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AFRICAN STATISTICS DAY 2018: "HIGH QUALITY OFFICIAL STATISTICS TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT."



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The Amendments were for the Good of the Country, says Deputy Finance Minister



Guest of honour, Deputy Minister for Finance and Planning Dr. Ashatu Kijaji reads a speech during celebration of the African Statistics Day held on the 22nd November 2018 at Institute of Rural Development conference hall in Dodoma.

The government has reassured stakeholders within the National Statistical System that recent amendments made on some sections of the Statistics Act, 2015 were done on good faith and were never meant to infringe rights of individuals, research or learning institutions in undertaking research.

Officiating at the African Statistics Day celebrations at the Institute of Rural Development Planning on the outskirts of Dodoma, the Deputy Minister for Finance and Planning,--

Dr. Ashatu Kijaji, said the amendments were solely made to lay down procedures and standards to be followed within the the National Statistical System in the process of producing official statistics, its publication and dissemination.

She told participants who included statisticians from ministries, departments, government agencies, district councils, and research and higher learning institutions that the amendments together with recent Parliament resolution to-

ratify the African Statistics Charter were measures geared to ensure Tanzania continues to produce quality statistics in line with the national and international standards.

The Deputy Minister added that following those amendments, the government, through her ministry, was in the process of amending the Statistics Regulations of 2017, and hence called upon all stakeholders to be part of the process by providing their valuable inputs.

She reminded participants that production of official statistics was an inclusive process and not solely entrusted to NBS, hence urged stakeholders to continue working with NBS in producing official statistics by adhering to all principles governing production of such statistics.

Meanwhile, the Eeputy Minister challenged statisticians in the country to come forward and demonstrate to the public their professionalism in production of official statistics.

“Misinformation of official statistics will continue unless statisticians in the country avail themselves to the public, demonstrate their professionalism in producing quality statistics according to the available law, regulations and standards,” she said.

“The government, through her ministry, was in the process of amending the Statistics Regulations of 2017, and hence called upon all stakeholders to be part of the process by providing their valuable inputs.” Says Dr. Kijaji



A section of stakeholders who attended the 2018 African Statistics Day celebrations at Institute of Rural Development in Dodoma



NBS will Continue Providing Professional Assistance to District Councils, says Statistician General

In a bid to avail the country with high quality administrative data, NBS will continue to provide guidelines and professional assistance to statisticians at the district council level.

Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa told stakeholders during the African Statistics Day celebrations that strengthening of data collection mechanism at lower levels of administration had become increasingly indispensable at this time in the history of development of the country.

She told participants that the bulk of statistics required to measure implementation of the Second National Five Year Development Plan (2016/17-2020/21), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Agenda 2063 were from administrative data.

Basing on that, she noted that the ultimate goal was now to build a strong system/mechanism of data collection at lower levels of administration to guarantee--

the country with high quality administrative data.

Dr. Chuwa commended the President's Office--Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) for ensuring that statisticians from district councils participated in this year's African Statistics Day celebrations.

She added that that was a step towards building such mechanism and committed her office to work closely with the PO-RALG to ensure the goal was achieved.

She said the gathering was very important because it provided an opportunity for stakeholders in the national statistical system to discuss various issues regarding production of official statistics and for this year she said "issues of administrative data tops workshop agenda" and therefore the presence of statisticians from district council was unavoidable.

The Statistician General reminded colleagues in the country to adhere to their professional conduct when producing statistics by--

appropriately abiding by the fundamental principles of official statistics.

"Every indicator collected must be analysed and processed according to ten fundamental principles of official statistics and African Charter on Statistics," she emphasized.

"The gathering was very important because it provided an opportunity for stakeholders in the national statistical system to discuss various issues regarding production of official statistics and for this year issues of administrative data tops workshop agenda and therefore the presence of statisticians from district council was unavoidable."

Address these Statistics Irregularities at Council Levels, urges Dr. Kijaji

The Deputy Minister for Finance and Planning, Dr. Ashatu Kijaji, has instructed the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and district councils in the country to take immediate measures to address problems of statistics facing district councils which, she said, derailed smooth implementation of development plans and programmes in many councils.

