IN THIS EDITION

2019 and 2020 Inflation Rate Curve

Percenatge Value

2019: 11.37, 11.4, 11.22, 11.08, 11.02, 11.24, 11.61, 11.85
2020: 12.34, 12.4, 12.56, 12.82, 13.22, 13.71, 14.32, 14.89

April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November

Gross Domestic Product at Constant Basic Prices (#Million)

GPD in Million(#)

Non-Oil: 90.7, 91.02, 90.23, 92.68, 90.5, 91.07
Oil: 9.22, 8.98, 9.77, 7.32, 9.5, 8.93

Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4 (2019)   Q1, Q2 (2020)

Quarters Through the Years

CALL FOR PROFILES OF INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN NIGERIA

NIPC is modernising its database of investment opportunities in Nigeria to enable it give domestic and foreign investors better visibility of investment opportunities across Nigeria.

The modernised database will allow NIPC perform a critical part of its mandate; the profiles can be aggregated and analysed by State, region, sector or economic impact, for more effective matchmaking with appropriate prospective investors. The systematic profiling of opportunities across Nigeria should give them greater visibility and improve the ability to more effectively promote them.

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Sponsors with investment opportunities they want showcased are invited to submit these opportunities by completing the online profiling form at www.nipc.gov.ng

By completing and submitting a profile, sponsors grant NIPC permission to share their investment opportunity in its full or abridged format, in any of its investment promotion events. NIPC reserves the right to decide which opportunities to showcase during its investment promotion events.

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info.desk@nipc.gov.ng
Stratcomm@nipc.gov.ng

NIGERIAN INVESTMENT PROMOTION COMMISSION

Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC) is the Federal Government agency established to encourage, promote and co-ordinate investments in Nigeria
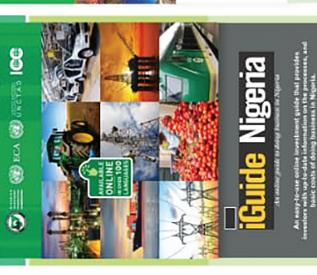
COMPENDIUM OF INVESTMENT INCENTIVES IN NIGERIA

NIGERIAN INVESTMENT PROMOTION COMMISSION
AND
FEDERAL INLAND REVENUE SERVICE

FIRST EDITION, 01 OCTOBER 2017

Compilation of fiscal incentives in Nigerian tax laws and duly approved sector-specific incentives

6 principal sections
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- General tax-based incentives
- Sector-specific incentives
- Tariff-based incentives
- Export incentives
- Special Economic Zones

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VISION

To become one of the foremost and modern knowledge –
based National Statistical Offices in Africa and indeed the world

MISSION

To generate, on a continuous and sustainable basis, socio –
economic statistics on all facets of development in Nigeria

FOCUS

To promote Statistics as a tool for Development Planning and
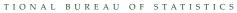Evidence Based Policy Making

FUNCTIONS

The Bureau is the main national agency responsible for the
development and management of official statistics. It is the
authoritative source and custodian of official statistics in the country

SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS OF THE BUREAU

- Coordination of the National Statistical System(NSS)
- Advising the federal, state and local government on matters related to
  Statistical development
- Developing and promoting use of statistical standards and appropriate
  methodology in the Nigerian Statistical System
- Collecting, compiling, analysing, interpreting, publishing and disseminating
  statistical information alone or in collaboration with other agencies, both
  government and non governmental agency
- Developing and maintaining a comprehensive socio economic data base
- Providing a focal point of contact with international agencies on statistics
  matters
- Fulfillingall other functions relating to statistics which the federal
  government may entrust on it

EDITOR'S NOTE

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Comments/Enquiries on the NBS Newsletter should be forwarded to: Sjichedi@nigerianstat.gov.ng or by SMS to 08037051701

You are welcome to the second edition of the National Bureau of Statistics Quarterly Newsletter. Like the first edition, this edition will be used as a platform for updating our numerous stakeholders' knowledge on the activities of the Bureau and to gauge their perception from time to time for better performance, in addition to improving NBS staff's writing skill by encouraging them to write articles in the medium.

These objectives have been largely met going by positive feedbacks received from our stakeholders since the publication of the first edition of the Newsletter.

I would like to appreciate the publisher of the NBS Newsletter, the Statistician General and CEO of NBS, Dr. Yemi Kale, for his support towards the sustenance of the Newsletter.

My appreciation also goes to some of our stakeholders who collaborated with the NBS in ensuring that there is no break in publishing the series of the Newsletter. It is hoped that this collaboration will continue for the mutual benefits of our organizations and other stakeholders in the nation's statistical system. I am not unmindful of our readers who made useful suggestions after going through the first edition of this Newsletter. I really appreciate your invaluable supports on this 'project'.

This second edition of the Newsletter contains interesting information, well-researched articles and news stories which, I am sure, will be of great interest to readers.

On behalf of the entire editorial team, I wish to recommend this edition of the Newsletter to our readers as a reliable source of information about the Bureau and statistical system development in Nigeria. Comments from our readers can enrich the contents and improve the quality of future editions of the Newsletter are welcomed.

I wish our readers pleasurable experiences as they enjoy the 'editorial delicacies' served them in this better packaged edition.

Ichedi, Sunday Joel

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE STATISTICIAN GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION, DR. YEMI KALE, AT THE TRAINING OF TRAINERS FOR THE NATIONAL BUSINESS SAMPLE CENSUS, HOLDING AT BARCELONA HOTEL, WUSE 2, ABUJA, 28TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Pleasantries & Protocols

Distinguished invited guests, media participants, staff, and management of the Bureau, it gives me great joy to be here with you this morning at the opening ceremony for the Training of Trainers for the National Business Sample Census (NBSC) 2020. This event for me is really a huge delight, not only for the fact that we are finally able to commence this long awaited and immensely important activity, but also, this is one exercise that I personally promised to complete before I leave this seat, so I am highly elated to be here today to witness the opening of this exercise.

The Business Census also known as an Economic Census is a statistical exercise that involves the enumeration of formal and informal business establishments across the country. During this process, commercial and industrial business operations in fixed locations are listed with valuable information including the nature of the economic activity of the establishments, the number of employees they engage, their contact details, amongst other things, are collected during the exercise. The information emanating from this census activity is primarily useful in understanding the nature and structure of the economy, as well as providing a sound business frame for the conduct of economic surveys in the country. Conventionally, it is conducted every 5 years, as recommended by the United Nations Statistical Commission, however in Nigeria, the census has not been conducted for over two decades, mainly due to funding challenges. Knowing the critical importance of the exercise, not just to the statistical system in Nigeria, but to the entire economy, since my appointment into this position, we have sought for different ways and means to actualize this census. Our pursuit for this finally paid

Statistician General of the Federation, Dr. Yemi Kale

off thanks to the World Banks's Fiscal Governance and Institutions Project (FGIP), which graciously accommodated the Business census, as well as the Agricultural census, which we plan to conduct early next year. So, let me at this point appreciate the World Bank for this opportunity to correct this statistical anomaly in Nigeria. This exercise and many others that we have both collaborated on over the years have been extremely critical to the development of the national statistical system and to policymaking and monitoring in Nigeria. Therefore, on behalf of the system, I thank you most sincerely.

This training event today is unique. The Training of Trainer or ToT as we commonly call it is an important stage in the data production process. It is the stage at which the personnel who will be sent to the field to train the data collectors are equipped with the knowledge and processes of the survey or census. However, this ToT is unique in the sense that it jointly serves as a publicity event for the business census. As you can imagine, an exercise such as this requires a huge amount of publicity and advocacy. Everyone, including individuals, households, business owners, organizations as well as policymakers at all levels need to be fully aware and support this exercise for it to be truly successfully. This is what has informed the steps taken so far in the planning and preparation of this census. Earlier in the year, we carried out a national technical workshop for the census in Akwanga, Nassarawa State. At that event, we invited all relevant federal MDAs, as well as the state Ministries of Finance, Budget and Planning, Ministries of Commerce

and Industries and their state statistical offices to discuss and agree on the proposed design and methodology of the census. Two national sensitization workshops were held for the various business associations, chambers of commerce and industries, and state governments. The first was held in Kaduna State for the North, and the other for the South held in Asaba, Delta State, both in February and March of this year, respectively. These events were especially useful in informing and preparing the minds of the stakeholders for the census exercise, as well as helping us to fine-tune our operational strategy for the assignment.

As with any good statistical activity, pre-test and pilot exercises were conducted to test our readiness and plans for the census. An initial Pilot was conducted in June this year, just after the lockdown was lifted, while a second was conducted in late August to address challenges and issues exposed by the first pilot. Both were conducted in Lagos, FCT, Kaduna, Abia, Bauchi, Oyo, Rivers and Kano states. The second pilot was hugely successful and has put us in a position where we believe we are ready to deploy nationwide. Technology as we all know is increasingly helping us work more efficiently and this will be duly deployed during this census. First, all enumerators will be equipped with CAPI devices for data collection. This will enable for fast and accurate collection, thereby increasing the quality of the data. It will also require the collection of GPS locations of the establishments, which can be easily plotted and mapped for better visuals. Furthermore, we are migrating from the use of manual blocking and segmenting designated working areas to deploying the use of digital segments for effective location and demarcation of the working areas. The entire built up area in the country has been digitally carved into manageable segments and mapped out appropriately with numberings across all local governments and states. This was done to help field managers assign work to the field personnel adequately and also, help enumerators identify and locate the working areas where they are meant to collate data. This is a first for the statistical system in Nigeria and a significant step in our quest for excellence and efficiency

"The Business Census also known as an Economic Census is a statistical exercise that involves the enumeration of formal and informal business establishments across the country"

in statistical production.

