

PRESS RELEASE

KNBS COMMENDED FOR THE 2019 KENYA POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS PREPAREDNESS

13th June 2019

The Principal Secretary, State Department for Planning Dr Julius Muia and his interior counterpart Dr Dr Karanja Kibicho have given a thumbs up to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics(KNBS) for elaborate plans to organize the country's upcoming census scheduled on the night of 24/ 25th August 2019.

Speaking during a briefing session by the Director General KNBS Mr Zachary Mwangi held at Interior Ministry Harambee House offices, the two PSs said they were confident the upcoming census will adhere to global standards.

Planning PS Dr Muia urged his Interior counterpart to fully deploy security apparatus within the census period to ensure the national exercise conformed to the international standards. He said successful census is a significant challenge that requires strong logistical planning, government leadership and the positive support from Government departments and other key stakeholders throughout the country.

He emphasized the importance of a successful census as being more than counting all the people of Kenya adding that it was the backbone of the statistical system. "It provides a comprehensive picture of the social living conditions of the citizenry, and is essential for planning the provision of essential services such as stipulated in the Big Four Agenda",He said.

"Health care, education and employment data collected at county and lowest administrative unit in the country will help planners identify the demand for schools, health care facilities, doctors and teachers, and show where improvements are needed in employment and provision of social amenities,"The PS said

Interior PS Dr Karanja Kibicho assured that County Commissioners who are the appointed as chairpersons of the County Census committees and Deputy County Commissioners as chairpersons of the sub-county committees will offer KNBS the requisite logistical support.

He said the Government's machinery will be deployed to ensure that the results were not manipulated or rigged. "We shall be very keen to see a successful census in Kenya which would provide the basis for policy making across government",He said.

The KNBS DG disclosed that implementation of preparatory activities for the 2019 KPHC started in 2016 and by June this year cartographic mapping exercise which includes sensitization of National Government Administrative Officials (NGAOs), field cartographic mapping in the 47 counties, digitization of Enumeration Areas(EA) maps and verification and amendment of EA maps had been concluded to comply with international standards.

The DG said that mobile devices uploaded with data collection application and the EA maps will be used to collect data during actual enumeration in August 2019. The programme developed by US Census Bureau will be running the CSPro application platform.

He said that data collection application has been developed and tested in pilot census in August 2018 in 22 sub-locations that were spread in 12 counties. The finalised tools are further being tested in a second mini pilot that is currently running in Nairobi and Nyandarua counties.

Mr Mwangi said some technical officers in different fields have been seconded from government departments, World Bank and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to support the census exercise.

The Director General said, "During the course of the past year, we have seen significant improvements in technical capabilities of the KNBS, especially in areas of mapping, procurement of mobile devices and accessories for the implementation of 2019 KPHC has been initiated and is ongoing at Moi University and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology to assemble and supply mobile devices"

He added that sensitization of County Statistical Officers on 2019 KPHC to enable them initiate and coordinate the process at county level in collaboration with NGAOs was done in May 2019. Other important activities initiated includes the establishment of County Census Committees in all counties shared by respective County Commissioners while the process of recruiting the 2019 KPHC personnel was advertised through MyGov on 11th June 2019.

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