



# NBS NEWSLETTER

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**International Women's Day 2019: "Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change."**



# Editorial Board



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**Statistician General**

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## Mpango Impressed with NBS Adoption of New Technologies in Implementing Its Mandates



*Minister for Finance and Planning Dr. Philip Mpango with NBS management team during his impromptu visit at National Statistics offices situated at Makulu, along Jakaya Kikwete Road, Dodoma.*

THE Minister of Finance and Planning, Dr. Philip Mpango, has expressed his appreciation saying he was both encouraged and impressed to see that the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has adopted new technologies and that it was taking on board new ideas in measuring poverty in the country.

The minister was reacting to a report by NBS management on the use of Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) which is being used for the first time in--

analysing poverty levels in the country using data collected during the 2017/2018 Household Budget Survey (HBS).

He said the results will provide the government with an opportunity to explain what the country has done and what made it move forward.

Dr. Mpango, who made an impromptu visit to the NBS offices situated along Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Road in Dodoma, noted that the--

adoption of the new method of measuring poverty (MPI) was proof of professional dynamism and a forward-looking leadership at NBS.

He emphasised that “Dynamism, use of new technologies and applying new knowledge is very important to any national statistics body like NBS”.

He told the management that embracing new technologies during surveys always attracted young people and “I am sure the

youth involved in HBS enjoyed undertaking the job with tablets”.

He commended the Bureau’s management and staff for the way the body has successfully executed its mandates despite facing numerous challenges.

“Here at NBS, you are doing a very wonderful job, the challenge is that people are not aware of the beauty of statistics,” he said.

He told the management that the government has invested a lot to bring NBS to the level it is today; hence it becomes unthinkable to see someone with only some elementary knowledge of statistics technical know-how challenging statistics produced by the Bureau, including the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

“GDP is calculated using various methods and it is only the national statistics bodies that are entitled to do so and release such information,” he argued.

The minister said the government would commit more resources to NBS for it to continue undertaking its mandate of producing quality statistics which is a very essential tool to “my ministry and the country because in the--



***NBS staff listening to Minister for Finance and Planning Dr. Philip Mpango (not in picture) during his brief visit at NBS offices in Dodoma***

absence of statistics we can neither plan nor measure our efforts”.

He said it was his responsibility as the Minister of Finance to ensure NBS was allocated enough resources to enable it produce the required statistics and statistics are the ones “which support me in my work and as the saying goes numbers don’t lie”.

At the meeting, the Manager of Social and Demographic Statistics, Mrs. Sylvia Meku, told the minister that despite multitude of challenges the statistics body faced in executing the 2017/18 Household Budget Survey--

(HBS), NBS did all its best to ensure the study was successfully implemented.

“HBS is very important survey because apart from providing poverty indicators, it also provides key indicators in revision of Gross National Product (GDP) as well as Consumer Price Index (CPI),” she told the minister, adding that HBS was the heart of the economy.

She further explained that using MPI would depict the real picture of the country’s poverty situation and as a result policy makers will be able to target specific areas to address poverty.

## NBS staff Say: Thank You Mr. President

Members of staff of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) have expressed their gratitude to President Dr. John Pombe Magufuli for approving the new organisational structure of the national statistics body.

President Magufuli approved the new structure last November, a move which would see the Bureau having four directorates and four units.

Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa told NBS workers at a meeting that the approved structure would strengthen the statistics profession in the country and showered special praise to President Magufuli for his visionary leadership.

“It is a promise from the fifth phase government... we commend President John Pombe Magufuli for approving the new structure which is a big step forward to guide statistics profession and give it a proper perspective,” she said.

Statistician General elaborated that the new--

structure would help NBS to successfully take on the new emerging roles within the statistical system aimed at ensuring quality official statistics was available for decision making and policy development.

“To have a functional National Statistical System (NSS) there was a need to have clearly organisation structure to accommodate the additional role of coordinating the NSS and of promoting the fundamental principles of official statistics,” she said and noted that the new structure was well-timed.