The results of this exercise are particularly important for statistical operations and policymaking in Nigeria, particularly because it has not been conducted for over two decades. So, I urge all the trainers and facilitators to kindly accord it the seriousness and commitment it deserves. With the current economic challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, as the apex statistical agency in the country, we need to be at the fore in providing government with all relevant information to assist her in taking the right policy decisions, and this exercise is a very crucial part of that assignment. The usefulness to government and the business community of the vital information expected to come out of this exercise can only be best imagined. Aside gaining a better understanding of the changing structure of the economy, it can easily help government identify and locate establishments in different sectors of the economy for targeted support, and also, the data can be used in designing better employment generation programs, or even boost government revenue drive by going after establishments operating under the radar. So, I implore you to participate fully and be sure that you equip yourselves well enough to be able to further pass on the knowledge gained and expectation required to the enumerators adequately at the state level training. No matter how much technology and efficiency we introduce into the process, if the right information is not collected in the field, the outcome of the exercise will not be sound. Therefore, your responsibility for training the fieldworkers is vital and it starts here today with your own training.

In closing, please allow me to thank all our invited guests here today for taking time out of your busy schedules to honour our invitation, even under this difficult COVID period. Your attendance is highly appreciated. I want to kindly urge you to also spread the news about this census, particularly the National Orientation Agency and the media participants, because in doing this, we will be giving the project a good chance of succeeding, and we will be happy to provide you with further information if required.

Thank you for your attention and I wish us all a fruitful and productive event.

Nigeria Plunges Into Recession As GDP Contracts -3.62% In Q3

Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in real terms declined by -3.62% (year-on-year) in Q3 2020, thereby plunging into a recession and marking the second consecutive contraction from -6.10% recorded in the previous quarter (Q2 2020).

The slide was reflected in the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) third quarter (Q3) GDP report published on

According to the report, the performance of the economy in Q3 2020 largely reflected residual effects of the restrictions to movement and slowdown in economic activities in early Q2 following the ravaging impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the country.

Oil Sector Performance

In the quarter under review, the oil sector contracted by –13.89% (year-on-year), indicating a sharp contraction of –20.38% points relative to the rate recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2019 and by –7.26% points when compared with growth recorded in Q2 2020 (6.63%).

In real terms, the sector contributed 8.73% to total real GDP in Q3 2020, down from 9.77% and 8.93% respectively recorded in the corresponding period of 2019 and the preceding quarter, Q2 2020.

The average daily oil production recorded in the third quarter of 2020 stood at 1.67 million barrels per day (mbpd), or 0.37mbpd lower than the average production recorded in the same quarter of 2019 and 0.14mbpd lower than production volume recorded in the second quarter of 2020 (1.81mbpd)

Non-oil Sector Performance

As with the oil sector, the non-oil sector contracted for the second time in Q3 as the economy continues to suffer from the impacts of Covid 19 pandemic, growing by –2.51% in real terms during the quarter. This represents –4.36% points lower than the rate recorded in Q3 2019 but 3.54% points higher than Q2, 2020 level.

Specifically, some of the main sectors that contracted in Q3 2020 in the non-oil segment are manufacturing, trade (wholesale and retail) accommodation and food services and real estate, among others.

However, the growth in non-oil sector was driven mainly by Information and Communication (Telecommunications), with other drivers being Agriculture (Crop Production), Construction, Financial and Insurance (Financial Institutions).

In real terms, the non-oil sector contributed 91.27% to the nation's GDP in the third quarter of 2020, higher than its share in the third quarter of 2019 (90.23%) and the second quarter

**Zainab Ahmed,
Finance Minister**

of 2020 (91.07%).

A further analysis of the sectoral performances showed that crop production remained the major driver of the agricultural sector, accounting for 92.93% of its overall nominal growth in Q3,2020. In the third quarter, the sector grew by 1.39% (year-on-year) in real terms, a drop of 0.89% points from the corresponding period of 2019(2.28%), and a decrease of –0.19% points from Q2 2020 (1.58%). It contributed 30.77% to overall GDP in real terms during the quarter under review.

Also, the Information and Communication sector, comprising four sub-sectoral activities of Telecommunications and Information Services; Publishing; Motion Picture, Sound Recording and Music Production; and Broadcasting grew by 14.56% in Q3 2020 from 16.52% in Q2 2020 and 9.88% in Q3 2019

The Manufacturing sector contracted by -1.51% in the quarter from -8.78% in Q2 and 1.1% in Q3 2019, thereby contributing 13.56% to nominal GDP in the quarter, higher than 11.79% in the preceding quarter and 12.34%in the corresponding period of 2019.

Similarly, the Trade sector in real terms recorded a year-on-year growth of -12.12%, which was –10.67% points lower than the rate recorded in Q3, 2019, but 4.46% points higher than the preceding quarter's –16.59% growth rate. The sector's contribution to GDP was 13.88%, lower than the 15.23% it recorded in 2019 and the 14.28% of Q2, 2020.

The Finance and Insurance Sector, which consists of the two subsectors, Financial Institutions and Insurance accounted for 88.89% and 11.11% of the sector's growth in real terms in Q3 2020. While Financial Institutions sector grew by 6.8% in Q3 from 28.41% in the preceding quarter and 0.61% in Q3 2019, the Insurance sector contracted by -18.67% in the quarter under review from -29.53% in Q2 2020 and 3.96% in Q3 2019.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) had projected that Nigeria's economy would contract -4.3% in 2020.

Nigeria's Inflation Up 14.89% In November, Highest In 34 Months

Dr. Yemi Kale

Nigeria's Consumer Price Index (CPI), which measures inflation rate, rose by 14.89% (year-on-year) in November 2020, representing 0.66% points higher than the 14.23% rate recorded in the previous month.

The latest rate represents the highest inflation rate recorded in 34 months since January 2018, when the rate stood at 15.13%.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), in CPI report published for the month under review, stated that the highest increases during the month were recorded in prices of Passenger transport by air, Medical services, Hospital services, Repair of furniture, Passenger transport by road and Maintenance and repair of personal transport equipment.

It also listed other factors that triggered the spike in the general price level as including Vehicle spare parts, Hairdressing salons and personal grooming establishments, Pharmaceutical products, Paramedical services and Motor cars.

According to the agency, on a month-on-month basis the Headline index increased by 1.6% in the month under review, indicating 0.06% points higher than the 1.54% rate recorded in October 2020

The Bureau also reported that the food index rose sharply by 18.3% in November 2020 compared to 17.38% in October 2020, representing 0.92% points higher than the preceding month.

It attributed the upward swing in the food index to increases in prices of Bread and cereals, Potatoes, yam and other tubers, Meat, Fish, Fruits, Vegetables, and Oils and fats.

The NBS further reported that the "All Items Less Farm Produce" or Core inflation, which excludes the prices of volatile agricultural produce, stood at 11.05% in November 2020, declined by 0.09% when compared with 11.14% recorded in October 2020.

On a month-on-month basis, the core sub-index increased by 0.71 percent in the month, representing 0.54% point decline when compared with the 1.25% recorded in the preceding month.

NBS To Conduct Agric Sample Census In 2021

Following the progress in its ongoing National Business Sample Census (NBSC) and several other development-supportive surveys in the past year, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has hinted of its plans to undertake the National Agricultural Sample Census next year.

The Statistician General of the Federation and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Bureau, Dr Yemi Kale, who made this disclosure in his keynote address at the meeting of the National Consultative Committee on Statistics (NCCS) in Akwanga, Nasarawa State, maintained that the agency would continue to intensify its efforts to ensure that national development is based on statistics-driven policies and frameworks.

Kale, who expressed optimism that the conclusion of the ongoing NBSC would help in enhancing governments' business-oriented policies and ensure proper planning for the nation's economy, described statistical data as the most critical component of development globally.

The Statistician General said that despite the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bureau was able to further sustain its mandate with 120 different statistical reports with over 1,000 indicators produced in the outgoing year.

He reported that in the current year, the agency also recorded over 800,000 visits to its website as well as over 170,000 downloads for the published reports.

Dr Kale further noted that all these developments represented a proof that there is an increasing endogenous and exogenous demand and appetite for data and that the NBS was able to cope with these demands despite the menace of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said: "Equally noteworthy here is the National Business Sample Survey, a major undertaking that is long overdue (after 30 years) which seeks to provide necessary data to guide policy makers not only in setting sectoral policy, but will also inform the new Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP), to succeed Vision 20:2020 and the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP)

"We also have plans to undertake the National Agriculture Sample Census early in 2021. All these point to our desire to rise to the occasion, to meet the needs of the moment, and support the policy-making process through accurate, timely and relevant data", the Statistician General added.

Chris Ngige, Minister of Labour

Manufacturing PMI Dips To 49.4 In October Amid Worsening Unemployment

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) reported that Nigeria's Manufacturing PMI in the month of October stood at 49.4 index points, indicating slowing contraction in the manufacturing sector compared with the last five months,

Also, the apex bank's October 2020 Purchasing Manager's Index Survey showed that the PMI for the non-manufacturing sector stood at 46.8 points, indicating contraction in the sub-sector for the seventh consecutive month.

However, despite the contraction in Manufacturing PMI, the production level index rose marginally in the month under review to 50.0%, halting the contraction trend which started in May 2020.

According to the latest CBN's PMI report, of the 14 subsectors surveyed, 6 subsectors reported expansion (above 50% threshold) in the review month in the following order: Electrical equipment, Transportation equipment, Printing & related support activities, Chemical & pharmaceutical products, Textile, apparel, leather & footwear and Cement.

Also, the remaining 8 subsectors reported contractions in the following order: Primary metal, Petroleum & coal products, Paper products, Fabricated metal products, Furniture & related products, Nonmetallic mineral products, Plastics & rubber products and Food, beverage & tobacco products.

On the production level index, the apex bank report indicated that of the 14 subsectors surveyed, 7 subsectors recorded expansion in production level, 1 subsector maintained current level, while 6 subsectors recorded declines in production in October 2020

A further analysis of the PMI Survey showed that the new orders index

expanded at 51.2 points from contraction in the previous month, with four subsectors reported expansion in new orders, 4 subsectors stationary, while the remaining 6 recorded contractions in the review month.

This is even as the manufacturing supplier delivery time index stood at 51.8 points in October 2020, indicating that supplier delivery time is faster for the sixth consecutive month. Six of the 14 subsectors recorded improved suppliers' delivery time, 5 subsectors reported stationery level, while 3 subsectors recorded slowing delivery time

According to the survey result, the employment level index for October 2020 stood at 46.0 points, indicating contraction in employment level for the seventh consecutive month.

