



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



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Statistics Bureau in Final Stages of Preparing Its Five-Year Strategic Plan

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) is in the final stages of completing preparations of its new five-year strategic plan for the period covering 2021/22-2025/2026.

The current strategic plan 2016/17-2020/21 which has been successfully implemented ends in June this year.

The chairman of the preparations committee, Mr. Abbasy Mlemba, who doubles as NBS' acting Tax Manager, told NBS Newsletter that the committee was making the final touches on the draft document ready for presenting it to NBS management.

During the process, the chairman said, the team received inputs from stakeholders both from government and private sector which he said have facilitated his team's work.

"My team has engaged all our key stakeholders including in public sector--

and from private sector both producers and users of statistical products whom we owe a lot for the support rendered to us," Mr. Mlemba noted.

The Committee chair noted that as a national coordinator of the national statistical system, it was imperative to engage all stakeholders in order to make the process productive and come up with an inclusive and workable strategic plan.

He said he was encouraged by the kind of cooperation that was shown by stakeholders during the process, saying that it was evidence of close working relations existing between NBS and its stakeholders.

"We have also reviewed our current strategic plan, identified strengths and weaknesses during implementation as well as putting into consideration, the current environment which has impacted on--

statistics profession," he added.

Mr. Mlemba also expressed appreciation to all heads of departments, managers and staff of NBS for the support they rendered to his team by providing the necessary inputs in time, something that helped to ease the burden of the task.

The team, which is working from Morogoro, is supported by Ibrahim Gulumu of MK Centre, a consultancy firm specializing in management, strategic planning, and project planning.

Mr Mlemba noted that once his team completes its work, the final draft would be tabled before the Bureau's management for further action.

"The current strategic plan 2016/17-2020/21 which has been successfully implemented ends in June this year."

Continue Working Hard, Government Urges Public Servants

The Government has argued public servants to continue working hard to serve the public and provide solutions to the challenges facing the nation so as to achieve sustainable development.

Also, the Government has pledged to continue with its efforts to improve working environment for public servants to ensure they efficiently and effectively perform their duties and--

responsibilities in order attain national development targets.

Addressing members of the staff of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the Director of Human Resource Management in the President's Office, Public Service Management and Good Governance, ACP Ibrahim Mahumi, said public servants must demonstrate their commitment to--

national development by embracing professionalism in their work including working hard so as to take the nation to the new level of development.

“As a public servant you have won the Government trust, so make sure that you play your part well in performing your duties,” counselled ACP Mahumi adding--



Director of Human Resource Management in the President's Office, Public Service Management and Good Governance, ACP Ibrahim Mahumi addresses NBS staff annual meeting held recently in Dodoma. Left is NBS Personnel and Administrative Manager Stambuli Mapunda.



Part of NBS staff during their annual meeting held in Dodoma recently.

that public servants work on behalf of the Government and therefore they should always do their best for the people.

He assured NBS staff that the Government would continue to eliminate the challenges that public servants faced and ensure all their statutory benefits were guaranteed including annual leaves, promotions and the like.

ACP Mahumi said every public servant should realize that he-

was very important in every step of development that the country was making so they should not be complacent but should rather continue being more innovative and hardworking.

“The Government is proud of the way public servants have been performing. They are willing to work hard and smartly for the betterment of our nation and to make sure the country attains inclusive sustainable development,” said ACP Mahumi.

He added that, the Government was in the process of verifying all arrears and entitlements of public servants and that all should remain calm as all matters get sorted out.

He noted that, in order to speed up development, the Government would continue to improve operational systems investing more in the use of electronic systems including those for payments and other online activities.

SIGI Survey Report Writing to Start Soon, Reveals Coordinator



Enumerator of SIGI Tanzania 2020 Survey Bandawe Sidi interviews Ms. Veronica Mapunda, resident of Chang'ombe in Dodoma during data collection (File photo).

Report writing of the Social Institutions and Gender Index Survey (SIGI) is scheduled to start soon now that data tabulation is about to be completed.

The coordinator of the SIGI survey, Mr. Dadi Kolimba, told NBS Newsletter that survey's data tabulation was about to be completed, a move that would pave the way for the technical team to start report writing.

"We are in the final stages of data tabulation process and as soon as we are done with that, report writing will follow," Mr. Kolimba said.

