. Becker told participants that GeoPoll was using latest technologies in audience data collection including SMS and mobile operators as well as using user friendly statistics releases. He said GeoPoll work was to help both advertisers and broadcasters in pursuing their goals.

During the meeting three presentations were made from NBS, IPSOS and GeoPoll. The NBS paper which was presented by Mr Deogratius Malamsha--

outlined the basics of collection, processing and dissemination of official statistics. The other two from IPSOS and GeoPoll covered areas of audience data collection methodologies and their experience in the field of audience assessment in broadcasting sector.

“Media audience assessment, be it television viewership, radio listenership and newspapers readership, is crucial as its results influence advertisers’ decisions on where to place their advertisement,”

Falsification of official statistics on the decrease, says NBS chief



National Bureau of Statistics' building in Kigoma as recently captured by our photographer during Dr. Chuwa visit in Kigoma

The trend shows a decrease of cases of falsification of government statistics since the enactment of the 2015 Statistics Act, says the Director General of National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Dr. Albina Chuwa.

Responding to questions by journalists in Kigoma after inspecting construction of NBS' new office building recently, Dr. Chuwa reiterated that the Act does not restrict any person or institution from engaging in the production of

official statistics.

“What is needed is for those engaging in production of official statistics to liaise with NBS in order to ensure the laid down principles and procedures are adhered to,” she explained.

Dr. Chuwa said NBS was working like any other supervisory or regulatory body such as the National Bureau of Standards (TBS) which regulates anything entering the market in the--

country.

“That is how it is; you can't enter your products into the market without TBS' approval, the same applies to statistics, it can't be official without being verified by us (NBS),” she noted.

The NBS chief assured the media that the Act was open to all stakeholders who were ready to participate in production of official statistics--

on its own”.

On the new office building under construction, she said that was part of the government efforts to improve statistical infrastructure to enable production of quality official statistics in the country.

She explained that NBS has offices in all regions across mainland Tanzania. However, she said, these are mostly housed in the offices of Regional Commissioners as the case was in Kigoma.

Dr. Chuwa pointed out that the role of NBS regional offices was to coordinate production of official statistics in the region and the Bureau has now expanded its coverage to district councils to ensure countrywide smooth production of statistics.

She added that “the new office building will provide NBS staff with ideal working conditions to serve the region in the area of statistics”.

Situated at government administrative block in Mnarani on the outskirts of Kigoma Town, the building which was in the finishing stages has a conference hall with the capacity of over 70--

people.

“We want to expand the conference hall to cater for more people so that it can serve government and its institutions in the region,” she added.

Dr. Chuwa said construction of the building which was initially funded by Swedish government was expected to be completed by 2020.

The NBS boss was in Kigoma to attend the launch of 2017 Malaria Indicator Survey which was part of the event to mark the International Malaria Day--

held nationally in Kasulu District, Kigoma Region. The event was officiated by the Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Ms Ummu Mwalimu.

*“We want to expand the conference hall to cater for more people so that it can serve government and its institutions in the region,” she added.”
Dr. Chuwa said.”*



National Bureau of Statistics' building in Kigoma as recently captured by our photographer during Dr. Chuwa visit in Kigoma

NBS ready to produce malaria reports for districts

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) will produce and disseminate the recently launched report of the 2017 Malaria Indicator Survey (2017 TMIS) to district councils countrywide.

Responding to the directive from the Minister for Health, Community Development, Elderly and Children, Ms. Umy Mwalimu, made during the launch of the report, the Director General of NBS, Dr. Albina Chuwa, said NBS has the capacity to prepare those reports by June this year as per minister's request.

"NBS has the technical expertise and with the assistance from USAID through ICF- Macro, can produce the report in small area estimation like district councils as proposed by the minister," Dr. Chuwa said.

The NBS boss expounded that releasing report at that level would be beneficial to the councils' leadership including Members of Parliament as the report would illustrate malaria situation localities.

"The report will assist the council to formulate plans and devise--

strategies to address malaria situation in their respective councils," she noted.

Dr. Chuwa noted that the indicators derived from the 2017 TMIS would help to monitor progress made in the health sector particularly on malaria-related issues and respond to the needs of the Government, Regional, International Goals and Community at large.

"Results of this survey will be used to monitor and evaluate progress on the implementation of the Five Year Development Plan (2016/17-2020/21), Global Sustainable Development Goals-SDGs, EAC Vision 2050 and African Agenda 2063," she explained.

Dr. Chuwa said according to the report, Kigoma Region was the leading region with high malaria prevalence of 24.4 percent, followed by Geita (17.3 percent) and Kagera with 15.4 percent prevalence. She named regions with low prevalence of malaria as including Njombe, Manyara, Kilimanjaro, Kaskazini Pemba and Kusini Pemba.

The survey was jointly--

conducted by The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the Office of the Chief Government Statistician (OCGS) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children for mainland Tanzania, and that of the Ministry of Health, Zanzibar indicate a sharp decrease of malaria infection in the country from 14.4 in 2015 to 7.3 in 2017.

