

**LAUNCH OF THE 2015/16 KENYA INTEGRATED
HOUSEHOLD BUDGET SURVEY BASIC REPORTS**

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SECRETARY, TO THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND
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22ND MARCH 2018 AT THE KICC, NAIROBI.

Fellow Cabinet Secretary (ies);
Chief Administrative Secretary (ies);
Principal Secretary (ies);
Chairperson Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA);
Director General, KNBS;
Representative of the World Bank;
Representative of the UNICEF;
Representatives of Ministries, Departments and Agencies;

**Representatives of other Development Partners;
KNBS Staff;
Members of the media fraternity;
Distinguished Guests;
All Protocols Observed,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. It gives me great pleasure to be with you as we launch the Basic Reports of the 2015/16 Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIHBS). May I also extend my

hearty welcome and acknowledge your presence to this important occasion.

2. **Ladies and Gentlemen,** the crucial role that statistics play in our lives cannot be overemphasized. The Government appreciates the central role that statistics play in guiding policy decisions aimed at improving our socio-economic development. In addition, statistics are key in monitoring the progress that the country has made in achieving its development goals as well as international commitments on the welfare of the citizenry. The Constitution of Kenya 2010 also lays emphasis on

economic and social rights of the citizens. The rights include: access to highest attainable standard of health; access to adequate housing and reasonable standards of sanitation; freedom from hunger, and adequate food of acceptable quality; access to clean and safe water in adequate quantities; access to social security; and education.

3. **Ladies and Gentlemen**, the 2015/16 KIHBS reports serves as response to such wide range of the data needs. The data from the survey provides key socioeconomic indicators that measure the progress that has been made

in improving the welfare of Kenyans since the last KIHBS (2005/6). The data also acts as a baseline for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 2063 Agenda by providing many of the requisite indicators. In addition, the results will be useful in informing resource allocation in the country.

4. I take note of the fact that the poverty level has reduced by 10.5 percentage points from 46.6 per cent as reported in 2005/06 KIHBS to 36.1 percent in 2015/16 KIHBS. The food headcount rates dropped from 45.8 to 32.0 per cent while hardcore poverty dropped from 19.5 to

8.6 per cent over the same period. There was also an overall decline in inequality, implying an improvement in the distribution of wealth. Over the same period, unemployment rate declined from 12.7 per cent to 7.4 per cent.

5. The survey results show that the living standards of Kenyans generally improved between 2005/06 and 2015/16. I am therefore happy to note that the various government programmes have resulted to desired impacts.

6. **Ladies and Gentlemen,** the significant improvement in the living standards of majority of Kenyans is attributable to government's investments in infrastructure and social sector. Over the last decade, the Government invested heavily in key infrastructure such as roads, rail, ports, housing and energy. Similarly, the Government invested in the social sector by equipping hospitals and expanding access to maternal healthcare, introducing cash transfers to the vulnerable through the Social Safety Net Programme and increasing capitation grant in the Education Sector as well as abolishing examination fees for standard eight and form four candidates. The successful implementation of devolved levels of governments has also

contributed significantly to the improved welfare of citizens.

7. **Ladies and Gentlemen,** the implementation of government programmes, however, has not been without challenges. Frequent droughts, prolonged electioneering period, teething problems associated with implementation of devolved systems of government and depressed global economic performance are some of the key challenges that slowed implementation of the Government's programmes. Consequently, much still needs to be done if Kenya is to achieve the Vision 2030, which is the country's

development blueprint that was prepared with the aim of transforming Kenya into an industrialized country by providing a high quality life to all its citizens.

8. **Ladies and Gentlemen,** to accelerate the attainment of the Vision 2030, the Government has formulated the BIG 4 Economic Transformation Agenda focusing on manufacturing, food and nutrition security, health and housing as key pillars during the next 5 years. Therefore, by 2022 the Government plans to boost the contribution of manufacturing sector's share of GDP to 15 per cent; ensure that all citizens enjoy food security and proper

nutrition; spearhead delivery of 500,000 housing units in major cities across the country; and attain Universal Health Coverage (UHC) for all households. It is envisaged that the UHC will guarantee access to quality and affordable health care to all Kenyans.

9. Some of the specific programmes lined up in economic transformation agenda include policy reviews and incentives to attract investors, completing of stimuli projects such as developing industrial parks, leather park, warehousing and cold chain sites, and motor vehicle free trade zone, just to mention a few. Moreover, the

Government plans to place additional 700 thousand acres under food production through Public-Private Partnership initiative, establish blending of fertilizers, scale up the NHIF uptake, and increase budgetary allocation to health from 7% to 10%. These interventions will result in enhancing our human capital and create employment for our youth.

10. **Ladies and Gentlemen,** to succeed with our Big Four agenda, we must build new partnerships with all stakeholders in many areas because the goals and targets are interconnected and many of them require strong collaboration across different frontiers.

11. As we continue to create new economic opportunities, we must become more conscious of promoting a sustainable environment. I take this opportunity to call on every citizen, Government agencies, Parliamentarians, Academia, NGOs, and Development Partners to support various Government initiatives with tackling climate change and environmental challenges.

12. **Ladies and Gentlemen,** as I conclude, I wish to underscore the fact that we are increasingly using statistics

directly for policy purposes and my Ministry will continue being supportive to KNBS in its quest for provision of quality official statistics. To this end, my Ministry through KNBS is implementing cartographic mapping in preparation of undertaking Kenya Population and Housing Census scheduled for August 2019. The Census provides statistics on key demographic variables that are important for socio-economic planning for development. This is therefore to appeal to all Kenyans for your support in the forthcoming exercise.

13. I wish to laud the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics for its continued effort in providing better answers to the needs of users of official statistics. On behalf of the Government of Kenya, I would like to express our appreciation for the technical and financial support received from the World Bank and other Development Partners, Regional and International Agencies and all other stakeholders towards production of quality statistics.

14. **Ladies and Gentlemen,** I now declare the Basic Report; the Basic Report on well-being; and the Basic

Labour Force Report based on the 2015/16 Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey officially launched.

I thank you all.

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