“There is a big problem with the use of statistics at the council level, which leads to poor implementation of many--

development projects and programmes,” she said.

The deputy minister told participants to the African Statistics Day celebrations at the Rural Development Planning Institute in Dodoma that the government could not properly provide social services when people didn't see the the importance of statistics in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of various programmes and projects in their areas.

She, therefore, urged NBS to expand its education and awareness programmes not only on the importance of statistics but also on production, dissemination and use of quality official statistics.

On the theme of this year's African Statistics Day, Dr. Kijaji said the relationship between quality official statistics and transparency, good governance and inclusive development lied on the fact that the three aspects could only be measured using statistics.

“All these have targets set and have indicators to be measured hence you can only monitor and evaluate their implementation by scientific methods, which is by using statistics,” she noted.

The Deputy Minister emphasized that to uphold transparency, good governance and inclusive development, the country's statistics used in preparations of development programmes must be the offspring of all stakeholders from grassroot to the national levels.



Deputy Minister for Finance and Planning Dr. Ashatu Kijaji presents to Rose J. Muhere student from Azimio secondary school, prize money and certificate after emerging first winner of the essay competition to mark the 2018 African Statistics Day held at Institute of Rural Development in Dodoma.

“This method will help avoid complaints from stakeholders on criteria used in planning and allocation of resources in social service provision as well as those allocated for development programmes,” she noted.

She added that the government wanted to see “people’s representative organs or government institutions use statistical evidence in their decision-making, particularly, in financial and human resources allocations”.

She further explained that decisions based on statistical evidence, which were transparently produced by trusted stakeholders, could help to raise citizens’ confidence on the country’s leadership, build harmony and strengthen national cohesion.

“The relationship between quality official statistics and transparency, good governance and inclusive development lied on the fact that the three aspects could only be measured using statistics.” Says Dr. Kijaji



A section of stakeholders who attended the 2018 African Statistics Day celebrations at Institute of Rural Development in Dodoma



NBS Embraces New Technologies to Ensure Quality and Reduce Cost of Production of Quality Statistics

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has said it embraces new technologies in data collection to ensure better quality statistics and reduce cost of production of official statistics.

The NBS head of Geographical Information System (GIS), Mr Benedict Mugambi, told NBS Newsletter during a training workshop on mobile data collection that the training was aimed at enhancing participants' skills in mobile data collection focused on two mobile data collection tools namely OpenDataKit (ODK) and OpenMapKit (OMK).

He noted that the skills provided during the training, which was held at the NBS headquarters in Dodoma would enable NBS overcome some challenges it was facing in data collection, particularly during Population and Housing Censuses.

“We target available new technologies and make use of them in data collection to ensure NBS continues to produce high quality statistics and above all relieve our--

government from spending huge sum of money during censuses,” Mr. Mugambi insisted.

He explained that the training, which was conducted with the assistance of the World Bank and Data Zetu Project experts, a part from NBS staff, involved also staff from government ministries including President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (TAMISEMI).

“NBS is privileged to be able to attract these types of training and it always involves other ministries and government institutions to take part in view of building a strong group of experts to spearhead quality data collections in the country,” Mr. Mugambi noted.

According Mr. Mugambi, application of technologies is part and parcel of NBS preparation for the forthcoming Population and Housing Census scheduled for 2022 but emphasized that those applications could be also used in many other data collection exercises.

Using those mobile technologies,

he said, could ease supervision work and simplify monitoring of data collectors in the field and emphasized that “The technologies tell you if someone is at work or not and if at work, how he or she is performing”.

Mr. Mugambi said the next training, which was scheduled to take place in the following week from November 27 to November 29, 2018 would involve more participants from Ministry of Lands, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, University of Dar es Salaam, Ardhi University and Sokoine University.

“NBS is privileged to be able to attract these types of training and it always involves other ministries and government institutions to take part in view of building a strong group of experts to spearhead quality data collections in the country,” Mr. Mugambi noted.

Engage Stakeholders after Every Quarterly, urges SG

Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa has advised stakeholders in the national statistical system to meet at least once after every three months to discuss issues and challenges facing development and production of official statistics in the country.