The key objectives of the 2017 TMIS were to measure the level of ownership and use of mosquito nets as well as assess coverage of intermittent preventive treatment for pregnant women.

It also identified treatment practices including the use of specific anti-malarial medications to treat malaria among children age 6-59 months; measure the prevalence of malaria and anemia among children age 6-59 months; and assess knowledge, attitudes, and practices among adults with malaria.

Inflation rate for April drops to 3.8 percent



NBS director of Population Census and Social Statistics Mr. Ephraim Kwesigabo announces National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) for April, 2018; Right is Ruth Minja, Labor and Price Statistics Manager

The headline inflation rate for April, 2018 has dropped to 3.8 percent from 3.9 percent recorded a month earlier.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam when releasing the National Consumer Price Index (CPI) for April, 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 decrease of the speed of price change for

commodities in April, 2018 compared to the speed of price change recorded in March, 2018.

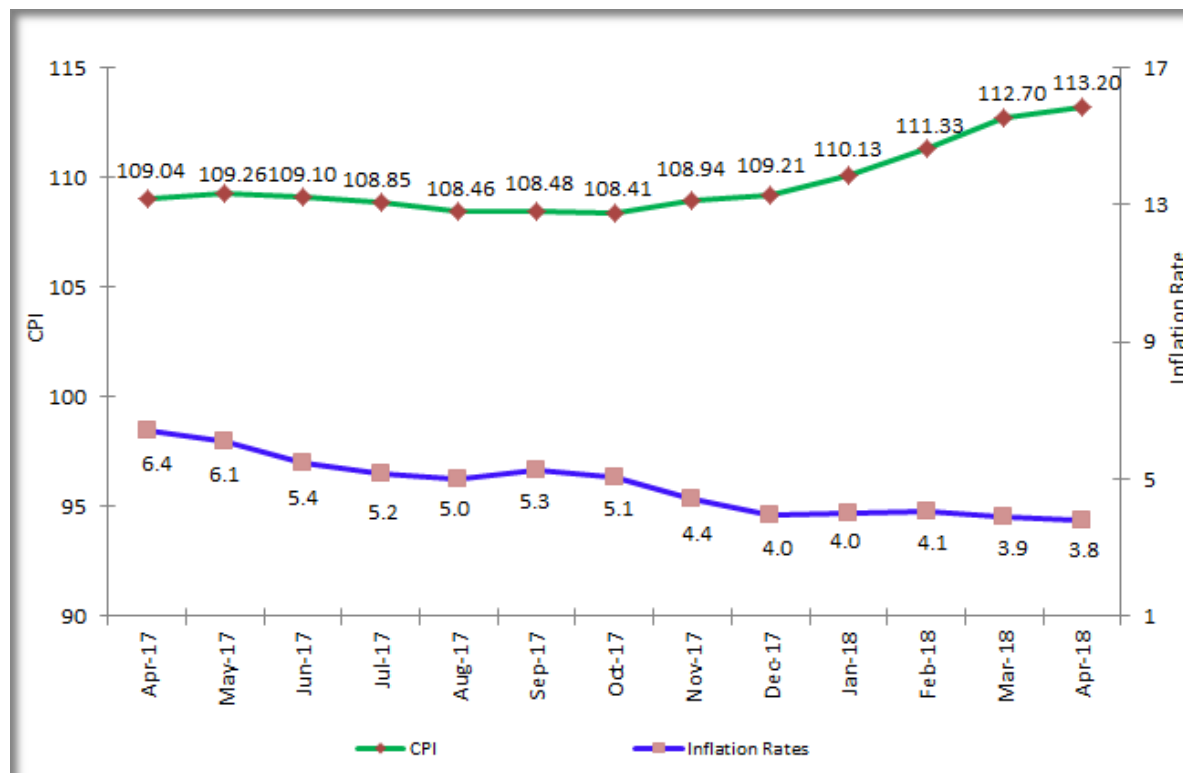
“The CPI for April, 2018 has dropped to 3.8 percent from 3.9 percent as it was in the previous month; it changed by 0.4 percent in April, 2018 compared to a change of 1.2 percent recorded in March, 2018,” said Mr. Kwesigabo.

He said the overall index has increased to 113.20 in April,--

2018 from 112.70 recorded in March, 2018. The increase in the overall index was attributed to price increase for both food and non-food items.

Mr. Kwesigabo mentioned some food items that contributed to such increase as including rice which increased by 1.2 percent, vegetables by 1.9 percent, dry peas by 1.4 percent, sweet potatoes by 2.6 percent, cocoyam by 1.7 percent and cooking bananas by 4.0 percent.

Movement of National Consumer Price Indices (NCPI) and Inflation Rates from April, 2017 – April, 2018. (Dec., 2015 = 100)



On the other hand, non- food items that contributed to such increase were kerosene which increased by 4.9 percent, charcoal by 1.4 percent, diesel by 3.0 percent and petrol by 1.9 percent.