He added that NBS was keen to produce as soon as possible the survey report as stakeholders, including the government, were eagerly waiting for the results to be used in their plans.

Mr. Kolimba added that once the preliminary report was ready, it would provide greater understanding of how social norms, formal and informal laws and practices in Tanzania hinder creation of a gender-equal society.

The coordinator noted that the survey report would provide key gender statistics which will help in policy formulation--

and development planning about gender equality and women empowerment at national, regional and global levels as well as monitoring their implementation.

Mr. Kolimba cited National Plan for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Children and other regional programmes such as the 2018 East African Gender Policy and international programmes like "Make Every Woman and Girl Count" as among interventions whose implementation the SIGI survey results would be used to monitor.

He reiterated that the results will be a starting point for policy makers to review and address policy challenges related to gender equality and women empowerment in Tanzania and the world at large.

The survey coordinator noted that, SIGI survey has covered a representative sample in Tanzania by covering 217 Enumeration Areas in which 182 were from Tanzania Mainland and 35 from Zanzibar.

He noted that, a total of 4,340 households were covered and 8,680 people interviewed during the survey among them 4,340 were women and 4,340 were men.

Tanzania becomes the third country in Africa to adapt the global SIGI framework after Uganda and Burkina Faso.

The main objective of the survey is to collect data that would help in understanding the traditions, customs, laws and cultures that contribute to gender inequality and discrimination in various sectors of society such as education, health, employment, ownership of resources and trade.

Mr. Kolimba said the data obtained will also be a starting point for Tanzania to evaluate household decision-making, resource ownership and violence against women and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

The survey is jointly implemented by NBS and the Office of the Chief Government Statistician, Zanzibar (OCGS) in collaboration with the UN-Women and the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD).

“The National Plan for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Children and other regional programmes such as the 2018 East African Gender Policy and international programmes like ‘Make Every Woman and Girl Count’ as among interventions whose implementation the SIGI survey results would be used to monitor,” said Mr. Kolimba.

NBS, World Food Programme Sign MoUs on Big Data Strategy Implementation

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and World Food Programme (WFP) have agreed to work together to implement Big Data Strategy.

The agreement was a product of a one-day Big Data Workshop which was attended by staff of the two institutions at Takwimu House in Dodoma where they discussed implementation of the Big Data strategy and use of artificial intelligence through capacity building.

Participants to the workshop shared their views on how to implement Big Data Strategy, challenges and opportunities as well as discussed how they could collaborate and build partnership to benefit from what data revolution has brought about.

Speaking during the workshop, the acting Director of NBS' Population Census--

and Social Statistics (DSSD), Ms. Ruth Minja, told participants that NBS would explore areas of cooperation and ways of working together with WFP in the operationalization of Big Data Strategy in the country so as to fill data gaps.

She also noted that traditional data sources such as censuses, surveys and routine data were very costly and have number of challenges in addition to unstandardized tools as in the case of administrative data while surveys and censuses happen after every five and ten years respectively as result pose challenges for real time informing policy and decision-making.

Furthermore, she said collaboration between the two institutions will increase scope for data availability and meet demand of data required for monitoring implementation--

of national, regional and global development goals.

“Our collaboration with WFP has come at an opportune time as we are facing huge demand of data to monitor national, regional and global development plans and frameworks as we stand traditional sources produce about 36 percent of required data,” she explained.

For her part, WFP representative Beatriz Febres-Cordero, who is WFP's Data Coordinator, assured the commitment of her organization to fund the activities including the training to equip NBS and other Government institutions the know-how on issues related to big data in order to facilitate data that would inform policy and decision making from use of big data to complement the demand of data in the country.



Part of NBS staff follow presentation on how to use agriculture statistics in order to meet national statistics demand.

WFP and NBS partnership in implementing strategy on Big Data and artificial intelligence will involve building technical capacity to access, store, process and analyze new data sources as well as ensuring data quality and accuracy needed for official statistics in Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

NBS has been taking a number of initiatives to ensure Tanzania was not left behind in using non-traditional data sources in production of official statistics to meet the increasing demand.

In doing so, NBS has been collaborating with different stakeholders including the United Nations through UN Statistical Division (UNSD) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

In March 2020 UNSD organised a training workshop in Dar es Salaam on use of non-traditional data sources in production of official statistics focused on the concept of non-traditional data sources in general and on the standards and principles that should be followed to ensure quality

in producing official statistics from those sources.