She therefore urged statisticians in the country to cherish President’s decision by taking a leading role in promoting their profession through improving their skills and acquire new knowledge so as to increase efficiency and productivity.

“We have come a long way until we have reached this stage. We have evolved from strength to strength from colonial time to this fifth Phase government,” she said adding that it was the--

responsibility of every statistician to show commitment and devotion to the profession and never let non-professionals to meddle with it.

She urged statisticians in the country to act in unison as do members of other professions including lawyers, medical doctors and engineers and stressed that by doing so it would help consolidate professional integrity and strengthen its image to the public.

According to the new structure of the NBS, the four directorates are Population Census and Social Statistics; Economic Statistics; Statistical Coordination and Field Operations; and Cooperate Service Directorate. The four units are Finance and Accounts Unit, Procurement Unit, Internal Audit Unit and Legal Services unit.

## The Amendments have widen scope of production of Statistics, says Statistician General

The Amendments done to the Statistics Acts of 2015 are meant to enhance coordinated dissemination of statistical information within the National Statistical System and not to impede data collection processes for statistics produced by individual institutions for internal use.

Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa said recently during a press conference held in Dar es Salaam that the amendments have widened the scope of production of statistics as more and more producers will--

contribute to the national statistical ecosystem.

She explained that the amendments to the law have embraced new sources of data and technological advancements which have impacted positively on the National Statistical System.

“The Amendments therefore lay down procedures to be followed by all producers of statistics in the process of publication and dissemination of statistical information,” she insisted.

Statistician General observed that with 230 Sustainable Developments Goals (SDGs) indicators and those of the Second Five Year National Development Plan to measure, Tanzania was in dire need of data, hence the inclusion of other data producers was of paramount importance.

“We need to bridge the existing data gap to measure global, regional and national development indicators that is why we want to incorporate all data producers to make them part and parcel of the national statistics ecosystem,” she argued.

She insisted that there was nothing to fear about the amendments made because they have brought about procedures to be followed [by producers of statistics] just like other rules and procedures set by institutions like the Tanzania Bureau of Standard (TBS) and the National Institute of Medical Research (NIMR).

“We want to make sure that all statistics meeting the set standards are disseminated--



*Executive Director of Policy Research and Analysis (REPOA) Dr. Donald Mmari clarifies a point during a press conference organized by NBS to brief media about recent amendments on Statistics Act of 2015. Left is Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa.*



***Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa addressing members of the press to inform of the recent amendments on Statistics Act of 2015. The Act was amended by Parliament through the Written Laws Miscellaneous Amendments Act No.8 of 2018.***

and are usable in planning and evaluating global and national development plans and programmes,” the Statistician General said.

She expressed her dismay at how some people expressed fears over the Amendments, while it was a matter of procedure which gave room for consultation and appeal if someone was not satisfied with Statistician General’s decision.

Dr. Chuwa added that the amendments were intended to--

enrich debate in matters of public interest and their outcomes for it was important that those engaged in such debates used acceptable and available official statistics.

She insisted that researchers were free to use datasets which were available on the NBS website for further analysis but they must comply with the terms and conditions set by the Bureau.

Following these amendments, the Statistician General--

informed the media that Statistics Regulations of 2017 were in the process of being amended to facilitate the implementation of the Act.

She added that the Draft Regulations have been prepared and shared with stakeholders and that the latter submitted their comments and in addressing stakeholders’ comments; she revealed that consultative meetings were held with them for further clarifications.

## Live and Act as One, Mpango advises NBS Staff

THE Minister of Finance and Planning, Dr. Philip Mpango, has called on NBS members of staff to live as a family by supporting each other in their duties to ensure they fulfill their responsibilities to the optimum.

The minister made the remarks during a brief meeting with employees of the Bureau's Head Offices.

He reminded management and staff that teamwork remained very crucial for the statistics--

body to deliver on its mandates efficiently.

He said: "You are all very important to the Bureau and that is why you have been employed and are paid for the assigned jobs. No one can work independently without the others therefore working as a team is inescapable must," he insisted.

The minister said since employees spent most of their time together, it was equally logical to create an environment that promoted trust making each-

member secure and all fellow workers as brothers and sisters.

