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



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Mhagama tells NBS workers: Your Role of Championing National Development is Crucial for Development



Minister Mhagama addresses NBS workers council where she underscored the role of national statistical office in achieving national development goals.

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) workers' union (TUGHE (t) is duty-bound to inspire and encourage NBS staff to undertake their day to day responsibilities diligently so as to ensure that the country is availed with quality statistics.

Opening NBS workers' council meeting, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office responsible for Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour,--

Employment, Youth and People with Disabilities, Ms. Jenister Mhagama, emphasised that NBS has a special role to play in national development.

This, she said, is through the mandate of producing quality statistics that is crucial in policy formulation, planning and decision-making as well as monitoring and--

evaluation of various plans and programmes.

Minister Mhagama noted that the government appreciates the good work done by NBS, given the fact that in the absence of quality statistics it would be difficult to achieve development targets as stipulated in our various national, regional and global development plans and programmes.

Therefore, she reminded members of NBS workers' council and all employees to understand that they hold a critical role in facilitating socio-economic and political growth particularly in implementation of national development vision 2025 by producing quality statistics.

“You need to continue working hard and show dedication in executing your responsibility of producing quality statistics about population and its characteristics, and other areas,” she said.

During the meeting, members--

received and discussed various reports that were followed by presentations on various issues aimed at building members capacity and creating awareness on various issues including health maintenance.

The Minister urged for the need for workers to open up during discussions, a move she said would boost confidence among members towards the management, adding: “NBS would continue to flourish, hence become stronger and gain more reputation”

“Open and candid discussion is what is supposed to dominate--

these type of meetings as they are the only platforms where workers through their representatives and management meet and where both parties speak on the same level regardless of their positions,” the minister said.

She reminded civil servants that one of the objectives of the Fifth Phase Government under President Dr. John Pombe Magufuli was to fight corruption, hence called upon all civil servants to adhere to civil service code of ethic and fight corruption in their work place by resisting from asking and taking bribes.



Members of NBS workers council at the third session of the fifth NBS Workers Council held at TAKWIMU House conference hall, Dodoma.

She commended NBS for not being part of government institutions accused of corruption practices, adding that she was “pleased to see NBS remaining one of the institutions not marred by the evil”.

Make Workers Councils Functional, Cabinet Minister Directs MDAs

The Minister of State in the Prime Minister’s Office responsible for Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and People with Disabilities, Ms. Jenister Mhagama, has tasked managements of Ministries, Departments and Agencies to ensure, come the end of February 2020, all Worker Councils in their respective offices are functional.

She issued the directives as she was addressing the NBS workers council meeting saying that as of end of 2019, there were supposed to be 487 worker councils from both public and private sectors of which 211 councils are from Regional Administration and Local Government Authorities (PORALG); and 276 from--

Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

She added that out of the 211 councils from PORALG, 161 are functional holding regular meetings as per regulations but the other 50 councils are non-functional whereas only 16 councils from MDAs out of 260 are non-functional.

“My pledge to all managements is to make sure that worker councils are established and become active by holding meeting sessions regularly as per laid down procedures,” she emphasised.

Continue Educating Workers on Communicable Diseases

The Minister of State in the Prime Minister’s Office responsible for Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and People with Disabilities, Ms. Jenister Mhagama, has said it was still very crucial to continue educating workers and the general public about AIDS and other communicable diseases.

“While we appreciate efforts to educate our people on the rising of non-communicable diseases like diabetics, Blood Pressure, Hepatitis (A, B, C) and the like, we should not ignore communicable diseases like AIDS,” she said.

Minister Muhagama told the meeting that AIDS was still a big health and socio-economic problem which has a huge bearing on the national economic and social development.

“As recent study shows, the most vulnerable group are young people hence more efforts are needed to address the AIDS scourge as it impacts our youthful population which is key for our national development,” she explained.

We Want to Make Tanzania Champion in Gender Statistics, Says Statistician General

Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa has urged members of the Gender Statistics Technical Working Group (GSTWG) to ensure they deliver the supposed outputs that will help Tanzania to successfully implement ‘*Making Every Women and Girl Count*’ Project.

Opening the committee’s three-day meeting taking place at NBS offices in Dodoma, Dr. Chuwa told the members that the task ahead was very crucial as Tanzania was determined to become champion in gender statistics in the continent.

“We always aim high. We want to make Tanzania number one in this area of gender statistics by showing the world that we can deliver and not just delivering but coming up with minimum set of gender indicators and modules to ensure we are successful in implementing this project,” she explained.



