



# NBS NEWS LETTER

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**AGENDA 2063: "A PROSPEROUS AFRICA BASED ON INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT."**



## Statistics Production Still A Challenge, Says NBS Boss



***NBS Director General Dr. Albina Chuwa elaborates a point during discussion with Members of Parliamentary Committee who visited NBS offices to learn about NBS activities.***

The Director General of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Dr. Albina Chuwa, has said although Tanzania was making huge progress in the production of quality statistics, there was still a long way to go before the process became hassle-free.

She said like in most developing countries, production of official statistics posed a big challenge since it calls for big investment in terms of both human and financial resources.

“Conducting surveys is very expensive and for the country to place itself in a better footing it has to conduct them as frequently as possible in order to always have current data as base year instead of using outdated ones,” Dr. Chuwa elaborated.

Winding up an orientation tour for the members of the Parliamentary Budget Committee at NBS offices in Dodoma, the Director General informed the members that thanks to new technological--

innovations, data collection was becoming less expensive but still investment was needed to acquire the technologies.

“We are currently adopting some technologies in data collection and it has cut the costs by a half,” she said citing the ongoing House Budget Survey which cost about TShs 9 billion against the same survey conducted in 2011/2012 which did cost over TShs 20 billion.

Elaborating, Dr Chuwa told--



***Staff of National Bureau of Statistics and East African Statistical Training Centre (EASTC) at Parliamentary Budget Committee meeting held at NBS offices Dodoma.***

committee members that the current survey was being conducted using tablets that have been fitted with special software that supports questionnaires hence simplifying the task compared to using the manual method which was not only tedious but laden with the possibility of making many errors.

With that software data collectors can send data directly to the head offices for processing, meaning that they don't have to physically reach the office for processing to start.

On preparation of the coming Population and Housing--

Census scheduled for 2022, Dr. Chuwa informed the Bunge team that preparations were under way with pilot cartographic work using mobile Geographical Information System Technology popularly referred to as MGIS-T.

“As you have seen during presentations, cartographic work will not take much of our time and resources like in previous years,” adding that the technology will result in a precise output.

The NBS boss further said that with the application of additional government data collection systems, like the--

Electronic Population Registration System (ePRS), it is expected that the number of questions in Census questionnaire will be less hence less time and cost spent.

She expressed her appreciation and that of NBS management to committee members for their invaluable support to NBS in all fronts which has contributed to the statistical body's successes.

“The committee has been in the forefront to support us in all our endeavours and we sincerely thank you for your enormous contribution to the successes we have registered through TSMP and others programmes,” the NBS boss noted.

## NBS: Administrative Data Collection Must Adhere To Statistics Law



*NBS Director General Dr. Albina Chuwa addresses regional and district medical officers' conference held recently in Dodoma where she emphasized the need for establishing central data point for all sectoral statistics. On her left is Permanent Secretary Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Dr. Mpoki Ulisubisya and Deputy Permanent Secretary, President's Office Local Government in charge of health Dr. Zainabu Chaula.*

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has insisted that the collection of administrative data must follow rules and regulations provided in the Statistics Law No. 9 of 2015.

Speaking during the Regional Medical Officers (RMOs) and District Medical Officers (DMOs) meeting held recently in Dodoma, the Director General of NBS, Dr. Albina Chuwa, said administrative data, including that of health sector must follow rules and regulations guiding collection of official statistics as they are key in---

in national decision-making process.

“We’ve moved from opinion-based to evidence-based decision-making, so we need quality data to make the right decisions,” she said.

Dr. Chuwa told the meeting that the only way to address challenges facing collection of administrative data from Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) was to establish an integrated database system or a one stop data centre which would be easily accessible to stakeholders.

“In the health sector, the data will comprise all statistical information on births and deaths, number of medical doctors and all health workers; their qualifications and experience, available facilities, medicines and the like” She explained.

Dr. Chuwa added with such available statistics, one would be able to compare and contrast the key indicators over the availability, readiness, quality and use of health services.

She noted that among sources of health statistics is administrative data, which like in other sectors; more efforts are needed to strengthen its collection and management.