Dr. Mpango expressed his appreciation to the management and staff by expressing high level of teamwork and for supporting working environment at the Bureau, which has made NBS to become one of the best performing institutions in the country.



*Minister for Finance and Planning Dr. Philip Mpango talking to NBS staff during his impromptu visit at National Statistics offices situated at Makulu, along Jakaya Kikwete Road, Dodoma. Left is Director of Population Census and Social Statistics Ephraim Kwesigabo.*

## President Magufuli is Happy with Your Work, Mpango Tells NBS Workers



*Part of NBS staff listening to Minister for Finance and Planning Dr. Philip Mpango (not in the picture) who made a surprise visit at NBS offices to get firsthand information on operations of national statistical body and exchanged ideas with the staff.*

The Minister of Finance and Planning, Dr. Philip Mpango, has revealed before management and staff members of the National Bureau of Statistics that President Dr. John Pombe Magufuli was highly impressed with their performance at the body.

Dr. Mpango, who recently made an impromptu visit to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Headquarters, told NBS staff that the President was pleased with how NBS was--

implementing its strategic plan.

Dr. Mpango said the President revealed this to him on several occasions they meet that he always appreciates the work being done by NBS.

“The President values and respects your efforts and the way you have been exercising professionalism in your work,” the minister said further

The minister reminded NBS management and staff to continue working diligently abiding by all the requirements of their profession as doing so was to improve the lives of the millions of Tanzanians by President Dr. John Pombe Magufuli.

## Draft of Statistics Regulations Brings NBS and Stakeholders Together

In a bid to finalise Draft of the Statistics Regulations, in February, 2019, a team of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) met with various stakeholders for consultations.

Statistics Regulations of 2017 are in the process of being amended to facilitate the implementation of the Amendments to The Statistics Act No. 9 of 2015 which was passed by Parliament in October, 2018 through “The Written Laws Miscellaneous Amendments Act No. 8 of 2018”.

To ensure stakeholders were involved in the process, NBS drafted Regulations amendments and were shared with stakeholders for comments and inputs. The response was enormous and until recently still more stakeholders continued submitting their comments.

In February, the NBS team, led by Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa, convened two consultative meetings with two groups of key stakeholders in Dar es Salaam to discuss--

comments and issues raised by the stakeholders over the amendments.

The team first met with Development Partners who submitted written comments to NBS. These included World Bank, United Nations agencies in Tanzania, the Royal Danish Embassy, the Embassy of Switzerland, the High Commission of Canada, and United Kingdom’s Department for International Development, the International Statistical Institute, the International Monetary Fund, the European Union and USAID Tanzania.

The second meeting involved higher institutions of learning and research institutions which also submitted written comments and inputs to NBS.

These included Mzumbe University, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), Ardhi University, Institute of Financial Management (IFM), Research on Poverty-

Analysis (REPOA), Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF), Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT), Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) and TWaweza.

During the two meetings, NBS and stakeholders had very fruitful discussions on various issues pertaining to the Amendments and the later were satisfied with clarifications given by NBS team.

Stakeholders described the meetings as yet another sign of good existing cooperation between stakeholders in national statistics system and the national statistics body.

*“To ensure stakeholders were involved in the process, NBS drafted Regulations amendments and were shared with stakeholders for comments and inputs. The response was enormous and until recently still more stakeholders continued submitting their comments”*

## Statistician General Opens NBS Staff Meeting



***Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa speaking during NBS all-staff meeting held to discuss recent developments touching the national statistics body including new approved organization structure of NBS.***

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) held an all staff meeting in February 2018 at the national statistics office conference hall in Dodoma City.

Opening the meeting, Statistician General Dr. Chuwa said the meeting was very important because there were new developments that all members of staff should be aware of.

In her short opening statement, Dr. Chuwa informed the workers of the new organisational structure which has been approved by President John--

Pombe Magufuli, which she said opened a new page in the development of the statistics bureau.

She told workers that the new structure was formulated in order to enable and facilitate NBS to implement its functions more effectively.