The PMI Survey report further stated that of the 14 subsectors, 3 subsectors recorded growth in employment level in the review month; 2 subsectors recorded stationary level of employment, while the remaining 9 subsectors recorded lower employment levels in the review month.

With the raw material inventories standing at 46.2 index points, the report showed that the manufacturing sector inventories contracted for the seventh time in October, with just two of the 14 subsectors recording growth in inventories, while the remaining 12 subsectors recorded lower raw material inventories in the review month

On the PMI for the non-manufacturing sector, the survey indicated that of the 17 sub-sectors surveyed, 3 subsectors reported growth in the following order: Electricity, gas, steam & air conditioning supply; Art, entertainment & recreation and Health care & social assistance.

However, 11 subsectors reported declined in the following order: Management of companies; Utilities; Information & communication; Construction; Professional, scientific, & technical services; Repair, Maintenance/Washing of Motor Vehicles; Wholesale/Retail trade; Educational services; Transportation & warehousing; Accommodation & food services and Real estate rental & leasing.

Three subsectors, namely Agriculture; Finance & Insurance and Water Supply, Sewage & Waste Management were stationary during the month in review.

"By a small sample we may judge of the whole piece"
MIGUEL DE CERVANTES, from the novel "Don Quixote" 1547 – 1616, Spanish novelist, poet and **Playwright)**

NCCS Sets 10-Point Agenda To Enhance Nigeria's Statistical System

The National Consultative Committee on Statistics (NCCS) has set a 10-point agenda for implementation by federal, states and local government authorities in order to improve data collection and utilization for development in the country.

The committee, which is the umbrella body for all agencies/stakeholders involved in Nigeria's statistical system development, canvassed the key agenda, particularly the need for increased funding of statistical activities by all tiers of government, in the communiqué issued at the end of its 2-Day meeting concluded on Tuesday in Akwanga, Nasarawa State.

Specifically, the NCCS recommended that in view of the gross under-funding of statistical activities at all levels of government, federal, states and local governments should adequately fund statistical activities due to the importance of statistics to development, planning and decision making

The committee recommended that Planning, Research and Statistics Departments (in both National and Sub-national levels should be headed by Professional Statisticians while PRS Departments in MDAs and SBSs/SSAs should leverage on the capacity building training programme from the National Centre for Technology Management (NACETEM) as canvassed by NBS in the NCCS meeting, 2020

Other recommendations contained in the communiqué issued at the end of the committee's meeting are that NBS and SBSs/SSAs, as coordinator of National and State Statistical System respectively, should strengthen the collaboration between MDAs for effective data collection, harmonization and management of administrative statistics; States should mainstream Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators into the State Statistical Year book (SSYB); and the NBS should coordinate the review of the Statistical Year Book templates.

Similarly, the statistics experts agreed that all other producers and suppliers of statistics should mainstream SDGs in their sectoral data production; there should be equity involvement of SBSs/SSAs in Statistical surveys especially in the area of field personnel; federal and state governments should, as matter of priority, provide ICT and Statistical Infrastructure to MDAs and SBSs/SSAs as an obligation.

The NCCS also canvassed that the NBS, through Nigerian Governors' Forum, should ensure that states that are yet to establish State Bureau of Statistics should do so.

Earlier during the paper discussion sessions, the meeting had observed that the issue of inadequate funding of Statistical activities

NBS Board Chairman, Dr Kabiru Nakaura

in MDAs and State Bureaus of Statistics/State Statistical Agencies remained unabated; and that most of the Planning, Research and Statistics Departments (in both National and Sub-national levels are not headed by professionals.

Other observations by participants at the meeting were that the training programme, as recommended in the collaboration between NBS and the National Centre for Technology Management (NACETEM), was not being properly utilized for the capacity building of Statistics staff of PRS Departments in MDAs and SBSs/SSAs; and administrative data collection, harmonization and management at the State level is still a challenge due to weak collaboration between some MDAs and Federal Agencies existing within the States;

In addition, the meeting noted that states were yet to mainstream Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators into the State Statistical Year book; Statistical Year Book templates are obsolete and due for review and update there exist Inequity collaboration between NBS and SBSs/SSAs in Statistical surveys especially in the area of field personnel; there is Inadequate ICT and Statistical Infrastructure at sub-national Level and some Federal MDAs; there is lack of political will among leaders in implementing statistical activities in some states even as poor/shortage of qualified manpower remained a big challenge in carrying out of statistical activities nationwide.

The mandate of the NCCS based on the provisions of the Statistics Act 2007, is to coordinate, harmonize and standardize the processes of producing official statistics, among others in the country.

The NCCS annual meeting provides a forum where producers and users of official statistics deliberate on issues relating to the development of the National Statistical System (NSS).

National Assembly Passes N13.588Trn 2021 Budget

The Senate on Monday, December 21, at its emergency plenary session passed the 2021 Appropriation Bill with a projected N13.588 trillion expenditure for the fiscal year.

The passage of the budget in the Senate was sequel to the consideration of a report by the Committee on Appropriations on the 2021 Appropriations bill.

In his presentation, Chairman of the Committee, Jibrin Barau, while giving highlights of the bill, said out of the total sum of N13,588,027,886,175 for the fiscal year 2021, N496,528,471,273 is for Statutory transfers; N3,324,380,000,000 is for Debt Service; N5,641,970,060,680 is for Recurrent Expenditure; and N4,125,149,354,222 for Capital Expenditure.

According to the lawmaker, the 2021 budget is predicated on the parameters approved by the National Assembly when it considered the Medium Term Expenditure Framework/Fiscal Strategy Paper last week Thursday.

Benchmark price of crude oil was fixed at $40 per barrel; Crude oil production at 1.86mbpd; Exchange rate at N379/US$; and Gross Domestic Production (GDP) Growth Rate at 3.00 percent.

For Capital Expenditure in the year 2021, the sum of N24,090,340,416 was budgeted for the Presidency; N127,850,984,984 for Ministry of Defence; N7,994,280,245 for Ministry of Foreign Affairs; N19,721,066,865 for Federal Ministry of Information and Culture; N38,846,293,565 for Ministry of Interior; N2,491,111,568 for Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation; N218,432,074 for Auditor General of the Federation; N17,882,480,948 for Ministry of Police Affairs; N17,664,285,343 for Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy; and N45,647,587,613 for the Office of the National Security Adviser.

Others such as the Infrastructure Concessionary Regulatory Commission had N353,678,953; Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation – N45,637,061,225; Special Duties and Inter-Governmental Affairs – N8,872,787,424; Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development – N211,077,457,584; Federal Ministry of Finance, and Budget and National Planning – N376,359,450,498;

Similarly, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment got N64,760,781,172 allocation; Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment – N63,526,109,193; Federal Ministry of Science and Technology – N107,061,118,360; Federal Ministry of Transport – N209,736,113,910; Federal Ministry of Aviation – N70,189,215,332; and Federal Ministry of Power – N206,745,895,389.

In addition, N3,340,140,120 was approved for Ministry of Petroleum Resources; N12,605,747,806 for the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development; N399,694,565,222 for the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing; N110,455,765 for the National Salaries and Wages Commission; N261,170,602 for the Fiscal Responsibility Commission; N159,745,000,315 for the Federal Ministry of Wa-

President Muhammadu Buhari

ter Resources; N5,097,558,027 for the Federal Ministry of Justice; N1,363,636,403 for the Independent Corrupt Practices and Related Offences Commission; N37,330,762,421 for the Federal Capital Territory Administration.

The sum of N22,024,592,197 was approved for the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs; N10,639,249,276 for the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development; N11,204,210,256 for Ministry of Women Affairs; N156,172,307,765 for the Federal Ministry of Education; N134,591,025,027 for Federal Ministry of Health; N24,554,710,490 for Federal Ministry of Environment; N4,839,951,093 for National Population Commission; and N75,768,539,782 for the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development.

Contributing to the debate, Senator Stella Oduah described the 2021 budget as "well intended and articulated" by the Executive arm of government.

According to her, the 2021 Appropriation Bill gave special attention to poverty alleviation, security and health, adding that, "the budget is emphatic in addressing the country's infrastructural decay."

"This budget for a change, is well focused on the people's welfare, and that was prioritized", she said.

Contributing, Senator Gabriel Suswam while calling for the unanimous passage of the Appropriations Bill by members of the upper chamber, queried the omission of the deficit level of the budget by the Committee.

Another lawmaker, Mohammed Sani Musa, said that "looking at what has been appropriated, the Ministry of Defence; and the Armed Forces, most of what they would need has been considered in this budget.

"And, if there's no security in this country, the whole of this budget is as good as nothing. So, this is a challenge to the Armed Forces of this country, that we at the National Assembly have done the needful. We must design a way to protect lives and properties", the lawmaker added

Nigeria Imported N2.78Trn Manufactured Goods In Q2, 2020

Nigeria imported manufactured goods worth N2.78trn between April and June this year, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has reported

According to the nation's merchandise trade figures published by the official statistics collating and producing agency, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Nigeria's total manufactured goods exported during the quarter totalled N254.2bn.

This implies that Nigeria, a largely import-dependent economy, recorded a manufactured goods import-export trade deficit of N2.52tn in the quarter under review.

A month-on-month anaylsis of the nation's imported manufactured goods value during the quarter showed that in April, the country spent N757.99bn on finished products' importation compared to the N885.98bn and N1.14tn manufactured goods imported in May and June respectively.

On the export flow value, Nigeria's total exported manufactured goods stood at N137.06bn, N82.07bn and N35.03bn in April, May and June respectively.

The Bureau clarified: "The value of manufactured goods trade in Q2, 2020 stood at N3.04tn. Out of this, the export component accounted for N254.2bn. The products that drove up manufactured export were light vessels, fire floats, floating cranes exported to Spain in the value worth N129bn.

"There were also exports of vessels and other floating structures to Cameroun (N32.8bn), Equatorial Guinea (N36.9bn) and Singapore (N7.5bn)", it added.

