

**SPEECH BY THE CABINET SECRETARY, THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND PLANNING, MR. HENRY K. ROTICH, EGH DURING THE PRESS BRIEFING ON THE 2019 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS, HELD AT RADISSON BLU HOTEL ON 23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY, 2019**

**Dr. Julius Muia, Principal Secretary Planning  
The Chairman, KNBS Board,  
The Director General, KNBS  
Senior Government Officials,  
Representatives from other institutions/organizations,  
Members of the Fourth Estate,  
Distinguished Guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives me a lot of pleasure to be here this morning to talk to the country about the planned 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census. As you are all aware, the census is an important process that the Government attaches great value to, due to the need for evidence in planning. Evidence-based decision making is a universally recognized paradigm of efficient management of countries. Furthermore, the United Nations recognises the importance of population and housing censuses and therefore has issued international principles and recommendations to assist statistical offices and census officials, throughout the world, in planning and carrying out improved and cost-effective censuses.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The country has had seven censuses before, two of which were pre-independence. It gives me great pride to report that the Government has managed to undertake population and housing censuses after every ten years since 1969 and has always set aside budgetary allocation for this process.

The Government through the National Treasury and Planning gazetted the Legal Notice no. 205 on undertaking of the census scheduled for August this year, otherwise known as The Statistics (Census of Population) Order, 2018. This confers the legal mandate to conduct the Population and Housing census to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The census will provide statistical information on the size, distribution and characteristics of Kenya's population that will be used to describe and assess the socio-economic and demographic status. In addition, the census will provide the much-needed comprehensive data at county and lower levels to inform development planning and programming to facilitate delivery of quality services to the citizens. Further, at the national level, this information will be useful in monitoring the progress made towards achieving Vision 2030 and more so the Big 4 agenda. On the global arena, Kenya will be monitoring its progress in achievement of internationally agreed programmes such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As you are aware, this is the first census to be undertaken in the new dispensation of a devolved system of governance. It is expected to provide comprehensive statistics for a wide range of indicators ranging from fertility, mortality, education and labour among others. In addition, the census will collect comprehensive information on persons living with disability. This will ensure inclusivity and enable appropriate planning for the needs of all persons. All persons resident in Kenya will be enumerated in order to provide information for planning for our country.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As you may be aware, preparatory activities for the census commenced three years ago and currently, we have teams in the field undertaking cartographic mapping, used to create Enumeration Areas in readiness for the actual enumeration. This Census process has fully embraced modern technology as a best practice to improve on data quality. The use of Technology enhances quality of the data as it has in built checks,

correction of inconsistent responses and cross-validation with other records. It is also expected to enable faster release of census data due to rapid transmission of data from the field teams to the data processing centre. It is worth noting that the Bureau has been using mobile technology in undertaking surveys and therefore has adequate capacity.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As you are also aware, KNBS being the principal government agency for official statistics, is involved in other data collection activities that are geared towards the improvement of the welfare of our citizens. It is my sincere hope that all Kenyans will appreciate the key role that statistics play in our everyday life and co-operate with the data collection teams that visit the households and businesses every so often.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I wish to recognize the continued statistical support we have received from our development partners over the years. I request the development partners to continue supporting statistical activities in the country to help us meet the expanding demand. To our partners from the fourth estate, your role in educating the public on the need to be truthful and cooperative in providing statistical information cannot be overemphasized. It is my sincere hope that you will be champions of advocacy for conducting a credible census that will provide the much-needed statistics to inform policy development. You have a big responsibility to decipher facts from myths surrounding the whole census process.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I wish also to recognise the important role played by the media in informing the public on the results and development in statistics and urge you to continue reporting accurately and objectively.

As I conclude, let me caution the public against falling prey to fraudsters who have formed a syndicate to defraud Kenyans with promises of securing jobs in the forthcoming census. Let me reiterate that the

Government does not require individuals to pay any monies to be considered for employment. Furthermore, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics and my Ministry have official websites and any official communication should only emanate from the two institutions.

Thank you and God Bless Kenya