He further said that, the inflation rate for food consumed at home and away from home decreased to 4.0 percent in April, 2018 from 5.0 percent recorded in March, 2018 while the 12 month index change for non-food products in April, 2018 has increased to 3.9 percent from 3.5 percent recorded in March, 2018.

He said the inflation rate which excludes food and energy for the month of April, 2018 has decreased to 1.4 percent from 1.6 percent recorded in March, 2018.

“some food items that contributed to such increase as including rice which increased by 1.2 percent, vegetables by 1.9 percent, dry peas by 1.4 percent, sweet potatoes by 2.6 percent, cocoyam by 1.7 percent and cooking bananas by 4.0 percent.”

“The inflation rate for food consumed at home and away from home decreased to 4.0 percent in April, 2018 from 5.0 percent recorded in March, 2018 while the 12 month index change for non-food products in April, 2018 has increased to 3.9 percent from 3.5 percent recorded in March, 2018.”

Tanzania lauds development partners' support in the fight against malaria

Tanzania has commended stakeholders' support in the fight against malaria and pledged to continue working closely with them in its bid to make the country free from the disease.

Speaking during the Malaria Day celebrations in Kasulu District, Kigoma Region, the Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Ms Ummu Mwalimu, said what Tanzania has now achieved in fighting against malaria was a result of a collective effort put by both government and its partners.

"Our efforts have been well supported by our partners and we thank them most sincerely for what they have been doing with us to help our government to prevent pregnant women and children from deaths and other sufferings associated with this deadly disease," the minister said.

The minister mentioned Global Fund, United States' President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), United Kingdom's--

Department for International Development (DfID), Swiss Development Cooperation, World Health Organisation (WHO), and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through IFC Macro Inc. and UNITAID.

She mentioned local stakeholders as including the Parliamentary Committee for Social Services, Tanzania Parliamentary Association against Malaria (TAPAMA), Non-governmental Organisations, private sector and sports, research--

institutions such the National Medical Research (NIMR) and Ifakara Health Institute (IHI).

"The government looks forward to continue creating enabling environment which will foster more partnerships with all stakeholders leaving no one behind in fight against the diseases," said the minister and called everybody to play his or her part wherever he or she is to achieve this national goal.



Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Ms Ummu Mwalimu with other dignitaries displaying copies of Report of the 2017 Malaria Indicator Survey which she launched as part of International Malaria Day celebrations in Kasulu, Kigoma.

Rahim Mussa is NBS' 2018 Employee of the Year



Rahim Mussa soliciting votes from his fellow workers during annual best employee nomination meeting; He emerged the best 2018 employee after scooping 53 votes.

It was all smiles for Rahim Mussa when he was declared NBS' 2018 employee of the year.

Mr Mussa, who is from the directorate of operations, emerged the overall winner beating four other contestants.

A cartographer at the Geographical Information System (GIS) section in the Field Operation Department, Mr Mussa scooped 53 out of 158 votes beating his closest contestant, Ms. Mariam Kinabo, who is from Dar es Salaam Regional Statistics--

Office, who collected 50 votes, by a margin of only three votes.

Other contestants were Ristus Bernard from Directorate of Economic Statistics who got 27 votes, Beatrice Rwegoshora of Finance, Administration and Marketing who garnered 21 votes and Philbert Mrema from the Directorate of Social Statistics who collected 7 votes.

The preliminaries for the annual event starts at the departmental level where workers compete within their departments and winners compete for the prestigious honour at a--

nomination meeting attended by all staffs.

As in other nominating meetings, contestants were given opportunity to express themselves and ask voters nominate them. During the process, voters ask questions and contestants reply to them.

Thanks to the advancement of technology, staff in the regional offices as well as those who could not attend the nomination meeting was allowed to vote through mobile short messages and WhatsApp.

NBS PICTORIAL NEWS



NBS pavilion was one of the attractions at the celebrations to mark the International Malaria Day in Kasulu. In this photograph, Kasulu residents admire various publications displayed at NBS pavilion.



Director General of NBS Dr. Albina Chuwa accompanied by Zanzibar's Chief Government Statistician Mayasa Mahfoudh Mwinyi (standing right) gives introductory remarks before the launching of the 2017 Malaria Indicator Survey in Kasulu during International Malaria Day celebrations in Kasulu.

NBS PICTORIAL NEWS



Part of NBS staff who attended the annual best employee nomination meeting held at NBS head office along Kivukoni Front anxiously waiting for the results. The meeting nominated Rahim Mussa who defeated his closest contestant Mariam Kinabo by three votes.



Traditional art group entertain Kigoma residents during celebrations to mark the International Malaria Day celebrations held nationally in Kasulu district.



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.

For comments and suggestions please contact:

**Director General,
National Bureau of Statistics,
18 Kivukoni Road,
P. O. Box 796,
11992 Dar es Salaam.
Tel: +255 22 2122722/4
Fax: +255 22 2130852
E-mail: dg@nbs.go.tz**