The NBS further stated that the nation's export trade on manufactured goods by region showed that goods were exported mainly to Europe (N137.1bn) and Africa (N96.98bn).

It stated: "On the other hand, manufactured imports stood at N2.78bn. The main drivers were used vehicles imported from United States (N116bn), Netherlands (N28.5bn) and Brazil (N24.7bn). Other goods imported under this category were motorcycles from India (N66.6bn) and China (N25.4bn)."

Largely, the report indicated that commodities exported out of Nigeria were transported via water transport, which accounted for 99.76 per cent of total exports while air transport accounted for a mere 0.05 per cent and others 0.19 per cent.

However, the report showed that Nigeria's manufactured goods' imports by region were mainly from Asia (N1.75tn) and Europe (N503.3bn), adding that most goods brought into the country arrived via water transportation means, accounting for 93.67 per cent of the value of total imports compared to air transport's volume of 6.1 per cent.

NBS Steering C'mttee On MICS6/NICS Surveys Meets On Exercise

Nigeria has formally commenced the process of conducting the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS6)/National Immunization Coverage Survey (NICS) with an inaugural meeting of the National Steering Committee virtually held on the 15th of September, 2020.

The task of the committee is to oversee the whole process of MICS6/NICS2020 to ensure that all activities concerning the survey are effectively carried out for a successful outcome.

MICS is the largest source of statistically sound and internationally comparable data on women and children worldwide, focusing on issues such as health, education, child protection, water and sanitation, among others.

The survey also serves as a major source of data in measuring achievements of some of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other international commitments.

The first round of MICS in Nigeria was conducted in 1995 by the then Federal Office of Statistics, which is now National Bureau of Statistics. Since its inception, a total of five rounds had been conducted with technical support majorly from UNICEF.

The members of the National Steering Committee were drawn from relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies of government and International Partners, of which the National Bureau of Statistics is the chair. Others members of the committee include: National Population Commission; Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning; Federal Ministry of Health; Federal Ministry of Education; Federal Ministry of Women Affairs.

Others are, Federal Ministry of Water Resources; Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development; Central Bank of Nigeria; National Primary Health Care Development Agency; Office of Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs; Nigerian Centre for Disease Control and Prevention; Representatives of states Bureau of Statistics(Bauchi and Sokoto); GAVI(Vaccine Alliance); Melinda and Gates Foundation; United Nations Children Fund; United Nations Population Fund; Department for International Development (DFID); World Health Organization; World Bank and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The National Steering Committee appealed to the general public for their support in ensuring that the exercise is successfully conducted.

NBS Flags-off 2020 National Business Sample Census

The National Bureau of Statistics has commenced the process of implementing the 2020 National Business Sample Census (NBSC) in Nigeria.

The Survey which is coming after a similar one conducted twenty-two years (1997/98) ago is apt, especially now that the current government is re-structuring the economy for faster growth through support to Small, medium and large scale enterprises in order to increase their productivity.

The main objectives of NBSC include to compile frame, develop instruments and concepts, establish standards and methodology for industrial and business surveys in Nigeria; to serve as benchmark for updates of subsequent commercial and industrial sector statistics; to develop a national directory of commercial and industrial business establishments with all their associated social and economic characteristics; and to provide the country with comprehensive and detailed information about the structure of the Nigerian economy; among others.

The Census will cover all the 36 states of the Federation and FCT, with establishments in all economic sectors involved in the exercise. For avoidance of doubt, the establishments to be covered should have the following characteristics: fixed structure and location, a separate shop with a different entrance and enclosed from dwelling place (in the case of residential areas), shops should have locks and keys for a market setting, while Kiosks and shops under umbrella are not to be listed during the census.

All commercial and industrial businesses in each LGA will be identified and listed by state, name, location address, postal address, phone number, email address, year of commencement, number of activities engaged in, and main type of activity, among others.

NBS enumerators with customized T-Shirts and Face Caps will visit your establishment at a date between October 12th and 12th December2020 to collect necessary information for the census. Please oblige them with the information as your cooperation is germane towards the successfully execution of the census exercise. The Bureau wishes to assure you that any information given will be kept in absolute confidentiality and will not be divulged to a third party.

FG Commends NBS On National Business Sample Census

The Federal Government has commended the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) for finally starting the National Business Sample Census nationwide after over 18 years the census was conducted in the country.

The Permanent Secretary in the Budget Office of the Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Mrs. Folasade Idowu, who represented the Minister of State for Budget and National Planning, Prince Clem Agba. at the Training of Trainers workshop to formally kick off the survey in Abuja in September, said the project was being implemented due to present administration's commitment to data-based planning in nation's socio-economic development.

The Permanent Secretary harped on the increasing role of accurate, timely and complete statistical data to national planning and development and charged the trainers to ensure that the knowledge gained from the programme is stepped down to those who will conduct the census on the field and by so doing, ensure the credibility of data generated from the exercise.

She restated the government's commitment to data-driven sustainable national development and assured the NBS management of government's continued to all their projects and activities that will help government achieve this objective.

Minister of State for Budget and National Planning, Prince Clem Agba

In his welcome address at the forum, the Statistician General of the Federation, Dr Yemi Kale, stressed that Nigeria's efforts towards achieving broad-based and cross-sectoral development on sustainable basis would not achieve desired objectives unless adequate commitment is given to accurate and timely statistical data production covering all facets of national development,.

Dr Kale expressed delight that after over two decades of failed attempts to conduct the survey, the NBS was able, through government and the World Banks's Fiscal Governance and Institutions Project (FGIP), able to surmount the challenges hampering the exercise and now set to commence the census.

NNPC Publishes 2019 Financial Statement, Reports 99% Loss Reduction

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), in furtherance of its transparency philosophy in all areas of its operations, has released its 2019 Audited Financial Statement, which reflected a huge reduction of its loss by 99.7% from N803 billion in 2018 to N1.7 billion in 2019.

A statement by the Corporation's spokesman, Dr. Kennie Obateru, quoted the NNPC Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Mr. Umar Ajiya, as saying that the 2019 Audited Financial Statement will be published on the Corporation's website in keeping with the management's commitment to transparency and accountability and in consonance with the principles of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) of which it is a partner.

A further analysis of the 2019 financial statement, which came barely five months after the release of its 2018 Audited Financial Statement, indicated that the corporation's general administrative expenses also dropped by 22% from N894bn in 2018 to N696bn in 2019.

The CFO disclosed that, majority of the subsidiaries posted improved performance namely, the Nigerian Petroleum Development Company Limited (NPDC) which recorded N479 billion profit in 2019 compared to N179 billion in 2018, representing 167% increase while the Integrated Data Services Limited (IDSL) recorded N23 billion profit in 2019 compared to N154 million in 2018, representing 14966% increase.

Other subsidiaries' financial performances showed that the Petroleum Products Marketing Company (PPMC) recorded N14.2 billion profit in the year under review compared to the N9.3 billion it posted in 2018, showing 52% increase while the refineries maintained the same level of losses as in 2018 but which is projected to reduce significantly in 2020 due to the management's cost optimization drive.

NNPC Group Managing Director - Mallam Mele Kyari

Ajiya attributed the corporation's improved performance in the 2019 financial year mainly to cost optimization, contracts renegotiation and operational efficiency.

He explained: "The 2019 AFS goes further to demonstrate our unwavering commitment to the principle of Transparency, Accountability and Performance Excellence (TAPE) while the outlook for 2020 looks promising in view of the Management's strong drive to prune down running cost and grow revenues."

It would be recalled that the corporation's Group Managing Director, Mallam Mele Kyari, had recently assured that the management would sustain the publication of the Corporation's Audited Financial Statement as part of its efforts to promote transparency and accountability and constantly keep stakeholders updated on the corporation's operations.

COVID-19: NBS Conducts Survey On Immigrants In Edo, Lagos, Others

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), in collaboration with International Organisation for Migration, in August this year conducted a pilot survey on immigrants in Edo, Delta, Lagos and Imo states.

The main objective of the study is to identify the level of awareness of perception of intending and returned migrants on dangers of irregular migration outside Nigeria.

Specific objectives of the survey include; to provide baseline data on intending and returned migrants in Nigeria; to provide up –to –date information on the awareness and perception of intending migrants on dangers of irregular migration; and to generate quality data on experiences of returned migrants for the purpose of

rehabilitation and re – integration.

Others are, to identify steps taken by government to return, rehabilitate and re – integrate returned migrants in Nigeria; and to make evidence based recommendations that would help curb the phenomenon of irregular migration in Nigeria.

NBS data collectors were deployed to the selected pilot states for the 12-day exercise to collect the required raw data from the selected respondents.

The agency's management, therefore, appealed to the selected respondents to give the required information to our data collectors as their cooperation is necessary for the smooth conduct of the survey.

ICT Sector's 17.83% Contribution To Nigeria's GDP Unprecedented –Pantami

The Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Dr. Isa Pantami, has expressed delight over the increasing contribution of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), to Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

In the National Bureau of Statistics' (NBS') 'Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product Report' GDP Report for the second quarter of 2020, the sector's contribution to the GDP rose to 17.83% from 14.07% in the preceding quarter.

The minister, in a statement issued by his Technical Assistant (Information Technology), Dr Femi Adeluyi, described the improving contribution of the result of efforts by the government to transform the sector as the lead driver of the nation's sustainable growth.

Reflecting on the report, the Minister noted that "the growing contribution of the ICT sector to the GDP is a direct result of the focused and committed effort of the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari.

"The strategic policy directions of the Federal Government include the inclusion of Digital Economy in the mandate of the Ministry, the unveiling and implementation of the National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy and the National Broadband Plan, amongst others.

"As at July 2020, the broadband penetration in the country was 42.02%, translating to a percentage increase of almost double digits in less than 1 year. This is another remarkable achievement.

"The unprecedented contribution of ICT to Nigeria's GDP can also be attributed to dynamic and results-oriented leadership which has been acknowledged and appreciated by a wide spectrum of the stakeholders in the sector."

Pantami added that the support of President Muhammadu Buhari has contributed immensely to the impressive developments in the sector.