Dr. Chuwa speaks during the opening of the Gender Statistics Technical Working Group held at TAKWIMU House, Dodoma

Statistician General reminded committee delegates that the number of inputs they were going to produce would have to tell the facts and the evidence on gender inequality and gender gaps in terms of implementing various gender equality programmes to enable policy and decision making.

“As technicians, we are supposed to produce enough data that will inform decision making and policy formulation that will echo what the project intends to do in Tanzania,” she insisted.

She further elaborated that the data will also be used to evaluate the implementation of national development plans like Zanzibar Vision 2020--

and Mainland Tanzania's Development Vision 2025 as well as the global agenda.

At international arena in terms of ongoing gender programmes like the Beijing Platform of 1995 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), she said all of those needed data, which would tell the country where it stands.

Hence, she insisted that "the committee has a long way to go to ensure we come up with this Minimum Gender Indicator and Gender module."

She, however, informed the committee that a full-fledged gender module would be integrated in the coming National Statistics Masterplan (TSMP) which was now in the pipeline.

Statistician General added that the UN-Women supported project had a key role to play in data production referring to using technology and tapping opportunities from different sources of data.

"We are currently embarking on production of big data working closely with data scientists," she said.

Dr. Chuwa asserted that--

training of young statisticians as data scientists was crucial in helping the National Statistics Offices (NSOs) use technologies to retrieve data that is just sitting at the administrative level, in the private sector and available elsewhere. Such data will inform decision making especially in the area of gender.

She added that NBS has formed the technical working group which brings together different 'brains' from Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) but consider at some stage to expand further by putting on board non-state actors.

"We must think of bringing on board other actors to tap in their potentials as these will bring new ideas on how to go about it," she noted.

On data usage, Dr. Chuwa maintained that statisticians have the responsibility of making sure that they find a way of simplifying data usage so that it could help policy and decision makers in making informed and right decisions on resource allocation for human development.

During the three-day meeting,-

the committee members discussed and deliberated on Minimum Set of Gender Indicators referred as Tanzania Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Indicators (T-GEWE) and Presentation on National Plan of Action for Ending Violence against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC).

Other presentations were: an overview of Tanzania Statistical Masterplan (TSMP), Gender Module, Coordination in Production of Gender Statistics; and, Compilation of Gender Statistics.

The main objective of the UN-Women funded '*Making Every Woman and Girl Count*' project was to ensure that gender statistics were available, accessible and analyzed to inform policy making for delivering gender equality and women's empowerment. The project has three outcomes, namely, enabling policy environment, data production and data use.

Steering Committee of EUTF Meets in Dodoma

The Steering Committee of the European Union Trust Fund (EUTF) that supports development of statistics in Tanzania met this month in Dodoma to discuss implementation of its programmes in the country.

The programmes, which benefit from the USD 8.66 million Fund, are the National Panel Survey, the Integrated labour Survey and the National Sample Census of Agriculture (NSCA).

The committee's main task is to coordinate and support implementation of the EUTF, which is administered by the World Bank.

Members forming the committee are from the European Union, World Bank and Government of United Republic of Tanzania through the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and Office of Chief Government Statistician, Zanzibar (OCGS).



Members of the European Union Trust Fund (EUTF) Steering Committee during a meeting held at TAKWIMU House, Dodoma

The National Panel Survey monitors progress of poverty reduction in Tanzania whereas the Integrated Labour Survey studies labour market situation in Tanzania.

The National Sample Census of Agriculture (NSCA), which is scheduled to start in mid-March, will provide agriculture indicators which will be used in monitoring implementation of various national and global development programmes.

“Members forming the committee are from the European Union, World Bank and Government of United Republic of Tanzania through the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and Office of Chief Government Statistician, Zanzibar (OCGS).”

Statistician General Highlights Tanzania's Achievements in Implementation of Global Goals

Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa has highlighted the achievements that Tanzania has registered in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

She attributed success to government commitment and collaboration with various stakeholders and partners.

She pointed out that submission of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) of the United Nations in July,--

2019 was one of Tanzania's milestones in SDGs implementation.

The review addressed successes and challenges in implementation of SDGs in all goals with more focus on six goals, namely, number 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17.

Statistician General was speaking during the opening of the national workshop for Pilot Testing of the Draft Methodology for Measuring SDG Indicator 17.14.1 and Development of Environmental

Satellite Accounts.

The two-day workshop was held at *Dlab* Conference Hall at Kijitonyama, Dar es Salaam, attracting stakeholders from Ministries, Departments and Agencies as well as from civil society organisations.

