

**COMMEMORATION OF AFRICAN STATISTICS DAY, 2013 ON 20TH NOVEMBER
2013 AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM HALL**

TALKING NOTES BY HON. DUSTAN KITANDULA (MP)

Statistics is important in planning for social and economic activities at different levels. No one can deny the fact that all parliamentary activities are guided by statistics and members of parliament generally use statistics not only for planning but also for raising arguments to support or challenge the Government.

In order to monitor the Government, quality data is a prerequisite. Various censuses and surveys carried out by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) like Population and Housing Census, Agriculture and Livestock Surveys, Household Budget Surveys, are all important for development planning.

In the preparation of five year development plan, statistics are widely used. For example, data from Population and Housing Census, revealed that from 1961 to 2010 the population growth and the delivery of health care were un-proportional.

Our mission as legislators is to remind and advise the Government on, say, the rate of population growth in relation to the availability of health care services. Likewise, statistics can be used to measure the effectiveness of resources utilization, e.g. Fish industry

Statistics show that in the agriculture sector fish farming is growing fast. In Tanzania, there are lakes, the sea and rivers but as a Nation we have failed to take full advantage of these resources to reduce poverty, promote economic growth and minimize unemployment problems.

As legislators, the parliamentarians are always reminding the Government to prepare development plans that will make proper use of the available resources to alleviate poverty. Statistics are useful in that they facilitate budget preparations that provide answers to various concerns of the Tanzania i.e. Health services, schools, etc.

Statistics are important, but they have not been used effectively and appropriately.