"Mr President is excited about the growth of the sector and commended the Minister when he heard of these achievements.

"The GDP Report has shown how critical the ICT sector is to the growth of our country's digital economy and, by extension, the general economy."

Minister of Communications & Digital Economy - Dr. Isa Ibrahim Pantami

The Minister called on all sectors to take advantage of the Federal Government's new focus on the digital economy to enable and improve their processes through the use of ICTs.

This he said would enhance the output of all the sectors of the economy and boost Nigeria's GDP.

Dr. Pantami attributed the growing contribution of the ICT sector to the nation's GDP to the focused and committed efforts of the federal government to transform the economy to a digital model.

Giving an overview of the GDP in the quarter the NBS stated: "Nigeria's GDP decreased by –6.10% (year-on-year) in real terms in the second quarter of 2020, largely attributable to significantly lower levels of both domestic and international economic activity during the quarter, which resulted from nationwide shutdown efforts aimed at containing the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The non-oil sector contributed 91.07% to the nation's GDP in Q2 2020 as opposed to the 8.93% contributed to total real GDP by the oil sector.

"It is worthy of note that the ICT sector contributed 17.83% to the total real GDP in Q2 2020, 20.54% higher than its contribution a year earlier and in the preceding quarter, in which it accounted for 14.07%. This contribution is unprecedented".

South Africa's Inflation Eased To 3.2% In November

South Africa's annual inflation rate in eased to 3.2 percent in November, 2020 from 3.3 percent in the preceding month, matching analysts' expectations.

According to the official statistics producing agency, Statistics South Africa (SSA), the inflation remains far lower than the 4.6 percent rate recorded in February, prior the outbreak of the the coronavirus pandemic.

The SSA reported that during the month under review, prices slowed for alcoholic beverages & tobacco (3.8 percent vs 4.5 percent in October) and health (4 percent vs 4.1 percent) while cost continued to decrease for transport (-1.3 percent vs -0.5 percent) and communication (-0.4 percent, the same pace as in October).

However, the inflation trend remained steady for furnishings (at 1.9 percent); clothing & footwear (at 0.2 percent); recreation & culture (at 1.8 percent) and education (at 6.4 percent).

A further analysis of the general price level indicated that on a monthly basis, consumer prices were flat, after increasing 0.3 percent in the previous month and compared market consensus of a 0.1 percent increase.

South African President - Cyril Ramaphosa

Ghana's GDP Declines 1.1% in Q3 2020

Ghana's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) shrank by 1.1 percent year-on-year (YoY)between July and September this year despite measures taken by the government to stimulate economic growth, especially easing the COVID-19 restrictions.

The latest GDP growth rate compares to a 3.2 percent decline in Q2 2020.

According to Ghana Statistics Office, the agency producing national statistical data, the non-oil GDP for the quarter shrank 0.4% year-on-year, while Industry declined 5.1% over the same period, compared with a 5.7% contraction in the previous quarter.

Also, Hotel and restaurants dropped 62%, compared with a 74.2% slump in the previous quarter, thereby reflecting 0.3 percent quarter-on-quarter contraction in the country's GDP.

When compared to the same period in 2019, GDP shrank by 6% in the third quarter after a revised 17.5% contraction in Q2.

According to the Statistics Office, the latest contraction of the economy represents the steepest decline since 1990, the downturn extending into the fourth quarter.

Ghanaian President, Nana Akufo-Addo

China's GDP Grew By 4.9% In Q3, 2020

Chinese government's economic recovery initiatives paid off in the third quarter of 2020, with the country's GDP expanding by 4.9 percent year-on-year in the third quarter of 2020, largely driven by investment and exports.

According to the official statistics, the growth was higher than the 3.2 percent recorded in the second quarter, which reversed the first contraction on record at 6.8 percent in the first quarter.

In the first half year, the economy declined by 1.6 percent, but it rebounded to a 0.7-percent rise in the first three quarters.

Commenting on the GDP growth, Wang Dan, chief economist with Hang Seng Bank China, was quoted by CGTN that "The Q3 GDP growth accelerated from the first half, driven by infrastructure and real estate investment as well as a strong performance in export,"

Similarly, Nomura's Chief China Economist, Lu Ting, told the news medium through e-mail that: "In our view, the number missed the consensus forecast, partly because high volatility made forecasting difficult"

He emphasized missing forecast does not mean China's economic recovery is hindered.

Lu expatiated: "China's quick recovery was a product of its stringent lockdowns, massive testing, population tracking, a large economy that can afford to be somewhat insulated, and fiscal stimulus via credit expansion."

"Strong export growth, a further recovery from the pandemic, the lagged impact of fiscal stimulus and credit growth and pent-up demand following the summer floods all contributed to the robust activity data in September," Lu added.

Chinese President, Xi Jinping

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) stated in a release that: "Generally speaking, the overall national economy continued the steady recovery and significant results have been delivered in coordinating epidemic prevention and development."

In the first three quarters, the country's added value of major industrial enterprises grew 1.2 percent from a year earlier. Industrial output increased 6.9 percent in September on an annual basis, 1.3 percentage points higher than the rise in August, much stronger than Nomura's expectation at 5.7 percent.

UK's Inflation Rate Dipped To 0.3% In November

United Kingdom (UK) Consumer Price Index (CPI) which measures inflation, fell to 0.3% in November 2020, down from 0.7% reported in the preceding month.

According to the latest figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), factors that contributed to the drop in price level during the month under review are mainly discounts on clothing and footwear prices, drops in prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages, specifically products such as large bars of chocolate, ice cream, cauliflower, premium potato crisps and cooked ham.

Similarly, the ONS further reported that prices for used cars also fell in November, as against the surging prices at the same time a year ago. The used cars' inflation goes against the trend of prices this year, which have been up due to increased demand.

The ONS also stated that Air and sea transport prices also reduced, mainly due to the effect of the coronavirus lockdown throughout the month.

Officially, the Bank of England has been tasked with using monetary measures to keep the inflation rate as close to 2% as possible. However, the bank had been unable to achieve this target since August 2019, keeping the rate at 1% or less since April 2020 due to the effects of the coronavirus pandemic on the economy.

UK Prime Minister, Boris Johnson

U.S Economy Contracts By 32.9% In Q2, 2020

The U.S. economy suffered devastatingly from the COVID-19 pandemic, recording the biggest quarterly plunge in activity ever, as the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) dipped by 32.9% on an annualized basis.

The Q2,2020 GDP report was released amid a recession that began early in the year which slowed the first-quarter growth down by 5% and when analysed on a quarter by quarter basis, represented a 1.8% decline on the Q1 rate.

According to the Commerce Department's first reading on the data, decline was the worst ever bus was still lower than the 34.7% projected by economists surveyed by Dow Jones.

The Department attributed sharp contractions in personal consumption, exports, inventories, investment and spending by state and local governments, which is the combined tally of all goods and services produced during the period, to the big slump in the GDP.

A further analysis of the GDP growth rate indicated that personal consumption, which historically accounted for about two-thirds of all activity in the U.S., subtracted 25% from the Q2 total, with services accounting for nearly all that drop.

The Department disclosed that spending in health care and goods such as clothing and footwear also dropped. In addition, during the quarter under review, Inventory investment drops were led by motor vehicle dealers, while equipment spending and new family housing took hits when it came to investment.

The report further showed that prices for domestic purchases, a key inflation indicator, fell 1.5% during the quarter, compared with a 1.4% increase in the first quarter when GDP fell 5%.

Also, personal consumption expenditures price index dropped 1.9% after rising slightly by 1.3% in the first quarter. The "core" PCE prices, excluding food and energy, were off 1.1%.

According to the GDP growth rate report, however, personal income increased remarkably partly due to government transfer payments associated with the coronavirus pandemic.

Specifically, the current-dollar personal income during the quarter rose more than six-fold to $1.39 trillion just as disposable personal income increased by 42.1% to $1.53 trillion.

United States President, Donald Trump

The Department noted that despite the rise, personal outlays tumbled by $1.57 trillion, due in large part to a drop in services spending.

Commenting on the GDP growth rate report, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, Mark Zandi, said the report "just highlights how deep and dark the hole is that the economy cratered into in Q2.

"It's a very deep and dark hole and we're coming out of it, but it' going to take a long time to get out", the analyst predicted.

Experts noted that neither the Great Depression nor the Great Recession nor the scores of economic slumps over the past two centuries had ever impacted with such magnitude of negative impact on the U.S economy over so short a period of time.

According to available data on the economy's performance in recent times, they observed that by comparison, the worst GDP growth rate was recorded during the financial crisis of 2008 when the GDP dipped by 8.4% in the fourth quarter of that year.

Before then, the previous worst quarter was a 10% slide in Q1, 1958, while the worst in recorded history came in Q2 of 1921.

The National Bureau of Economic Research reported that the current recession actually started in February, a month before the pandemic declaration.

> **"Errors using inadequate data are much less than those using no data at all"**
> CHARLES BABBAGE
> (1791– 1871, English Polymath inventor and mechanical engineer)

The role of Federal School of Statistics (FSS) in National Statistical System (NSS) development in Nigeria

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Introduction

National Statistical System (NSS) worldwide is said to exist for the sole purpose of producing Official Statistics which provides qualitative and quantitative information on all major areas of citizens' lives, such as economic, social development, living condition, health, education, politics and environments. It is the product of a National Statistical System which is the bedrock of any national transformation agenda.

Historical Background of National Statistical System in Nigeria.

According to Olubusoye et al, it probably started in 1928 when a Statistics unit was established in the Cabinet Office and headed by a Government Statistician with direct access to the Colonial Secretary. In 1947, the unit was merged with the Statistical unit of the Department of Customs and Excise to form a new body called the Nigerian Statistical Office (NSO). The NSO operated a centralized system under a unitary system of government which later changed to a federal system with the introduction of the Richard Constitution of 1954.The constitution gave autonomy to the three regional governments – Northern, Eastern and Western regions with the Federal Government at the Centre. Consequently, the respective governments became involved in the production of statistics that pertained to their areas of jurisdiction. This development led to the establishment of the regional statistical offices thus paving the way for a decentralized statistical system in the country leading to increased demand for statistical manpower.