Dr. Chuwa was speaking during the workshop held as part of the African Statistics Day celebrations at the Institute of Rural Development Planning.

“Such kind of gatherings provide ideal opportunity for stakeholders to discuss pertinent issues surrounding the national statistics system and ultimately take the needed actions to address them,” she said.

Statistician General noted that implementation of policy of decentralisation by devolution required reliable and accurate data for utilisation at all levels of the administrative structure hence issues of quality data could not be over emphasized.

“Stakeholders in the national statistics system should accept the challenges facing production of official statistics and advise ways and means to get rid of them to ensure the country--

continues to produce quality statistics,” she insisted.

Dr. Chuwa commended organizing committee for the 2018 African Statistics Day celebrations by placing issues of administrative data in the workshop agenda noting that it was a very crucial issue taking into account the importance of such data in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

During the workshop participants discussed two topics, namely, administrative data and the 2018 African--

Statistics Day theme, SDGs and Data Gap; whereby the participants had the opportunity to discuss presentations from Data Zetu Project.

Presentation from Data Zetu showcased how ordinary people at a very low community level could be engaged to use data to make smart decisions to address challenges they faced. The project, which is currently being implemented in Mbeya District Council, Kyela and Temeke districts aimed at empowering communities to make better, more evidence-based decisions to improve their lives.



Statistician General, Dr. Albina Chuwa introducing to participants theme of the 2018 African Statistics Day before inviting guest of honour Deputy Minister for Finance and Planning to officiate the event.

Tanzania Continues to Shine in International Statistics Arena

The International Statistics Institute (ISI) has elected Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa member of the institute's council.

She became one of the eight new council members of the institute who were elected to serve the institute's council for the period of between 2019 and 2023.

The elections were conducted between September 4 and October 30, 2018 and new members would start work after being approved during the World Statistics Conference-institute's biennial flagship event scheduled for August 18 to August 23, next year in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Dr. Chuwa and her team would join other council members who continue with their term in office in the remaining two years from the four year tenure, namely, those from Belgium, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Palestine, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

The election of Dr. Chuwa came just after two months when Tanzania was elected to chair the African Statistics Commission for two years.

Founded by 81 prominent statisticians from government and academia in London in 1885, IST has been growing having today seven associations boasting of over 4,500 members from around the globe.

Some of its members come from its seven associations, namely, Bernoulli Society, International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS), International Association for Statistical Computing (IASC), and International Association for Statistical Education (IASE), International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS), International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics (ISBIS) and International Environmetrics Society (TIES).

With a mission to lead, support and promote understanding, development-

and good practice of statistics worldwide, since 1949, ISI has had consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Guided by its slogan "Statistical Science for a Better World" the institute strives to provide a welcoming environment for advancing statistical knowledge and learning best practices, for sharing state-of-the-art developments and for creating opportunities to network.

"Members come from its seven associations, namely, Bernoulli Society, International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS), International Association for Statistical Computing (IASC), and International Association for Statistical Education (IASE), International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS), International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics (ISBIS) and International Environmetrics Society (TIES)."

WB: Proud to support application of new technologies in Data collection



World Bank Geo- spacial consultant Deogratius Minja explained to the members of the press how OpenStreetMap system data collection tool works.

Application of new technologies in production of quality official statistics is today very important that is why World Bank is keen to support national statistics body to acquire such technologies.

Bank's Geo-spatial consultant Deogratius Minja said here in Dodoma that it was in the interest of World Bank to see to it that NBS continued its excellent work of producing quality statistics, hence, supporting it with necessary tools was crucial.

"We all know how important statistics is and as a partner, it is vital to ensure that NBS continues to produce quality statistics for the benefit the country and other users," he said.

He explained that the OpenStreetMap system provides high resolution base maps taken by using drones which could be used in extracting various data useful for various functions.

"The digitized base map can assist in land tenure--

supporting programme and municipal councils are able to estimate revenue collection from property tax as it shows every existing building in specified area provided in the map,"he said adding that through that authorities can set target of revenue collections to councils.

He further said that base map also assist in disaster risk response as during floods where drones could reach difficult areas and capture flood effects as the case was in Dar es Salaam where the--

system was extensively applied.

