

**OPENING SPEECH BY DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE HON. SAADA
MKUYA SALUM (MP) IN COMEMORATION OF THE AFRICAN STATISTICS
DAY 2013, HELD AT NATIONAL MUSEUM HALL ON 20thNOVEMBER, 2013,
DAR-ESALAAM, TANZANIA.**

**HONOURABLE MEMBES OF PARLIAMENT,
REPRESENTATIVES FROM POLITICAL PARTIES,
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS,
REPRESENTATIVES OF DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS,
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD - NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS,
REPRESENTATIVES FROM UNIVERSITIES AND RESEACH INSTITUTIONS,
JOUNALISTS,
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.**

Ladies and Gentlemen; first of all, I would like to thank God the almighty for enabling us to meet today in the celebrationof **AFRICAN STATISTICS DAY 2013**. Secondly I would like to thank you for allowing me to be the guest of honor in this special occasion.

Ladies and Gentlemen; I congratulate the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)for facilitating the African Statistics Day (ASD) celebrations. This is a special day for Statisticians and Stakeholders in Statistics to address and discuss on the importance and use of quality Statistics for National development. The theme for this year is '**QUALITY DATA TO SUPPORT AFRICAN PROGRESS**'.

Ladies and Gentlemen;I am informed that, this is the 20th celebration of the ASD and in each year different statistical themes have been discussed. Probably, this is could be a proper

time for data producers to carry out self-assessment on whether they have been producing quality statistics which meet user needs, especially for development planning, policy formulation and evidence based decision making. The results of such assessment should help in emphasizing on this years' theme knowing that statistics is important in the fact that any stakeholder; be a government department or agency, companies, individual households entrepreneurs, etc is required to produce and use quality statistics for development planning.

Ladies and Gentlemen: The themes for these years' celebrations provide an insight on crucial aspects of statistics that should be considered in planning for sustainable development. To a large extent, development depends on good plans based on good quality statistics. Quality statistics also provides an insight on priority areas for improvement, whereby areas that have a lot of challenges; statistics helps in determining how to deal with them.

Ladies and Gentlemen; I was informed that measures of quality statistics include accuracy, relevancy, validity, accessibility, timeliness and completeness. In addition, quality statistics should reflect the real situation and should be aligned with the existing international standards and classifications so that it can be comparable to statistics from other countries worldwide. In this respect every stakeholder in statistics should recognize the existing guidelines and principles and apply them in the production of quality statistics for planning. Note that without quality statistics it will be difficult for the Government and other stakeholders to plan and formulate appropriate policies. For examples; in the absence of quality statistics on the actual number of school age children, it will be difficult to estimate the actual number of classrooms and other facilities needed in that particular school/area.

Ladies and Gentlemen; I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize that Government is at different levels of implementing various development Programs including; National Development Vision of 2025 and 2020 for Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar respectively. Other programs under implementation are the Millennium Development Goals 2015, the five year development plan (2011/2012-2015/2016), National Strategy for growth and Poverty Reduction (NSGPR), Kilimo Kwanza and Big Results Now (BRN). Implementation of such programs will not be successful in the absence of strategies which will ensure good quality statistics are available and are used to monitor progress and identify challenges.

Ladies and Gentlemen; I have been informed that the major data sources are censuses, surveys and administrative records. It is understood that data collection is not such an easy job as many challenges exist. One of the challenges is availability of funds for conducting censuses and surveys. I am indeed impressed by the strategies in place which aim at improving and strengthening data collection systems under the Tanzania Statistical Master Plan (TSMP). Hopefully through this participatory program, data producers and users will be educated on the statistical methods and standards recommended by the United Nations Statistical Division for production of quality statistics. I believe, the end results of this program will be quality data to support the Country's development.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Let me take this opportunity to assure you that the Government will work hand in hand with all stakeholders to support data collection, analysis and dissemination of quality statistics in order not only to facilitate policy formulation and planning but also to ensure evidence based decisions are made for the benefit of all citizens. To prove the Governments' commitment, the Ministry of Finance through NBS funded more than 90 percent of the 2012 Population and Housing Census. As a result, publications on Population Distribution by Administrative levels and Population Distribution by Age and Sex have been published and supplied to the users.

I would like to congratulate the NBS and the OCGS for their continuing efforts in the production of economic and social statistics which are used for planning, assessing trends in economic growth and availability of social services in the country.

Ladies and Gentlemen: With regards to the theme of this year's celebration, today's discussion will focus on how quality statistics can be used to ensure safety in the country, quality data collection principles, the use of quality data in participatory planning and how quality data can be used for appropriate policy formulation and influence planning and decision for economic growth and poverty reduction countrywide. The team of panelists comprise of representatives from the Ministry of Finance (MOF), Police Force, Research and Poverty Alleviation (REPOA), Parliament and the NBS.

I therefore appeal to Ministerial Departments and Agencies, Private Corporations, Development Partners and all citizens to use statistics for social-economic development planning in their respective areas. Most of these statistics are available in NBS and OCGS websites. It is the responsibility of the two statistical institutions to make sure that all

stakeholders are aware of different types of data available in the website for use by various stakeholders for planning purposes.

Ladies and Gentlemen; I would like to thank our Development Partners for their support in strengthening the National Statistical System which aims at ensuring the availability of quality data in the country. Their efforts in building capacity to the local staff in the field of statistics are highly appreciated.

Ladies and Gentlemen; My appreciation should also go to journalists for their commitment in statistical advocacy on the importance and use of statistics to support the development progress. I urge all stakeholders in statistics to effectively participate in the data collection activities carried out by the NBS and other institution in order to ensure a sustainable data availability for the benefit of all citizens.

Ladies and Gentlemen; I would like to emphasize that all of us are stakeholders in statistics, so let's fully involve ourselves in the production and use of quality statistics for the Big Results Now and future plans in favor to the theme '**Quality Data to Support Africa Progress**'. Let me take this opportunity to emphasize that statistics is not only for the Government. In principle, all stakeholders should use quality statistics for development planning.

Ladies and Gentlemen; Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to the NBS for a well-organized African Statistics Day 2013 celebrations. I hope that the invited guests will appreciate and actively participate in the discussions.

With these remarks, I now declare the African Statistics Day celebrations 2013 is officially open.