One major change that occurred in the NSS was the transfer of the Nigerian Statistical Office which was under the Nigerian Secretariat to the Ministry of Finance and, eventually at independence in 1960, to the Ministry of Economic Development. Subsequently, the name of the department was changed to the Federal Office of Statistics, popularly called FOS. In the early stages, statistics collected by FOS were related mainly to:External trade, Population census, Prices survey, Sample surveys of agriculture, Consumer expenditures, Administrative records of District Officers (DOs) and other government offices.

Adamu (1978) reported that "it is no exaggeration to say that the lack of effectiveness of the FOS as a major statistical agency consistently made it impossible for the office to be directly and wholly responsible for the operation of both the 1963 and 1973 censuses. On both occasions, the power to conduct the population censuses was delegated to another body." The reason for this could not be far from the dearth of trained Statistical Manpower.Therefore, in 1973 a National Census Board was established by a Decree and in 1979 the National Population Commission (NPC) was established to handle census matters hitherto under the purview of the FOS. The functions of the NPC were later expanded to include the preparation and maintenance of a national framework delineation exercise for census and sample surveys and the collection, collation and publication of data on migration statistics. Thus, an overlap with the functions of the FOS was inadvertently built in.

The Need for Training of Statistics Manpower

Olubusoye et al maintained that the first effort at coordinating statistical activities at the official level became a reality with the setting up of the Standing committee of Statistics by the Joint Planning Committee of the National Economic Council.Two documents concerning the statistical needs of the 1963/68 included:Statistical manpower needs and training and Program of statistics development with recommendations on specific statistical series to be collected, and ways of collecting them (Adamu, 1978).To further strengthen the statistical coordination in the country, the Federal Executive Council authorized the establishment of the National Advisory Committee on Statistics (NACS) in 1969.

The committee was chaired by the Chief Statistician and members cut across MDAs and the Universities.According to its terms of reference, the committee was to consider and advice on any business related to the development of efficient statistical services in Nigeria.The National Census Decree 1973 was an amended Statistics Acts of 1957 and it empowered the National Census Board (NCB) to have the overall control of the supervision of the arrangements with regard to all aspects of the conduct of the census. For each state, a state census committee was also established. The state committee was similar in character to

the National Census Board except that one of its committee's members and representatives were drawn to represent various interests within the state. Olubusoye et-al said that the structural changes witnessed in the political configuration of Nigeria in 1976, 1989, 1993, and 1997 that led to the creation of 19, 21, and 36 states respectively brought about corresponding expansion in the components of the NSS. At the Federal level, the Civil Service Reforms were introduced in 1986 but with its statute promulgated in 1988 as Civil Service Reforms Decree (CSRD) 43 of 1988. This decree made it mandatory for the Planning, Research and Statistics Department (PRSD) to be created in all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) at both Federal and State levels. This called for trained statistical manpower to man the offices for effective production of Official Statistics. In 1982, FOS initiated a programme called Local Government Information System (LOGIS) in order to develop statistical capability at the local government level. The programme was aimed at collecting data on some aspects of local government operations and physical infrastructure available in them. The initial impetus needed for the take–off of the programme was provided by UNICEF with the provision of a consultant for the purpose. FOS, local government and some international agencies such as UNDP also supported the programme. How did this programme sustained without available trained statistical manpower?A major addition to the NSS was the establishment of the National Data Bank (NDB) and some other Sectoral Data Banks (SDBs) by the Council of Ministers in 1986. The NDB took-off in May 1988 while the SDBs namely: Education Data Bank; Agricultural Data Bank and Raw Materials Research and Development Council Data Bank. The SDBs took-off in May 1989. Each of them was expected to strengthen its statistical system to produce relevant, reliable and timely data required for policy formulation, development planning and monitoring of national or sectoral economic performance.The NDB and the SDBs became what was then termed the National Information System (NIS). The NIS together with the NSS formed the National Statistical Information System (NSIS). The system, NSIS, put emphasis not only on data production, but also on modern data management which entailed developing the capacity and infrastructure for electronic data storage and dissemination using information and communication technology in line with global trends. Hence, the need for training of personnel for these skills became imperative.According to Olubusoye et al, sequel to the above studies, the Federal Government launched the programme known as the Nigerian Statistical Master Plan. (SMP) in 2003. The preparation of the

"The system, NSIS, put emphasis not only on data production, but also on modern data management which entailed developing the capacity and infrastructure for electronic data storage and dissemination using information and communication technology in line with global trends."

SMP was funded by World Bank and the document took into account the recommendations and lessons learnt from the studies above. Hence, the idea and experience of different experts from both national and international bodies came to bear on the design of the SMP. It should be noted here that the SMP included theLaw Establishing Federal School of Statistics.

Law Establishing Federal School of Statistics

The Statistics Act. Of 11th June, 2007, Vol. 94, Act. No. 9, subsection 7, empowered the National Bureau of Statistics to establish the Federal School of Statistics to carry out the following mandate:1.To enroll students drawn from the public sectors and private sectors especially data suppliers, users and producers.2. To award National Diploma, Professional Diploma, Higher National Diploma and postgraduate Diploma in Statistics and related Courses.3. To serve as a research Centre and bilingual school on statistics and related subjects in the West African Sub-Region

It is in line with 1, 2, & 3 of the mandates above that this presentation is made in order to ensure that immediate and serious attention is given to the infrastructure and manpower development of Federal School of Statistics to meet the national and international standard.

The Establishment of the Federal Schools of Statistics

Achusim (2019), says that Federal School of Statistics started with an annual training course in 1961 to supply Statistical Assistants personnel to take up higher responsibilities as Assistant Statistical Officers. The course was introduced under the guidance of a UN expert and a Training Advisory Committee. Later it was run by Nigerian as the Federal Office of Statistics (FOS) Training School. Candidates were drowning from FOS, State Statistical Divisions, Federal Government and State MDAs on sponsorship basis. The school cours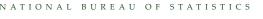e curriculum included Statistics, Mathematics, Economics Geography and English Language, etc. Middle Level Certificates were awarded to successful candidates at the end of the course.By late 1990, admission into the program was thrown open to private candidates. Federal schools of Statistics were located in the former three regional headquarters, in Kaduna for Northern Region, Enugu for the Eastern Region and Ibadan for the Western Region. They were established as follows: FSS Ibadan in 1962, FSS Kaduna in 1974 and FSS Enugu in 1991.

Developments in the Federal Schools of Statistics

National Bureau of Statistics has been trying her best in funding the schools by:Positioning the three schools in their permanent

sites, timely staff salaries payment, including rectors in conferences, meetings and workshops, approving the training of lecturers in higher degrees i.e. M. Sc, and Ph. Ds, collaboration with other higher institutions in Nigeria, heads of the schools are now called rectors, not principals as afore known.

Programmes Run by the Federal School of Statistics

Award of National Diplomas (ND) and Higher National Diploma (HND) in:Statistics, Computer Science, Business Administration and Management, Accounting, Professional Diploma in Health Information Management in FSS Manchok for now.

Physical Addresses of the Three Schools

Federal School of Statistics Ibadan, AjibodeSasa Road, Behind Niser, Sasa Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria   08023538477. Federal School of Statistics Manchok,Kaura Local Government,PMB 243, Kaduna,Kaduna State, Nigeria www.fssm.edu.ngfssmanchok@nigerianstat.gov.ng 08030940135. Federal School of Statistics Enugu, Amechi-Uno Awkunanaw, Enugu South Local Government, Enugu state, Nigeria. coachusim@yahoo.com, 08038513515

Standard and Value of Federal Schools of Statistics

The organization, administration and control of the schools are in line with what is obtainable in similar schools that run the same type of programme. The programmes of the Schools are now accredited to award National Diploma, and Admissions are through JAMB. The goals and objectives of the school are clearly stated and are in tandem with the rationale for establishing the school. The entry requirement of the institution is in line with the minimum entry requirement of national Diploma awarding institutions across the country. The Schools offer unique courses that makes them different from Department of Statistics in Polytechnics and Universities, such as: Official Statistics – Students are exposed to publications of NBS and MDAs.Geography – this exposes students to the use EA Maps and how to identify EA boundaries and the use of questionnaires in carrying out a survey.General household Surveys and prices are introduced to student during SIWES. Students are mandated to seek for SIWES placement in NBS Headquarters, Zonal and State Offices to learn practical data collection and the use of survey equipment and instruments.

Contributions of Federal Schools of Statistics to National Statistical System

"MDAs at all levels of government should support their various research and statistics departments by sending their staff to Federal School of Statistics for training."

The three Federal Schools of Statistics have contributed a lot to the development of Statistical Manpower in Nigeria. They have produced graduates who are performing wonderfully well in MDAs at Federal, State, Local Governments, and private establishmentTertiary Institutions now enjoy the services of the products of Federal Schools of Statistics. Some of the products of the schools in Polytechnics and Universities are graduating with distinctions and first class degrees, thereby adding more values to the quality of official statistics produced by NSS in addition to lower school fees in the catchment areas where the schools are located.Members of the communities are being employed by the schools. The schools in their own little ways provide some corporate social responsibilities to the communities like borehole, access roads, access to sporting facilities etc.Students rent accommodation from the immediate communities thereby bursting their economic activities.

Summary

Statistical capacity and performance at the Local Government level has remained pretty low.Only a few Local Governments produce some form of Administrative Statistics arising from lack of human capacity.Statisticians in the Local Government areas are yet to fully comply with modern standards and principles of data production due to poor level of trained personnel.MDAs should adhere to the international standard provided by NBS, as the coordinating body of the National Statistical System to provide the necessary equipment, methodologies and human capacity to produce credible data on all areas of operations, to be used internally and made available for external users, this can only be made possible if MDAs can demand for the services of graduates from Federal Schools Statistics which have already heard first hand idea on data collection.MDAs at all levels of government should support their various research and statistics departments by sending their staff to Federal School of Statistics for Training.