He said World Bank was encouraged to see more and more interest was being built on the use the technologies, adding that they started training in 2001 with a mere 25 participants but now there were over 400 students from various high learning institutions.

“World Bank is proud to see today even government ministries and public institutions have shown strong interest on this method of rapid

data collection which to us is very important because it provides opportunity to make difference in application of technologies,” Mr. Minja said.

Meanwhile, Mr Iddi Chazua from Data Zetu project said that OpenDataKit (ODK) which was a free mobile technology application with high value in data collection could capture both special and non special data.

Mr. Chazua who made presentation on OpenDataKit--

during training said the technology was not only user friendly but also very accurate and practical.

“It takes everything visible on site, it helps in preliminary preparations of cartographic work for census because it can trace boundaries and digitalize them with that you don’t need to print them on papers,” He emphasized.



Cartographers at training session on mobile data collection using OpenDataKit (ODK) and mobile data collection using OpenMapKit (OMK) at NBS offices Dodoma

Tanzania Still Faces Challenges in Compiling Environmental Statistics



NBS acting Field Operations Manager Dr. Margaret Martin speaks during the closing of the three-day training workshop on production of E-waste statistics held at NBS head office in Dodoma.

Tanzania is still lagging behind in the production of e-waste statistics due to lack of expertise in that area.

In her closing remarks during a three-day workshop on e-waste statistics production, acting Field Operations Manager Margaret Martin said Tanzania had yet to produce e-waste statistics due to lack of methodological techniques and best practices in compilation of electronic wastes.

“Like most other African countries, Tanzania faces some challenges which make it lag behind in the production of this component (e-waste) of environmental statistics,” said Dr. Martin.

She said the workshop, which was organized and facilitated by the United Nations University, had sharpened knowledge and skills of NBS staff and other stakeholders on

how to collect and produce e-waste statistics in the country.

“The UN University facilitators have shared the knowledge with us on how to produce e-waste and it is our task, therefore, to share and exchange with our partners in the production of official statistics what we have learnt during the workshop to enable the country to produce e-waste statistics,” she added.

She told participants to the workshop which comprised of members of the National Technical Committee for Environmental Statistics to ensure that all the resources, materials and knowledge they gathered were put to effective use at their workplaces and improved what we had already started towards producing e-waste statistics.

Dr. Martin commended the United Nations University for facilitating the training workshop and expressed NBS’ optimism that the university would continue its support to Tanzania so that could be able to produce quality e-waste statistics.

Tanzania Records Lowest Inflation Rate over Ten Years

Inflation rate has decreased to 3.0 in November, 2018 making it the lowest for over a decade.

Statistician General, Dr. Albina Chuwa told the meeting chaired by President Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli that the decline was a result of huge harvest of food crops and the general decrease of the speed of price change of commodities.

She told the meeting, which was attended by the top management of the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), regional commissioners and senior government officials from strategic ministries and institutions that dealing with supervision and collecting tax that Tanzania had, for the past ten years, steadily experienced decrease in inflation rate.

“Inflation rate for November, 2018 has decreased to 3.0 percent from 3.2 percent recorded in October, 2018; this means that, the speed of price change for commodities in November, 2018 has decreased compared to the speed of the price change for October,--

2018,” noted Dr. Chuwa.

In comparative terms with other East African countries, she said, Tanzania was in the right direction in controlling inflation rate and she attributed this success to good cooperation and coordination in the country’s leadership under Dr. Magufuli.

In records, the overall index for November increased to 112.17 from 111.83 recorded in October, 2018. The increase of the overall index was mainly attributed to price increase of non-food items.

Non-food items that contributed to such increase were kerosene which increased by 0.2 percent, charcoal by 0.2 percent, firewood by 0.5 percent, diesel by 9.7 percent and petrol by 1.5 percent.

Inflation rate food and non-alcoholic beverages in November, 2018 has decreased to 0.4 percent from 1.2 percent recorded in a month early while inflation for food consumed at home and away from home has also decreased to 2.0 percent--

in November from 2.5 percent recorded in October, 2018.

However, the 12 month index change for non-food products in November, 2018 has increased to 5.3 percent from 5.0 percent recorded in October, 2018.