Dr. Chuwa told staff that every employee had to be informed of the new structure and understand where one belonged.

“Among presentations today includes one which describes--

the functions and the approved Organisational Structure of our institution,” she said.

She told them that the secretariat had prepared six presentations and urged all employees to keenly follow them because they were very important not only for their professional life but also for their social wellbeing.

Apart from presentation on the new NBS organisational structure, other presentations were on Amendments of 2015 Statistics Act and 2017 Statistics Regulations and Non-Communicable Diseases and HIV/AIDS presented by Dr. Gwamaka Edward from the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF).

Others were Firefighting Techniques and Safety Measures by Assistant Inspector Emmanuel Ochieng from the Fire and Rescue Force in Dodoma and an insight on Tanzania Socio Economic Database (TSED) presented by Rose Michael; and the Tanzania National Data Achieve (TNADA) by Ariv Severe both from NBS.

## Survey on Impact of Accessing to Sustainable Energy under Way

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and Statistics Norway (SSB) will conduct a survey on the impact of accessing sustainable energy at the household level.

This was revealed during a meeting between the two national statistics organisations held at NBS offices in Dodoma recently.

During the meeting, the two bodies discussed the roadmap of the survey scheduled to start from April 2019 to 2021 and to be held in all regions of --

Tanzania Mainland.

According to the survey's coordinator from Statistics Norway, Ms. Signe Vraalstad, the survey will measure access to sustainable and modern energy at household level.

The survey, she said, will use a prototype survey questionnaire designed by World Bank to measure Sustainable Development Goal number seven which targets to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030.

However, for Tanzania and Mozambique, which both collaborate with Statistics Norway, the survey will also measure the impact of such access for economic development at household level and for human welfare.

Ms. Vraalstad who was accompanied by survey's senior consultants Mr. Per Schoning and Mr. Ole Sandvik informed the NBS team that Tanzania was free to customise the questionnaire to suit its--



*A delegation from Statistics Norway led by Ms. Signe Vraalstad visited NBS offices in Dodoma and held talks with NBS team led by Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa on the planned survey on Impact of Access to Sustainable Energy at Household Level. During the meeting the two bodies discussed the roadmap of the survey scheduled to start from April 2019 to 2021.*



***Part of NBS management team who attended meeting between Statistics Norway and NBS which discussed preparations of upcoming survey on Impact of Access to Sustainable Energy at Household Level. The Survey which will be conducted in mainland Tanzania is scheduled to start in April this year.***

national statistics needs in that area.

For her part, Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa said the survey, which will be the first to be held in the country, was very important as it would provide the country with important data key to informing policy and decision makers in energy sector, particularly the provision of electricity to all.

“Measuring how electricity is changing lives of our citizens is

very important because it will tell us how our policies and programmes meet our targets,” Dr. Chuwa said adding that adopting impact model in the questionnaire was of a likeable decision.

Statistician General told the Norwegian a delegation that her office will put on board other stakeholders including the Ministry of Energy; Rural Electrification Authority (REA) and Energy and Water Utility Regulatory Authority--

(EWURA).

“We will invite other stakeholders in the energy sector to preview the questionnaire and see if we can integrate other variables to collect more information needed in the sector,” she explained.

Dr. Chuwa thanked Statistics Norway for initiating the project which pioneering cooperation between NBS and the Norwegian Statistics Office.

## There is Still Room for Improvement, Say HBS Coordinators and Supervisors



***Supervisors of the 2017/18 Household Budget Survey and Regional statistics Managers in group photograph after wrapping up evaluation workshop of the survey held at NBS conference hall Dodoma.***

Coordinators and supervisors of the 2017/2018 National Household Budget Survey (2017/2018 HBS) have said that despite its successful implementation, there was still room for improvement.

The coordinators and supervisors met in a two-day workshop at the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) offices in Dodoma to evaluate the implementation of the--

survey.

During the workshop, participants made a comprehensive review of the entire Survey from planning through data collection stage which includes stages of pre-testing, piloting, training of trainers, and training of enumerators, field work and data processing.