Dr. Chuwa elaborated that the role of NBS was to coordinate and provide guidance to MDAs in order to make sure collection of administrative data was done according to the laid down rules, standards and regulations.

“Ministries and departments have monitoring and evaluation (M&E) units whose one duty is collecting administrative data and our duty then is to provide them with technical support to ensure that the data collection process concurs with the law,” she asserted.

The NBS boss identified various sources of health statistics including Population and Housing Census, Social surveys like the Tanzania Demographic Survey (TDHS), Tanzania Malaria Indicator Survey (TMIS) and Tanzania HIV Indicator Survey (THIS).

She listed other sources as Tanzania Service Provision Assessment (TzSPA), Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS), Health Management -

Information System (HMIS), Health Insurance Systems, National Accounts and supportive supervisions.

Meanwhile, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr. Mpoki Ulisubisya, has lauded the cooperation between his Ministry and the National Statistics Office.

“Our partnership with NBS has enabled us to produce quality statistics as the later has been providing us with the needed expertise in cleaning and verifying our data,” said Dr. Ulisubisya.

He thanked Dr. Chuwa for accepting to participate--

in the meeting and congratulated her for an excellent presentation which helped participants to the meeting to understand issues on health statistics and Statistics Law No. 9 of 2015.

For their part, regional medical officers urged NBS to produce estimates at district level when conducting various surveys since these were very important for planning at the level.

“We need reports of those surveys at lower levels that we can use them in our planning,” one participant noted.



***Participants to the Regional and district medical officers' conference held in Dodoma recently follow discussion during the conference.***

## Parliamentary Committee Backs NBS

Parliamentary Budget Committee has said it was satisfied with the way the National Statistics authority was implementing its strategic plans, which assured the country with the needed statistics for national development planning.

Speaking at the end of a day-long tour of the new NBS offices in Dodoma, the chairperson of the committee, who doubles as the Mtwara Rural Member of Parliament, Ms. Hawa Ghasia, said the committee members were highly enlightened by the orientation they were taken through during the tour.

“You have made our day, as we windup this programme, I must admit that you have made a difference among my committee members. We now understand the nitty gritty of your work,” the chairperson said.

During the tour, the committee members had the opportunity to learn on how various statistics were produced and the current state of administrative data collection as well how the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) was embracing technology in data collection to-



***Chairperson of Parliamentary Budget Committee who is also Member of Parliament for Mtwara Rural Hon Hawa Ghasia addresses members of the press during committee orientation tour at NBS offices in Dodoma.***

reduce cost in statistics production and dissemination.

She said NBS was a very important institution in the country because it was through it that the government was able to get the real picture of what was happening in the service sector that the public enjoyed.

“You provide essential statistics that portray the real picture of the results of our government efforts to bring about development to its people,” said Hon. Hawa Ghasia and urged NBS to continue with professionalism--

in all its undertakings.

The committee urged NBS management to make special arrangements which would ensure all its statistical reports it produces or other statistics under its custody are availed to members of parliament to help them use in their constituencies and during parliament sessions.

“When Member of Parliament presents his or her case in the parliament with statistical evidence be it of education, health or any other it is easy to convince the government to take action than just making a talk--

(without evidence)” noted committee chairperson.

The committee members also urged NBS provide training to municipals and district councils to on statistics to facilitate planning and evaluation of development projects.

They also called upon NBS to reconsider its plan to build regional offices in new regions which they felt with new office buildings have more space than the long established region which most of them have limited office spaces.

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***Babati Rural member of Parliament Jitu Soni who is also deputy Chairperson of Parliamentary Budget Committee participating stressing a point during discussion with NBS management and committee members at NBS offices in Dodoma.***



***Members of Parliamentary Budget Committee listen to one of the presentations during orientation visit at NBS offices in Dodoma.***

## AfDB Commits to Ensure Tanzania Attains Comprehensive Food Balance Sheet (FBS)

African Development Bank is all out to provide Tanzania with technical assistance to build its capacity to enable realise its goal of achieving comprehensive national food balance sheet, says Vincent Ngenakumana, AfDB Official, working in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

Speaking at the end of the three-day training held in Dodoma recently the bank official said the primary objective of the training was to equip all stakeholders involved in preparation of food balance sheet with international standard guidelines and necessary skills to prepare and manage statistical information making the balance sheet.