“Inflation rate for November, 2018 has decreased to 3.0 percent from 3.2 percent recorded in October, 2018; this means that, the speed of price change for commodities in November, 2018 has decreased compared to the speed of the price change for October, 2018,” noted Dr. Chuwa.

Tanzania Will Soon Start Producing E- waste Statistics, says United Nations University officer



Senior Program officer of Sustainable Cycles Program from United Nations University Dr. Kees Balde elaborates a point during training on e-waste production for members of National Technical Committee for Environmental Statistics which took place at NBS head office in Dodoma. Right is Program Associate Ms. Vanessa Forti.

United Nations University Senior Programme Officer Kees Blade has said he was optimistic that Tanzania would soon be able to produce e-waste statistics.

Dr. Blade, who was in the country to facilitate training on production of e-waste statistics, told NBS Newsletter that following the training, Tanzania was now ready to start producing e-waste statistics which was part of environmental statistics.

According to Dr. Blade, only 41 countries worldwide--

produce and regularly publish e-waste statistics, Mauritius being the only country from the African continent.

“Once Tanzania starts producing e-waste statistics, it would become a role model to other African countries, this would result in more countries following suit, he said.

He added that the primary objective of the workshop, which attracted the attendance of members of the National Technical Working Group on Environment Statistics and other NBS staff, was to impact

methodological skills and exchange of best practices on how to prepare and produce e-waste statistics.

He explained that so far three training workshops have been conducted in the country; one in Arusha in 2017, which involved representatives of the six East African Community member states, another in Zanzibar and the current one in Dodoma, which he said was more comprehensive than the previous ones.

The United Nations University Programme officer said every country could produce and publish e-waste statistics, but all they needed was to make them aware of the importance of its availability and use in decision making as it could contribute to the achievement of several goals of under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

E-waste refers to all electronic products nearing the end of their "useful life" which include, but not limited, computers, television sets, mobile phones, tablets, copiers and fax machines.

It was estimated that 49.8 million metric tons of e-waste would be globally produced in 2018 which makes about 6.7 kilogrammes of e-waste per capita worldwide. It was further revealed that great part of that waste would come from small electronic gadgets.

Dr. Blade explained that as e-waste was becoming a more serious environmental problem, for e-waste statistics the world currently still relied on estimates mostly made by United Nations.

"The data is needed to inform policy makers on how grave e-waste problem is, its management situation and--



Participants to the training workshop on production of E-waste statistics in a group photograph with NBS acting Field Operations Manager Dr. Margaret Martin (centre front row)

provide a way forward to contain the situation," he observed.

On why only a few countries so far had managed to produce and regularly publish e-waste statistics, Dr. Blade said it seemed that most were not aware of the gravity of e-waste problem that was why when talking about e-waste statistics seemed to be a new phenomenon.

In October 2018, Tanzania launched National Environment Report for year 2017 but it didn't include E-waste statistics which had also become a concern among--

stakeholders in the country.

"The United Nations University said every country could produce and publish e-waste statistics, but all they needed was to make them aware of the importance of its availability and use in decision making as it could contribute to the achievement of several goals of under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."

NBS PICTORIAL NEWS



NBS Full House members, with consultants from REPOA, at working session to review the implementation of the 2011/12 – 2017/18 Tanzania Statistical Master Plan – (TSMP) at NBS Headquarters, Dodoma



Stakeholders follow presentation on the 2017-18 Tanzania Verbal and Social Autopsy Study (VASA) which took place at NBS conference hall in Dodoma.

NBS PICTORIAL NEWS



Students from Salesian Seminary Secondary school of Dodoma pose in group photograph with NBS IT Manager Ms Mwanaidi Mahiza (seated) at NBS offices when the students pay a visit as part of familiarization of NBS activities. Left is NBS Marketing Officer Andrew Punjila.



Joyce Msoka, Statistician at NBS, talks to students of Viwandani Secondary School Dodoma as part of Statistics awareness campaign to mark the 2018 African Statistics Day.

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)

VISION

To become a one-stop centre for official statistics in Tanzania.

MISSION

To produce quality official statistics and services that meet needs of national and international stakeholders for evidence based planning and decision making.

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