Dr. Chuwa told workshop participants that Tanzania was among the first countries in Africa to adopt the SDGs soon after they were passed by the United Nations in September, 2015, which demonstrates government commitment to that global development initiative.

She revealed further that Tanzania was also the co-chair of the Inter Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals (IAEG-SDGs), which was created by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSD) tasked to develop and implement the global indicator framework for the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

Regarding the workshop, she emphasized that it was very important as it brought about a momentum on Tanzania's race towards implementing SDGs and other national and regional development agenda.



Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa emphasising a point during the opening of the national workshop for Pilot Testing the Draft Methodology for Measuring SDG Indicator 17.14.1 and Development of Environmental Satellite Accounts. Left is Diana Ngina from UNEP Nairobi and Wilson Gwoma of Home Affairs

“The workshop is discussing mechanism for policy coherence as an important instrument to achieve overall objectives of SDG 17, which focuses on sustainable development through global partnerships,” Dr. Chuwa said.

A successful sustainable development agenda requires partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society built upon principles and values, a shared vision, and shared goals that place people and the planet at the centre at both local, national, regional and global levels.

She thanked the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for the job well done in developing the draft methodology for measuring SDG goal 17.14.1 as well as for facilitating pilot testing of the draft methodology in Tanzania.

Dr. Chuwa expressed her optimism that the UN institution will continue to work closely with Tanzania in implementing other SDGs which are under its custodianship such as Goals Number 13, 14 and 15.

Meanwhile, the facilitator of the workshop, Mr. Yannis Derbali, from UNEP lauded the country’s decision to hold the workshop as it would add to the number--

of indicators Tanzania can report during the next Voluntary National Reporting (VAR) of SDGs implementation.

He noted that during the Tanzania 2019 VAR before the High-Level Political Forum of the United Nations in 2019, the report featured status of SDGs implementation in 167 targets out of 244 but not much was reported about Goal 17.

“The piloting work of indicator 17.14.1 will add to the number of indicators Tanzania can report on and thus expanding coverage of SDGs in the next versions of VNRs,” he said.

Mr. Derbali, who is an associate expert at UNEP, also noted that Tanzania was one of the three countries in the continent to pilot the methodology. The others are Burkina Faso and Kenya.

He added that besides those African countries, the methodology for SDGs 17.14.1 was also tested in Bangladesh, Colombia and Guyana.

For his part, the Executive Director of the Tanzania *Datalab*, Mr. Stephen Chacha, described the workshop as critical towards policy coherence in implementation of SDGs.

“This work on indicator 17.14.1 when completed will provide basis for policy coherence, especially as Tanzania currently prepares for drafting of the subsequent version of its National Five-Year Development Plan,” he said.

He added that work on indicator 17.14.1 will also help to nurture relationships between stakeholders in the design of policies, frameworks and laws for better implementation of SDGs.

“The piloting work of indicator 17.14.1 will add to the number of indicators Tanzania can report on and thus expanding coverage of SDGs in the next versions of VNRs,” said Mr. Yannis Derbali, from UNEP.

Statistician General: Our Success Due to Hard Work, Commitment and Adherence to Professionalism

Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa has attributed National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) success to hard work and professionalism demonstrated by its staff in executing their duties.

Speaking during MNBS Workers Council meeting, Dr. Chuwa affirmed that there was a great commitment among national statistics office employees that made the institution darling to many stakeholders in the national statistical system.

“People are committed to work and there is great cohesion among employees as well as good rapport between management and workers through their leadership,” she said.

Statistician General informed guests that NBS was currently working with various stakeholders to address problem of over increasing demand of statistics for monitoring and evaluation of national, regional and global development programmes.

“The demand is huge as revealed during data gap assessment of monitoring and evaluation of SDGs where only about 40--

percent of data needed was produced by NBS,” she explained.

In that regard, she told workers council that, NBS was now working with UNSD, UNECA, DfID and other stakeholders to develop mechanisms to allow use of non-traditional data sources to produce official statistics.

Dr. Chuwa cited latest milestones on the part of statistics production saying the country recently managed to produce e-waste report (2019) making Tanzania the first country in the continent to produce such a report.

She added that in this year, Tanzania was selected to participate in a programme on developing methodology for the SDG indicator 17.14.1 -- a programme which involves only three countries in Africa.

Statistician General lauded the Government of United Republic of Tanzania for her excellent foreign relations and cooperation policy which facilitates smooth partnerships between NBS and international stakeholders.

She told the guest of honour and other guests that despite all achievements her institution has made still it was facing some challenges but vowed to continue working hard and smart to meet the institution’s set targets.

