



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

**THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND ECONOMIC PLANNING**

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY MR. JAMES MUHATI, THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE 2021 KENYA TIME USE SURVEY REPORT AT RADISSON BLU HOTEL, UPPER HILL, NAIROBI, 18TH OCTOBER, 2023**

**The Presidential Advisor on Women Rights; Harriet Chiggai**

**The Principal Secretary, State Dept. for Gender & Affirmative Action; Ann Wang'ombe**

**The Chairman, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) Board of Directors; Stephen Wainaina**

**The KNBS Board Members;**

**All CEOs from State Department for Economic Planning present**

**The CEO, National Gender Equality Commission; Betty Sungura**

**The CEO, Council of Governors; Mary Mwiti**

**The Country Director, The World Bank, Keith Hansen;**

**The Country Director, UN Women, Anna Mutavati;**

**The Country Director, Oxfam Kenya, Sebastian Tiah;**

**All other Development Partners present;**

**All Government Officers present;**

**Distinguished Guests;**

**All Protocols observed;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

**Good Morning!**

It gives me great pleasure to preside over the launch of the 2021 Kenya Time Use Survey Report which is the first of its kind to be produced in Kenya. **Time Use Surveys** provide comprehensive and detailed information on how individuals spend their time on different activities (social and /or economic) over a specified period either on a daily or weekly basis.

Time use statistics were first produced in the early 1900s in social surveys and mainly reported on the living conditions of working-class families. The objective was to estimate the effect of long working days/hours and short leisure time of industrial workers, which was a concern for organized labour groups that wanted to advocate for a reduction in working hours.

In recent years, time use statistics have gained importance among policymakers as they: give visibility to all forms of work, remunerated and non-remunerated; puts in the spotlight the care economy by enabling estimates of paid and unpaid care work; highlight the unequal distribution of unpaid work between women and men; help to understand the contribution of unpaid work to the national economy; help improve estimates of employment and cast light on informal jobs; and illuminate the nature of poverty and human well-being.

Time-use surveys thus, are critical for designing policies for **inclusive growth** as they provide social, demographic and related economic data not otherwise obtainable on human activity.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is important to note that the launch of the 2021 Kenya Time Use Survey Report is unquestionably a notable milestone and a watershed moment for Kenya. Kenya joins countries such as Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Ghana, South Africa, Algeria, Mexico, Georgia, Korea, Sweden, among others which have conducted a national time-use survey.

The production of Kenya Time Use Survey Report was motivated by the need to measure time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, participation of women and men in System of National Accounts (SNA) and non-SNA activities. Specifically, the report provides statistics

on average time spent on SNA productive activities, Non-SNA productive activities (unpaid work) and Non-Productive activities such as learning, socialization and communication; community participation and religious practices; culture, leisure, mass-media and sports practices. It brings into focus the unpaid domestic and care work, which is “work” that largely remains invisible, unrecognized and unaccounted for in decision-making.

It is worth noting that the report would provide baseline information for the development of a Household Satellite Account for the compilation of the contribution of household production to the country’s Gross Domestic Product to inform macroeconomic policies and strategies.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

The survey was implemented through a “**retrospective diary approach**”, which highlights the activities done in the last 24 hours preceding the survey. Based on the above approach, the following were the summary findings from the report:

- 1) Nationally, persons aged 15 years and above spend 12.2% (equivalent to 2 hours 54 minutes) of a day on unpaid domestic and care work; women spend 18.7% (equivalent to 4 hours 30 minutes) of a day, while men spend 3.6% (equivalent to 54 minutes) of a day on the same activities.
- 2) The proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work by girls age 15-17 years, is thrice as much (14.0% - 3 hours 24 minutes) as that of boys (4.1% - 1 hour) of the same age group.
- 3) Across all counties, women spend more time on unpaid domestic and care work compared to men with Marsabit county recording the highest proportion of time spent by women on unpaid domestic and care work (30.2% equivalent to 7 hours 12 minutes) followed by Wajir County with (26.8% - 6 hours - 24 minutes) Samburu County with (24.2% equivalent to 5 hours 24 minutes), Mandera County with (23.8% equivalent to 5 hours 42 minutes) and Garissa County (23.7% equivalent to 5 hours 42 minutes).

The statistics in this report clearly shows that unpaid domestic and care work disproportionately burdens women and girls. The findings are comparable to most of the Time Use Surveys done in other countries.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

The importance of time use statistics for gender equality is further emphasized by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which places gender equality as a separate goal as well as an accelerator for all other goals. The SDGs calls for all countries to monitor SDG target 5.4 on the recognition and valuation of unpaid care and domestic work as a way to promote gender equality. Much of unpaid work is performed by women, often resulting in unequal social, economic and political opportunities for them.

Towards this end, the SDG indicator 5.4.1 collected in this survey will measure the **proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location**. This indicator will add to the 162 SDG indicators that Kenya is currently reporting in the National SDG indicator Framework whose progress is reported at the High-Level Political Forum held every year.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

As I conclude, I would like to reiterate the importance of the 2021 Kenya Time Use Survey Report in providing benchmark indicators against commitments outlined in the Kenya Kwanza manifesto. The report is timely as it will be used to monitor and evaluate progress made on key national priorities contained in the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), towards promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and girls socially, economically, and politically.

Some of the measures that have been identified by the BETA that relate to care work include: (i) ensuring deployment of the adequate number of skilled community health workers on a regular stipend paid through a cost-sharing framework between the National Government and County Governments, and (ii) ensuring availability of clean, safe, environmentally friendly and affordable cooking fuels.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen**

I wish to express my gratitude to The World Bank, UN Women Kenya Country Office and other partners for their technical and financial support provided towards the production of the 2021 Kenya Time Use Report.

Finally, I appreciate all the government institutions for their collaborative work with KNBS in undertaking the 2021 Kenya Time Use Survey and the compilation of the report. The State Department for Economic Planning commits to continue supporting the KNBS to receive adequate financial resources to generate new and innovative evidence to guide planning, monitoring and evaluation.

It's now my humble pleasure to declare the 2021 Kenya Time Use Survey Report officially launched.

**\*\*\*\*Thank You\*\*\*\***