“We presented the methodologies and try to identify sources of data for Tanzania food balance sheet and establish need assessment for further assistance in this area,” he said.

With the capacity it is building and the potential the country has, Mr. Ngenakumana, the bank’s Principal Agricultural Statistician, said the bank was optimistic that Tanzania will soon become a model in the continent, on how to manage food balance sheet and secure--

food security for its people.

Food balance sheet is a key tool used to look at availability of food at a national level which is an aggregate of amount of food that is physically present in a country or area for a specific period through all forms of domestic production, stocks, commercial imports and food aid.

The bank official told the NBS reporter that; bank’s presence was a response to Tanzania’s request made in 2014 through National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) for technical assistance in preparation of food balance-

sheet to ensure country achieves food security.

In the request, he noted, NBS identified three key areas if assisted, Tanzania can afford the needed information, which can reduce food shortages, and mentioned preparation of food balance sheet was one of them.

“Since AfDB has the mandate and resources to support, then we came to answer NBS request and now we are here to support” he explained.

Other requests were on production of agricultural statistics and preparation --



*Resource persons to the capacity building training for Stakeholders involved in preparation of National Food Balance Sheet. Mr. Vincent Ngenakumana from African Development Bank and Mr. Cachia from Colombian based Green Data Company.*





***NBS manager for Agriculture Statistics Mr. Titus Mwisomba makes a point during capacity building training held at National Bureau of Statistics Office in Dodoma recently.***

of Strategic Plan to Strengthen Agricultural Statistics.

The bank official said the training on food balance sheet was part of the global strategy to enhance capacity to improve the production of agricultural statistics at national level. Therefore, within that framework, standard guidelines on how to develop food balance sheet has been produced since last year.

Furthermore, he explained that, the programme was in line with the bank's Feed Africa Programme, which aimed at transforming agriculture in member states from traditional subsistence farming to--

commercial, so as to feed the continent and improve social wellbeing of its people.

Meanwhile, the Manager of NBS' Agricultural Statistics, Mr. Titus Mwisomba, said under food balance sheet, data from all food sources was coordinated and brought together to form the national food balance.

That is why, he said, the training involved many stakeholders including Officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Bank of Tanzania (BoT), the National Food Reserve Agency and NBS.

Mr. Mwisomba noted that achieving comprehensive food--

balance sheet was important because it provided the basis for food policy analysis and decision making to ensure food security. He also emphasized that; the information was crucial for planning purposes as well as monitoring food situation in the country.

“With food balance sheet, you primarily measure consumption against supply hence government can decide to import when there is food deficiency and exports when there is surplus of food,” Mr. Mwisomba said.

During the training, Mr. Ngenakumana was assisted by Mr. Frank Cachia from Green Data of Colombia.

## Our Target is to Build Our Offices All Over The Country, Reveals NBS Chief



***Members of Parliamentary Budget Committee listen to one of the presentations during orientation visit at NBS offices in Dodoma.***

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) targets to build its own regional and district offices to facilitate smooth production and dissemination of official statistics.

The Director General of NBS, Dr. Albina Chuwa, told Parliamentary Budget Committee that Statistics Law of 2015 has mandated NBS to coordinate production and dissemination of all official statistics that necessitated its presence at both regional and district levels.

Dr. Chuwa informed the committee that NBS management-

will seriously consider member's suggestion that the plan to build regional offices must focus on regions facing shortage of office mostly those established many years ago.

"A part from that target, our focus also in the near future will be to build capacity to regional and district council staffs on collection and management of statistics at their respective jurisdictions," she said.

In doing so, she said NBS will engage Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASTC) to--

conduct training for those staff and lower level government functionaries like Ward and Village education, agriculture, rural health officers.

"We want to make those at the low level of data collection like small farmers have the necessary skills and understand how important the data he/ she avails to the collectors," she insisted, adding that farmers needed to know how much they produced and that will help to obtain real data.

Dr. Chuwa noted that a well-organized and efficient system to manage administrative will ensure the country with quality statistics which are necessary in building strong nation relied on evidence- based decision making.