Recommendations

Members of NCCSand MDAs at Federal and State levels are hereby called upon to send their statistics officers who do not have adequate knowledge of data production to Federal Schools of Statistics for effective training. The Federal school of statistics exist to serve the statistical manpower need of the general public for the proper development of the National Statistical System of Nigeria.

Data As A Tool For Economic Planning And Development

By Timi Olubiyi, Ph.D.

In most African countries like Nigeria, individuals are typically born, grow, live through adulthood, retire, aged, and die without the government's knowing or being aware of their existence. This happens more in the remote villages and more within the informal sector and within the unbanked population. Noticeably, due to lack of political will, successive governments and heads of nations in these African countries have ignored the lingering need for a data management system to improve the political, societal, and economic development landscape. Big data analytics has been the technology drive that many nations of the world are adopting for improved governance, Africa should not be an exception.

A clear instance in recent time was in Nigeria, the biggest economy in Africa, where millions of the citizens were expectant on palliative care from the government but due to logistics and lack of national data bank, it was difficult to achieve a seamless reach to the citizenries. The distribution could have been more effective with an efficient database and social welfare systems instead of the eventual looting of the stored palliative items that ensued. Social welfare protection is key to provide citizens with an economic safety net during periods of illness, economic hardship.

Records indicated that the social welfare system in the form of insurance and assistance programmes to the public, emerged in Europe in the 1800s to majorly support the vulnerable and it has been driven largely by adequate data management. This is the 21st century, yet Africa is still struggling with a data-driven economy. It is significant to state that most of the major decision-making or policies in western countries from the USA, Canada, Australia, and most European countries, these days are largely data-driven. For instance, the Canadian government announced COVID-19 aid in the form of a one-time payment of up to $500 for eligible seniors to offset any increased living expenses they have incurred as a result of the pandemic. In the same vein, such government supports and economic stimuli are applicable in the USA and the UK to save jobs, businesses and to minimize the economic impacts of the pandemic. In Africa, it has been a difficult task and the issue has been mainly due to the lack of adequate citizen information, thereby increasing economic hardship and poverty.

Consequently, a national database is vital, it would provide insights into population demographics, unemployment rate, age distributions, births, deaths, mortality, marriages, and infrastructure gaps. It can also help in developing the right targeted policies to fix or alleviate, social issues such as corruption, inequality between the wealthy and poor, level of education, and rate of unemployment among others. Under international human rights law, Nigeria's government has an obligation to protect people's rights and to ensure a meaningful standard of living, including adequate food and nutrition, the highest attainable standard of health, and the right to social security. To conveniently achieve this all-important mission, agreeably a national database is required. In addition, to

Dr. Timi Olubiyi

address the obligations especially the unemployment rate distribution across the country especially can be addressed, the National database is key and can help in a lot of national planning.

The process of capturing and storing citizen information backed with a data protection Bill in the National Assemblies is highly desirable and seemingly necessary, particularly in Nigeria. This national database can be used for so many verifiable and evidence-based statistics, evaluations, and a lot of inferences can be derived from it. At this point, Post COVID-19 has presented an opportunity, which is the creation of a national database in these African countries. It is highly desirable and the benefits outweigh the costs meaningfully. When a national database is in place it can be accessed, analyzed and contact tracing can be made a lot easier. Agreeably, it can help in a variety of other ways, such as public service improvement, designing of policies, public health development, public safety, national security, national development, and poverty reduction. It can also help in developing empirically-proven techniques for fostering human and capital development. No nation attains sustainable economic growth without developing a national database necessary to drive such growth. The national database methodology is a less expensive option to performing a physical census because it is a register-based census.

So far, the year 2020 has been filled with disruptions due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Despite COVID-19 being a health issue, has continued to have a high-impact and severity on

the economy, business, and lifestyle globally. It continues to re-shape the ways of doing things and high disruptions across the remains across all sectors and countries. For a developing country like Nigeria and as obtainable in most African countries, the disruption level is higher, stern with fragile economies across the continent. The majority of the African populace lacks a reliable social welfare system; therefore, the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 has been more severe on the continent. It is therefore recommended that concrete policy adoption be considered for the management of national emergencies, humanitarian responses, reduction of the impact of the current pandemic, and the attendant looming economic recession. Returning to business of lack of a strong data management culture and lack of sound data for governance Post COVID-19 will only further retrogress the continent's development and living of the over 1.2 billion population. In fact, solutions to social and economic problems are often inseparable from the data

Broadly speaking with COVID-19, the number of incidences keeps increasing, consequently, flattening the curve or having a drop in the reported cases is still a mirage at least for now mainly because of lack of effective data-driven decisions. Therefore, measures to preserve the livelihoods of workers and businesses and ensure they get by conveniently during this period is vital. This is supported by the World Bank's stipulation in their 2005 report, which recommends that countries should design, finance, and deliver social welfare accordingly with a data management system.

The methodology to adopt as part of the Post-COVID-19 recovery policy and national development is for the countries to introduce a data-driven economy and effective national data management platform. In my opinion, data is a developmental infrastructure that can provide critical insights into the trend of human actions, practices, behaviors, and social impacts. The government cannot improve on school infrastructures without adequately knowing how many children need to be enrolled. Therefore, when citizen data management is properly earnest, it holds tremendous potential to stimulate economic growth and measurable development.

"The methodology to adopt as part of the PostCOVID-19 recovery policy and national development is for the countries to introduce a data-driven economy and effective national data management platform. In my opinion, data is a developmental infrastructure that can provide critical insights into the trend of human actions, practices, behaviors, and social impacts."

In light of the many African nation's desire for accelerated economic growth particularly Nigeria, a national database is necessary as part of the Post-COVID-19 policy priority. Nevertheless, if it is open, integrated, unified, and harmonized amongst all the tires of government it will be an enabler for transparency and accountability, as well as reduce crime and criminality in Africa. A low number of African countries including South Africa, Namibia, Mauritius, and Lesotho have some form of social package much can still be achieved in education and health which are two widely acclaimed barometers used to measure economic growth. The citizenry should be catered for especially the vulnerable, through

an adequate social welfare system. The COVID-19 experience exposed this inadequacy in Africa and this can be corrected easily by initiating and achieving an acceptable national database in each country. From adequately capturing birth registration, education enrolments, adulthood, citizens in diaspora, retirees, to the closure by death registration, the citizenry must be known, captured, and catered for adequately in Africa.

Nonetheless, the COVID-19 relief programs across Africa just go to show how far behind the continent is with the data-driven economy and national database development, especially in Nigeria. The vast majority of people in Africa are most vulnerable according to context observation, and many of the countries are still grappling to protect their citizens from the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

That said, the fertility rate in Nigeria is very high with a population forecast of 400m by 2050 according to reliable data from Worldometer. Tackling poverty in the land and reducing the high rate of unemployment has only received low attention by the successive government based on historical trends. With a national database in place, enactment of specific, and targeted policies to improve the lives of its citizens and its economy can be easily achieved. Recall, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management, and Social Development in Nigeria, Ms. Sadiya Farouq, expressed recently that her Ministry was tasked with the responsibility to address some of the underlying causes, drivers, and consequences of humanitarian crises and underdevelopment including COVID-19 impact management in the country. She said this included the management of the relatively high level of poverty nearly half (90 million) of the country's 200 million population. Further to this, the President of the country Rtd General Muhammadu Buhari directed the Humanitarian Affairs Ministry to also develop a strategy to maintain the school feeding social program during the lockdown.

These tasks have been difficult to achieve in Nigeria, especially with identifying and reaching out to the very vulnerable citizens amongst the over 200m populace. One of the significant reasons has been due to the high variety of datasets and the lack of a reliable, verifiable, harmonized, and efficient national database. In Nigeria many government institutions and agencies generate populace personal data daily. This includes: (i). Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), responsible for drivers' license and vehicle number plates; (ii). Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), responsible for voters registration exercise; (iii). National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), responsible for the production of national official statistics; (iv). National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) which is responsible for the national identity database; (v). National Population Commission (NPC), in charge of national demographic data; (vi). Other organizations including the banks in the financial sector and telecom-

munication companies in the telecommunication sector such as MTN, 9mobile, Globacom, Airtel, etc. Most of the data collected by these agencies are structured in nature but the big issue is that the data remain unharmonized with no centralized platform. Citizens are made to provide the same information at different times to different agencies causing lots of time wastages and duplications.

Though according to records, the existing Bank Verification Number (BVN) database in Nigeria, has captured just about 25 percent of the population, which are largely citizens with bank accounts. Leaving a large chunk of the population who are unbanked. Besides, only 42 million of the 200 million population are also captured in the country's National Identity Database, the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) according to the Director-General of NIMC, Aliyu Aziz. The DG further asserts that the enrolment of people into the National identity Database, the commission was only able to successfully harmonize 14 million Bank Verification Numbers (BVN) with National Identity Numbers (NIN) nationwide. Consequently, a broader, consolidated, and harmonized national data management platform is necessary, which should be in line with the global best practice of data management devoid of any preference. Such a national database can also benefit from periodic reviews and research to guarantee relevance, reliability, and utility at any time.

"Significant to note, most of the development and decisions in the world economies are data-driven, the pandemic has presented an opportunity to the public sectors in Africa and Nigeria, in particular, to embrace technology and data management system to aid national planning effectively."

Significant to note, most of the development and decisions in the world economies are data-driven, the pandemic has presented an opportunity to the public sectors in Africa and Nigeria, in particular, to embrace technology and data management system to aid

national planning effectively. With no enough infrastructures to manage the level of population growth in Africa, the infrastructures are likely to be overstretched without a reliable data-driven decision-making system, projections, and technological development. The effect of the lack of this key decision-making tool is unimaginable, and the continued suffering of the majority of the population in Africa is likely to continue without it. Hence, with a good grasp of the relevant citizen data, demographics, and information, governments in Africa will be in an excellent position to drive a digital economy, achieve citizen engagements easily and also formulate enabling developmental policies that will improve e-govenance. They will also be able to measure the impact of these policies and also get aids when required from agencies like The World Bank(WB), The UK Department for International Development (DFID), The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), World Trade Organization (WTO), World Health Organization (WHO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), United Nation(UN) and its agencies among others. The Nigerian government and other African governments need to consider the establishment of a specialized agency "Big Data Management Authority" saddled with the responsibility of implementing the framework discussed in this piece and much more. Good luck!

