



REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, ECONOMIC PLANNING, DURING THE FLAG-OFF OF THE 2025/2026 KENYA MINI DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY TRAINING

Venue: Waterbuck Hotel, Nakuru

Date: 29th October, 2025

The Director General, Ministry of Health

The Director General, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics,

Senior Government Officials present,

Representatives of Development Partners,

Trainers and Trainees,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

It gives me great pleasure to join you today for this important occasion marking the flag-off of the training for the 2025/2026 Kenya Mini Demographic and Health Survey. On behalf of the State Department for Economic Planning, I wish to commend the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics for organizing this critical national exercise and for the continued leadership in generating reliable, timely, and high-quality statistics for evidence-based decision-making.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Kenya Mini Demographic and Health Survey is a key undertaking in our national statistical system. It provides vital information on the health, demographic, and socio-economic characteristics of our population. The data collected informs the formulation, implementation, monitoring, and

evaluation of key government policies and programmes — particularly in health, population management, gender, and social protection.

The results of this survey will also feed directly into the tracking of progress on the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), the Kenya Vision 2030, and our commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union Agenda 2063.

Distinguished Guests,

The State Department for Economic Planning is honoured to partner with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics in this noble exercise. As the coordinating agency for national planning and statistics, we recognize that credible data is the foundation of sound economic policy. Our economists, who have been seconded to support this exercise, will bring on board their expertise in field operations, data analysis, and interpretation to ensure that the survey meets the highest professional and technical standards.

Allow me, therefore, to emphasize the strategic importance of collaboration across government and development partners. The production of quality statistics is not an end in itself; it is an enabler for inclusive growth, resource allocation, and improved service delivery to our citizens. It is through accurate and comprehensive data that we can identify disparities, design targeted interventions, and measure real progress in improving the quality of life for Kenyans.

To enhance future collaboration and efficiency in the implementation of routine surveys such as the Kenya Mini Demographic and Health Survey, it is recommended that the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and the State Department for Economic Planning establish a structured coordination framework from the initial planning stage. This should include the early incorporation of technical officers from the Department in the design and review of survey instruments, training modules, and field operations to ensure consistency with national planning and monitoring frameworks. Further, a joint technical committee should be constituted to oversee planning, implementation, and stakeholder engagement, including negotiations with development partners on matters relating to resource mobilization and trainee facilitation. Institutionalizing such coordination

mechanisms will not only strengthen technical ownership and inclusivity but also promote transparency, efficiency, and sustainability in the conduct of future national surveys.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we flag off this training, I urge all participants to approach this exercise with utmost diligence, professionalism, and integrity. The success of this survey depends on the commitment of every individual involved — from the enumerators in the field to the analysts at the Bureau. You are the custodians of the data that will guide our country's development trajectory in the years to come.

In conclusion, I reaffirm the State Department for Economic Planning's continued support to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics and to all efforts aimed at strengthening our national statistical capacity. Together, we shall ensure that Kenya remains a data-driven economy — where planning, policy formulation, and development decisions are guided by facts and evidence.

With these few remarks, it is now my pleasure to officially flag off the training for the 2025/2026 Kenya Mini Demographic and Health Survey.

I wish all participants fruitful deliberations and great success in this important national assignment.

Thank you and God bless you all.