



REMARKS BY DR. JULIUS MUIA, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PLANNING DURING THE BRIEFING TO REGIONAL AND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, REGIONAL AND COUNTY POLICE COMMANDERS, AND COUNTY NIS COORDINATORS ON THE 2019 KENYA POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS ON 19TH JULY, 2019.

**The Chief Guest, The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, Dr Fred Matian'gi,
The Principal Secretary, State Department of Interior, Dr Eng. Karanja Kibicho, CBS
The Principal Secretary, State Department of Planning, Dr Julius Muia, EBS
Secretary in charge of Security,
The Director General KNBS,
Regional and County Commissioners,
County Commanders,
Other Senior Government Officials,
Distinguished Guests,**

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to join you this morning, to share and deliberate on issues touching on the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census, scheduled to be undertaken from the night of 24th/25th to 31st August, 2019. We have about five weeks remaining to this time.

As you may know, carrying out a national population and housing census is one of the most complex and massive exercises undertaken by the Government. This notwithstanding, we appreciate that this activity is very important because it provides critical information for use in planning for our nation. Indeed, we cannot plan effectively if we do not know the people we are planning for, their characteristics and their spatial distribution.

The theory and practice of development planning tells us that it is necessary to have reliable and detailed data on the size, distribution and composition of population in order to plan for and implement proper economic and social development programmes, administrative activity or scientific research. For these reasons, we recognize that the population census is a primary source of these benchmark statistics, covering not only the settled population but also homeless persons and nomadic groups. The National Treasury and Planning is very grateful that the Government has been and remains very committed to supporting the census activity by providing resources and adequate logistical support to the process, from the time the census project proposal was approved by the Cabinet.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Statistics plays a vital role in enabling planners to understand how various population variables interrelate with the development processes. Increasingly, many countries including Kenya have continued to integrate statistics in population planning and policy formulation which has led to an increase in demand for various statistics.

Looking outside Kenya, we note that Africa's population is expected to balloon by the year 2050. Furthermore, it is estimated that one out of every four people will be African according to a recent World Population Report. In our case, we are conscious of the need to count our people correctly because this data is a predictive indication of how much housing will be required in 30 years time. Alongside the issue of housing, data on health of the population, health practices and health facilities will be key for delivery of vital services. For example, such data will help us to determine if there will be an increased need for hospitals, clinics and emergency vehicles. Further, while Kenya population will balloon in the next 20 years, the most significant growth segment is predicated to be the youth between the ages of 18 and 30. That count will allow the government and its partners to better predict the population growth among youth, which will also aid in the number and the types of jobs needed.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In addition the implementation of the current Constitution has enabled the provision of services closer to the people thereby increasing the demand for statistics by both the National Government and County Governments for evidence-based decision making.

The overall goal of the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census is to provide the Government and other stakeholders with up-to-date data on the population, in terms of demographic, social and economic characteristics, as well as housing conditions and household amenities.

Accurate and up-to-date population data will enable the government prepare a well-informed budget and development plans as well as monitor and evaluate population-related policies and programmes in the country. More so, the information will assist the Government to monitor the progress made towards realization of the Vision 2030, the Big 4 Agenda, Medium Term Plans, County Integrated Development Plans, Sustainable Development Goals, and Africa Agenda 2063, among others. Thus, to facilitate the delivery of quality services to the citizens, it is important to ensure that we obtain quality statistics.

Ladies and Gentlemen

In common with best practice, our preparatory activities for the 2019 census commenced way back in 2016. Some of these activities included undertaking of field cartographic mapping, which is the delineation of the country into smaller areas, known as Enumeration Areas. This helps to determine the number of personnel needed for the census enumeration, and ensure complete and unduplicated coverage of the census count.

Over the last three years, officers from KNBS have traversed the whole country and have worked well with a lot of support from the National Government Administrative Officers (NGAOs) under the coordination of the County Commissioners and Deputy County Commissioners. In the last leg of the preparatory activities we are currently finalizing the

recruitment of personnel for the Census under the leadership of the County Commissioners in readiness for trainings due from next week.

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is acknowledged that for a census to be deemed successful, the data collected during enumeration must be complete, accurate, reliable and acceptable to all. To achieve these attributes, public participation and support is extremely important. Great efforts must therefore, be made to create awareness on the forthcoming census, thereby informing the people on the importance of the census, and their roles in its success, through publicity and advocacy campaigns. The campaigns aim at addressing any issues that might compromise the accuracy and reliability of the census from the onset.

To this end, we are calling upon all NGAOs to support the Ministry in mobilizing support for the census at all levels. We are keen to sensitize the general public, media, Government officials, civil society, religious leaders, and special groups (including the homeless and nomads) on issues pertaining to the forthcoming census.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Once again, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government for agreeing to organize this meeting because it is the only way we can interact and understand our roles in making the 2019 census a success. Indeed, this is in the spirit of whole government approach to service delivery and execution of duty.

I wish to urge all the administrators to support the census process by mobilizing the public to provide accurate and correct information to the census officials during the enumeration period that kicks off on the Census Night of 24th/25th August, 2019 and ends on 31st August, 2019.

I once again kindly request you to be good ambassadors to the 2019 census.

Thank You