



TALKING NOTES

By Ms Irene Isaka – represented by Dr. Carina Wangwe

African Statistics Day - 23rd November 2015

BETTER DATA FOR BETTER LIVES

Distinguished Guest of Honor,

Board and Management of National Bureau of Statistics,

Rector and Management of Eastern Africa Statistical Training
Centre,

Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is great pleasure that we join hands to celebrate the African Day
for Statistics.

Social Security is a right that is enshrined in the Constitution of
the United Republic of Tanzania, and the Social Security
Regulatory Authority has been given the mandate to supervise
and regulate the Social Security Sector.

In order to achieve the Authority's mission "To supervise and regulate social security sector in order to ensure that quality social security services reach every Tanzanian"; and its vision of "Tanzanians enjoying quality, extended and sustained social security Services", all key players must have an accurate understanding of all the important facets of the sector. To achieve the same, it is imperative that data should be accurate, accessible complete and usable to the greatest extent possible.

Furthermore – since social security touches on the lives of every individual at each stage for their life cycle, each individual life is impacted by their personal data and how this data is collected, processed, stored and utilized.

The Authority has started to work closely with the National Bureau of Statistics and with other Government Agencies towards realizing its mission and vision. The data obtained from the recent census for example, highlights the fact that Tanzanians are now living longer and thus a greater need for savings towards retirement. The census data shows that on average, a person in Tanzania will live for more than 18 years after the age of retirement at 60 years. This is a long time to leave without a stable income, if one has not prepared themselves adequately. The statistics from NBS further show that longevity is higher in the rural, rather than urban areas. This challenges the social security sector to continue the focus on getting the informal sector covered, not only in terms of Health Insurance, but to find means to extend this coverage to pensions.

SSRA in the utilization of the data that it receives, generates and reports recognizes the need to put in place robust governance practices so that data is utilized to its maximum value, and the Authority as a regulator becomes the trusted source of data and statistics on social security.

The Authority, since its establishment has made several initiatives towards governance of data both internally, and its role as a regulator. The Authority in 2012 issued Data Management guidelines for social security schemes, which seek to address the issue of data quality, through instituting minimum standards and uniformity of data across schemes. For the same target in 2014 the Authority issued Interoperability guidelines to provide for the ability to exchange data regardless to the technical platforms on which it is housed. The Authority has further issued Security of Electronic Information guidelines to guide the confidentiality, integrity, availability and accountability for electronic information with the regulated entities.

Data Quality rules for the sector have been established, and a glossary of terms put in place in the Data Management guidelines. The Authority is starting to implement a formal data governance approach to ensure consistency and sustainability of its initiatives towards good data and statistics.

The Authority reiterates its conviction that close collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics is vital towards the bettering of lives of Tanzania citizens, and commits to continue this collaboration.

Thank you for listening.