***"NBS will engage Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASTC) to conduct training for those staff and lower level government functionaries like Ward and Village education, agriculture, rural health officers."***

## Our Supervisory Mechanism Guarantees Quality Data Collection, Says NBS

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) before conducting any major survey informs all stakeholders through public education to solicit their support and participation in the intended survey.

The Director General of NBS, Dr. Albina Chuwa, told the Parliamentary Budget Committee that among key stakeholders were Members of Parliament whom were offered special session to be informed of the intended survey.

She said engaging MPs was of paramount importance for these surveys need political support and as representative of the public, lawmakers can better engage people in the constituencies to participate in the surveys.

Dr. Chuwa assured committee members that data collectors were given rigorous training on how to conduct the survey and even on how to deal with unfriendly situations during the survey.

During the orientation tour of the committee some members wanted to know how NBS--

selected and controlled data collectors as well as how it ensured quality of data collected.

“We conduct comprehensive training with step by step measures to ensure data all collectors follow the training and for those who fail our tests, they are dropped forthwith,” she said.

She added that they were also given special interview skills to engage difficult interviewees to make sure they cooperated and participated by willingly answering the questions.

Apart from training, NBS has very good supervisory mechanisms which ensure data collectors are doing their work according to the laid down procedures and guidelines provided during the training.

“After training, the selected ones take oath of secrecy according Section 14 of Statistics Law No. 9 of 2015 to ensure they adhere to principle of secrecy in conducting data collection,” she told committee members.



**Members of Parliamentary Budget Committee listen to one of the presentations during orientation visit at NBS offices in Dodoma.**

## The August CPI Stagnates At 3.3 Percent



*Director of Social Statistics and Population Census at National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Mr. Ephraim Kwesigabo releases CPI figures for August, 2018 before members of the Press at new NBS offices in Dodoma.*

THE National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) for August, 2018 has stagnated at 3.3 percent as it was recorded in the previous month.

The stagnation of CPI was attributed to the speed of price change for commodities for August, 2018 to remain the same as July, 2018.

Addressing reporters in Dodoma when releasing the CPI figures for August, 2018, the Director of Population Census and Social Statistics of National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Mr. Ephraim Kwesigabo said, there is no changes in CPI figure as the--

the speed of price change remained the same.

“The CPI for August has the same figure as of July, 2018 due to speed of price change to remain the same. But the overall index has decreased to 112.01 in August, 2018 from 112.44 recorded a month ago,” said Mr. Kwesigabo.

He said the decrease of the overall index was caused by decrease price of food items. Such food items that contributed to decrease were rice which decreased by 1.7 percent, maize grains by 3.6 percent, maize flour by 3.5 percent, wheat flour-

by 1.2 percent, sorghum flour by 2.0 percent, vegetables by 2.8 percent, cassava by 1.6 percent and cocoyam by 3.6 percent.

Mr. Kwesigabo said the inflation rate for food consumed at home and away from home has slightly increased to 3.2 percent in August, 2018 from 3.0 percent recorded early while the 12 month index change for non-food products in August, 2018 has increased to 4.6 percent from 4.2 percent recorded in July, 2018.

The inflation rate which excludes food and energy for August, 2018 has increased to 2.0 percent from 1.6 percent recorded in July, 2018.

# NBS PICTORIAL NEWS



*Deputy Minister of Agriculture Omar Mgumba in conversation with NBS pavilion attendants on agricultural statistics during Nanenane Exhibitions. Left is agricultural statistician Festo Mwemutsi and NBS Marketing Officer Andrew Punjila.*



*NBS Librarian Issa Magubiro attending students who visited NBS pavilion during Nanenane exhibitions held nationally in Simiyu.*



# NBS PICTORIAL NEWS



*Kigoma South Member of Parliament hon Hasna Mwilima making a point during discussion with NBS management team when the Parliamentary Budget Committee visited NBS offices in Dodoma.*



*NBS cartographer, Yunis Nota demonstrates to members of Parliamentary Committee how cartographic work is done using new technology known as mobile Geographical Information System Technology (GIS-T) which special data is transmitted through tablets and mobile phones.*





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