During discussions, participants highlighted--

the importance of improved and constant publicity and mobilisation at grassroots level in the selected enumeration areas to attain highest possible response during the survey.

They also recommended recruitment process to be done within respective enumeration areas in cooperation with local leaders to ensure those recruited are residents of the respective areas.

Household budget is a sample survey which collects, from private households, information on expenditure on goods and services with considerable details in information on income, possession of consumer durable goods, basic information on housing and demographics.

The survey is very important as it provides the country with critical indicators in monitoring and evaluating performance of various sectors in Tanzania and plays a great role in creating baseline data for the country to monitor performance of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## Inflation rate stagnates at 3.0 percent, Statistics Body Announces

Inflation rate for February, 2019 has stagnated at 3.0 percent as it was recorded in the previous month.

Releasing the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) figures for February, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Director of Population Census and Social Statistics, Mr. Ephraim Kwesigabo, said the CPI for February stagnated at 3.0 percent.

The stagnation of the headline inflation explains that, the speed of price change for commodities in February, 2019 has remained the same as that recorded in January, 2019.

“The CPI for February 2019 has stagnated at 3.0 percent as it was recorded in January 2019. This is because, the speed of price change was the same as of January 2019 but the overall index has increased to 114.63 in February, 2019 from 113.38 recorded in January, 2019,” said Mr. Kwesigabo.

The increase of the overall index was mainly attributed by price increase of food and--

non-food items. Some food items that contributed to such increase were rice which increased by 1.6 percent, maize grains by 1.3 percent, maize flour by 2.9 percent, fresh fish by 6.4 percent, dried sardines by 1.6 percent, fruits by 1.5 percent, vegetables by 1.7 percent, sweet potatoes by 2.7 percent, dry cassava by 2.2 percent and cooking banana by 3.4 percent.

On the other hand, the figures for non-food items in the index were: charcoal which increased by 3.1 percent, firewood by 7.1 percent, doctor's consultation fee in private hospitals by 1.8 percent, food and drinks from restaurants by 1.2 percent, school bags by 1.4 percent and furniture by 7.7 percent.

Mr. Kwesigabo said food and non alcoholic beverages inflation rate for February, 2019 decreased to 0.5 percent from 0.7 percent recorded in January, 2019 while the Inflation for food consumed at home and away from home for February, 2019 remained at 2.3 percent as it was recorded in January, 2019.

Inflation rate which excluded food and energy for February, 2019 stagnated at 3.1 percent as it was recorded in January, 2019 while the 12 month index change for non-food products in February, 2019 remained at 5.1 percent as it was recorded in January, 2019.

***“Some food items that contributed to such increase were rice which increased by 1.6 percent, maize grains by 1.3 percent, maize flour by 2.9 percent, fresh fish by 6.4 percent, dried sardines by 1.6 percent, fruits by 1.5 percent, vegetables by 1.7 percent, sweet potatoes by 2.7 percent, dry cassava by 2.2 percent and cooking banana by 3.4 percent.”***

# NBS PICTORIAL NEWS



*Principal Statistician from NBS Stephen Maganda, coordinator of 2017/18 Household Budget Survey making a point during survey's evaluation workshop held at NBS conference hall, Dodoma. On his right is NBS Manager of Social Statistics Ms. Sylvia Meku*



*Dr. Richard Alexander Clement from Benjamin Mkapa hospital takes blood sample of Geita Regional Statistics Manager Khalid Msabaha during NBS staff meeting where diagnostic and counselling services were provided courtesy to National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF).*

# NBS PICTORIAL NEWS



*Part of NBS staff who attended all-staff meeting which discussed various issues including new organisation structure approved by President Magufuli in November, 2018.*



*National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) team led by Manager of Social Statistics Ms. Sylvia Meku met with delegation from secretariat of Southern African Development Community (SADC) in Dodoma to discuss the ongoing project on Strengthening Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) Systems for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) and Youth in members States. The objective of the project is to facilitate SADC member states to generate data for youth and children for development of youth policies and programs.*

# **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:*

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