We must be exemplary

Statistician General urged NBS Workers Council members to champion good governance and become exemplary to their fellow workers.

She told members of TUGHE (t) during the closing of the third session of the fifth Workers Council of NBS that as leaders they must adhere to good governance principles in their leadership and at work.

“We must build a culture of good governance, be open, be honest and dedicate our efforts to building and consolidating our profession for the benefit of institution’s integrity and for our own wellbeing,” she said.

Dr. Chuwa told members of the council that workers were free to meet their superiors any time and even herself to advance their grievances and insisting that some other things should not wait until council session.

TUGHE chair lauds existing relations between NBS staff and management

THUGHE (t) chairperson Shagihilu Shagihilu has emphasised that matters raised during the workers council meeting were concerns of staff and not council members.

The chairperson was speaking during the closing of the third session of the fifth NBS Workers Council held at NBS conference hall, Dodoma.

Mr. Shagihilu lauded the existing rapport between workers and management of NBS, which he said has contributed the success of the national statistics body.

“It is our sincere expectation that existing smooth relations between management and workers will be enhanced as the saying goes *‘united, we stand and divided we fall,’*” he noted.

Regarding workers’ statutory benefits, he noted that while they (workers) understand the fact that there was scarcity of resources, but still they thought that the management could find a way to address some critical issues related to employees’ welfare, which were part and--

parcel of their rightful benefits including on-transit and subsistence allowances.

TUGHE leadership thanked management for working closely with workers representatives and called for more collaboration between the two parties.

“Our cooperation and collaboration have significantly contributed to the NBS achievements hence we are all proud to see--

results which make NBS a reputable and respectable institution when it comes to statistics profession,” TUGHE Chairperson said.

Apart from the meeting agenda, there were also presentations on non-communicable diseases, nutrition, government security, anti-corruption and stock markets and investments.



THUGHE (t) chairperson Shagihilu Shagihilu making a point during Workers Council meeting. Left is Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa.

Inflation Rate for January Down to 3.7 Percent

Inflation rate for January, 2020 has decreased to 3.7 percent from 3.8 percent recorded in December, 2019.

This was due to the decrease of the speed of price change for commodities in the month in question compared to the speed of price change recorded in December, 2019.

Addressing reporters in Dodoma, Ag. Director of Population Census and Social Statistics, Mrs. Ruth Minja, said despite the decrease of January inflation rate, the overall index has increased to 117.60 in January, 2020 from 117.10 recorded a month before.

She explained that such increase was attributed to the price increase for food and non-food items. She listed food items that contributed to such increase as fish which increased by 1.7 percent, vegetables by 4.1 percent, beans by 2.2 percent, cassava by 2.4 percent and cooking bananas by 1.7 percent.

For the non-food items that contributed to the increase of



Members of the Press at Press conference held at TAKWIMU House during Release of January 2020 Consumer Price Index (CPI) which showed a 0.1 percent decrease from 3.8 recorded in December, 2019

overall index, the acting director mentioned actual rentals paid by tenants which increased by 2.3 percent, petrol by 1.4 percent and school fees for private primary and secondary schools by 1.9 percent and 1.8 percent respectively.

The inflation rate for Food and Non-alcoholic beverages for January, 2020 has decreased to 5.7 percent from 6.3 percent recorded in December, 2019.

Mrs. Minja further noted that the inflation rate for food consumed at home and away from home in January, 2020 has also decreased to 6.4 percent from 6.9 percent recorded in December, 2019 whereas the 12-month index change for non-food products in January, 2020 has slightly increased to 2.4 percent from 2.3 percent recorded in December, 2019.

NBS PICTORIAL NEWS



Italian Ambassador to Tanzania Roberto Mengoni (right) in a meeting with Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa (centre) at National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) offices in Dodoma where they discussed various issues of mutual interest particularly about how to strengthen statistics in Tanzania. Left, is NBS acting Director of Finance, Administration and Marketing Andrew Ulindula.



National Workshop for Pilot Testing the Draft Methodology for Measuring SDG Indicator 17.14.1 and Development of Environmental Satellite Accounts facilitator Yannis Derbali, a UNEP associate makes presentation during the workshop.

NBS PICTORIAL NEWS



UN-Women gender statistics consultant Dr. Mitra Sadananda during meeting of Gender Statistics Technical Working Group held at TAKWIMU House, Dodoma



Members of NBS Workers Council held together singing solidarity forever during third session of the fifth Workers Council meeting held at TAKWIMU House conference hall, Dodoma.

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