Moreover, a three-day session attended by big data partners was jointly organised by NBS and UNDP in October 2020 which came up with Big Data Action Plan.

“Our collaboration with WFP has come at an opportune time as we are facing huge demand of data to monitor national, regional and global development plans and frameworks as we stand traditional sources produce about 36 percent of required data,” Said Mrs. Minja.

PANEL Survey Data Collection on Course, says Coordinator



Enumerators of Panel Survey on their way to Enumeration Areas (EAs) in Iringa during practical training on data collection (file photo).

Data collection for the Tanzania fifth wave of 2020/2021 National Panel Survey (2020/2021 TNPS) is going on well according to the schedule.

The survey which covers 488 Enumeration Areas (EAs) is implemented in all regions of Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

Briefing our reporter recently in Dodoma, survey coordinator Joyceline Rwehumbiza said so far enumerators have reached about 202 EAs out of 488--

where they have managed to conduct interviews with some of heads of households.

She pointed out that data collection of the year-long survey was expected to reach half of the selected households by June 2021 and completed by November this year.

She attributed the smooth running of the survey so far to the continued support which enumerators were receiving from local leaders as well as positive attitude--

shown by households during survey.

“Our enumerators have been well received by households and have been given maximum cooperation by local leaders and head of households,” Ms. Rwehumbiza noted.

Jointly financed by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the World Bank, the survey tracks about 5,000 households to collect information about poverty and welfare transitions as well as determinants of changes of living standard.

The main objective of the NPS is to provide high-quality household-level data to the Government and other stakeholders for monitoring—poverty dynamics and tracking the progress of the national development plans.

March Inflation Rate Slightly Down by 0.1 Percent

The inflation rate for the month of March, 2021 has slightly gone down by 0.1 percentage from 3.3 percent in February, 2021 to 3.2 percent in March, 2021.

The decrease of inflation rate means that, the speed of price change for commodities in March, 2021 has decreased compared to that recorded in February, 2021.

Briefing the media in Dodoma, the Acting Director of NBS's Population Census and Social Statistics, Mrs. Ruth Minja, said the decrease was attributed to price decrease of some non-food items such as diesel which decreased by 17.7 percent, kerosene by 13.5 percent and petrol by 8.0 percent and gas by 4.1 percent.

Mrs. Minja said food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation rate had increased from 3.6 percent in February, 2021 to 4.3 percent in March, 2021--

while inflation rate for unprocessed food had increased from 2.2 percent in February, 2021 to 2.8 percent in March, 2021. The inflation rate for all items without unprocessed food for March, 2021 had stagnated at 3.4 percent as it was recorded in February 2021.

She said the overall index increased from 102.44 in February, 2021 to 103.41 in March, 2021. The increase of the overall index was mainly attributed to price increase for some food and non-food items.

Some of the food items that contributed to such increase included wheat flour which increased by 1.6 percent, dried sardines by 5.1 percent, sunflower oil by 2.4 percent, fruits by 2.7 percent, fresh cassava by 2.9 percent, cooking bananas by 5.2 percent and beans by 1.1 percent.

On the other hand, some of non-food items that contributed to such--

increase of the index were kerosene which increased by 3.0 percent, charcoal by 2.6 percent, diesel by 5.4 percent and petrol by 5.5 percent.

On other East African countries, Mrs. Minja noted that inflation rate in Kenya increased from 5.78 percent in February, 2021 to 5.90 percent in March, 2021 while in Uganda the inflation rate increased from 3.8 percent in February, 2021 to 4.1 percent in March, 2021.

“Food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation rate had increased from 3.6 percent in February, 2021 to 4.3 percent in March, 2021 while inflation rate for unprocessed food had increased from 2.2 percent in February, 2021 to 2.8 percent in March, 2021.”

NBS PICTORIAL NEWS



There we are! NBS women staff in jovial mood at meeting to mark International Women Day, which is commemorated every 8th March. During the meeting that was held at Takwimu House Dodoma, they discussed various issues related to women development including women in leadership as well as how to develop their profession.



Acting Director of Department of Social Statistics and Population Census Mrs. Ruth Minja addresses the media during release of CPI for the month March 2021.

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