How may you obtain advice or further information on the article?

Dr. Timi Olubiyi is an Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management expert with a Ph.D. in Business Administration. He is a prolific investment coach, business engineer, Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment (CISI), and a financial literacy specialist. He can be reached on the Twitter handle @drtimiolubiyi and via email: drtimiolubiyi@gmail.com, for any questions, reactions, and comments.

"Statistics is the grammar of science"
KARL PEARSON (1857 – 1936 Influential English Mathematician)

FEDERAL SCHOOL OF STATISTICS MANCHOK, KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA

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•Present the evidence of bank transaction to the bursary for further action on your admission
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Data Generation and Authentication Key to Nigeria Maritime Sector's Growth –Dr. Peterside

Appraising the nation's waterway security over the years, how would you rate NIMASA's performance in terms of fulfillment of its statutory mandate?

NIMASA has done well in discharging it's responsibilities in maritime security. The agency's role in Maritime security is essentially regulatory and coordination. In that respect the Agency has made some remarkable achievements. It has a solid operational relationship with the Navy which resulted in a hybrid unit called Maritime Guard Command (MGC) responsible for enforcement of maritime laws and patrol. NIMASA has invested in intelligence gathering in C4I. The agency successfully facilitated the passage of the Suppression of Piracy and other Maritime Offences (SOPOM) Act to give legal backing to the fight against criminal activities on our waterways. NIMASA also empaneled the Deep Blue Project to provide operational assets for fighting Piracy and other criminal activities. The Agency is also coordinating with sister agencies on issues of maritime security. From the foregoing, you can see that the agency is alive to its responsibility.

Sir, as the immediate past CEO of NIMASA, how do you think statistical data generation from maritime sector helped improve national economic planning and development?

Statistics is the major basis for decision making and planning. Unfortunately, much data on maritime activities is not captured in the Nigeria Data Portal and not substantially inputted in National GDP calculation. The implication is that the contribution of maritime sector is not adequately acknowledged in calculating national GDP. NIMASA took up this with NBS at different times. The explanation is that maritime transportation is covered under transport

Dr. Dakuku Peterside

"Statistics is the major basis for decision making and planning. Unfortunately, much data on maritime activities is not captured in the Nigeria Data Portal and not substantially inputted in National GDP calculation."

and other sectors in the National Data Portal. It is my hope that NBS will create a subsection on maritime transport. The second strand is that maritime sector is also not helping. We don't take data generation and authentication very seriously in the sector and it is a sector with a lot of international commitments so you will expect priority attention to data. Clearly, players and agencies in the sector need help and partnership of NBS in this area.

Reflecting on your tenure, could you say in specific terms what you put in place to facilitate data generation and application in the maritime sector and the results achieved?

I will mention just five things. The first is to deal with mindset issues, to make every staff, every Management staff understand the importance of data and bring them to the realization that it will be the basis of decision making going forward. The second is to create a framework for all departments and units to generate and store data. We got a policy approved for this to back our actions. The third is our emphasis that departments and units within the Agency report their progress, achievement and performance using statistics only. Finally, we strengthened the planning, research and data management department to do their work. We engaged a lot of consultants to retrain our people in data generation, analysis and Usage

Globally, deployment of hi – tech infrastructure to secure national waterways is being prioritized by most countries. What is your assessment of government's efforts to secure Nigeria waterways through technological infrastructure?

You are right. Maritime security is anchored on appropriate intelligence gathering and utilization. The case of Nigeria is not different. We have a three prong approach to deployment of technology for maritime intelligence gathering. NIMASA has put

in place C4i meaning Command, Control, Communication, Computer and intelligence surveillance system. This system gives the Agency a bird's eye overview of the entire maritime space. The second is the navel asset christened Falconeye. The third is an integration of the NIMASA asset, Navy asset, NPA asset and other regional assets belonging to other security agencies with interest in maritime security. The second tier of utilization of technology is the integration of these intelligence assets with enforcement, patrol and response assets for greater patrol or response capabilities. I am happy that the new leadership of NIMASA has focused on delivering this dream.

As the volatility in the global oil market has become Nigeria's bane of revenue generation and improved budget performance over the years, how do you think the maritime sector could be better explored for improved contribution to the nation's GDP?

The maritime sector is already a major contributor to Nigeria's GDP. My concern and that of other stakeholders is that our contributions were not adequately captured in the GDP calculation. Maritime sector is a facilitator of trade, employer of several thousands of people, major pillar of oil and gas industry, and contributes tax and other revenues to national purse. Directly, indirectly and by inducement it contributes significantly to GDP. The sector has capacity to contribute more if government can prioritize the sector and give it more support in terms of funding, policies framework, infrastructure and other industry linkages. We started a number of critical engagements at the highest level of government bringing out these facts and putting them in context so policy makers can appreciate the potentials in the sector. I am glad my successor continued on this path. My prayer is that the highest level of government should extend to this new team the level of support giving to my team.

With territorial waters' security getting increasing attention of national governments on yearly basis, do you think Nigeria has the knowledge base, that is, qualified personnel to effectively monitor and secure the territorial waterways? If no, what do you think can be done?

We have adequate knowledge base to man our waterways. Crime, like most things in society, is dynamic so we must continue to update our knowledge. There are obvious gaps in actionable intelligence, response capacity, coordination at both national and regional level and legal framework and enforcement but these gaps are

"The sector has capacity to contribute more if government can prioritize the sector and give it more support in terms of funding, policies framework, infrastructure and other industry linkages"

being addressed through the Deep Blue project and other special programs of the Nigerian Navy. We now have a legal framework, the SOPOM Act, to fight piracy and other maritime crime . Our personnel are also trained but like others we must update their skill based on changing landscape of crime and emerging crime patterns. We also have several military and non military institutions doing one thing or another to strengthen understanding of maritime crime and models of response capabilities. The understanding of judicial officers is also being improved upon. Nigeria is a responsive country but more can always be done.

Sir, as a major user of statistical data for planning, how would you rate NBS in terms of statistical data production and management for national development in recent years?

The performance is excellent. I have worked closely with NBS in the past four years and I find them responsive and always willing to engage you or your team with the mindset of improving what they are doing. I have also seen leadership and collaboration at work in NBS. They collaborate with a lot of Professors and other professionals because I am sure they realized that you can't do data gathering and analysis alone . It is by its very nature collaborative. NBS is doing well and I can clearly see the desire and willingness to improve further.

The rising incidence of piracy in the international waterways remain a major constraint to timely cargo delivery with the attendant negative implications for importers/exporters and national economic development globally. Sir, could you give some advice on how Nigeria could mitigate the impact of the menace through statistical data gathering and management by maritime agencies.

We have allowed the international community churn out data against us. Most of the data is debatable. This is happening because we do not have our own reliable data in the maritime space. If we do, the world will look up to us for data on what is going on around us. Data gathering now is driven by technology and it is not rocket science. On the other hand decision making is also driven by data. Let's focus more on putting a system in place to gather data, analyze same and make it available for those who need it. Whether it has to do with piracy, maritime trade or technical issues it is the same principle of integrated data gathering, data integrity and making this data available.

LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS, 2020

	LABOUR FORCE POPULATION	Work 40 Hrs+	Work 20-39 Hrs	Work 1-19 Hrs	Work 0 Hr (Did nothing)	Total Unemployed	UNEMPLOYMENT RATES			Under Employment Rate
		Fully Employed	Under-employed	Unemployed	Unemployed		OLD Nigeria	NEW Nigeria	International	
Total	80,291,894	35,585,274	22,942,003	12,395,364	9,369,253	21,764,617	55.7	27.1	11.7	28.6
Educational	80,291,894	35,585,274	22,942,003	12,395,364	9,369,253	21,764,617				
NEVER ATTAENDED SCHOOL	15,847,257	6,295,525	5,818,538	2,924,632	808,562	3,733,194	60.3	23.6	5.1	36.7
BELOW PRIMARY	85,711	23,234	22,841	22,855	16,780	39,635	72.9	46.2	19.6	26.6
PRIMARY	14,831,238	7,051,378	4,600,820	2,385,763	793,278	3,179,040	52.5	21.4	5.3	31.0
JSS	4,984,100	2,061,911	1,577,587	950,603	394,000	1,344,603	58.6	27.0	7.9	31.7
VOCATIONAL/COMMERCIAL	281,535	157,480	73,688	30,784	19,583	50,367	44.1	17.9	7.0	26.2
SSS	28,558,044	13,274,626	7,148,369	3,885,954	4,249,095	8,135,050	53.5	28.5	14.9	25.0
NCE/OND/NURSING	6,530,801	2,948,437	1,573,350	1,032,823	976,191	2,009,014	54.9	30.8	14.9	24.1
BA/BSc/Bed/HND	6,956,600	2,753,734	1,358,056	906,825	1,937,986	2,844,811	60.4	40.9	27.9	19.5
MSC/MA/MAdm	521,108	284,149	117,446	23,743	95,770	119,513	45.5	22.9	18.4	22.5
DOCTORATE	76,526	39,391	19,304	17,831	-	17,831	48.5	23.3	0.0	25.2
OTHERS	1,618,973	695,408	632,005	213,551	78,010	291,560	57.0	18.0	4.8	39.0
Age-Group										
15-24	16,709,724	4,795,090	5,095,095	3,098,741	3,720,799	6,819,539	71.3	40.8	22.3	30.5
25-34	23,328,460	9,983,631	6,177,400	3,236,752	3,930,677	7,167,429	57.2	30.7	16.8	26.5
35-44	20,124,531	10,280,499	5,746,617	2,932,106	1,165,310	4,097,416	48.9	20.4	5.8	28.6
45-54	13,089,047	7,150,903	3,695,200	1,839,550	403,395	2,242,945	45.4	17.1	3.1	28.2
55-64	7,040,132	3,375,152	2,227,691	1,288,216	149,074	1,437,289	52.1	20.4	2.1	31.6
Gender										
Male	41,664,913	21,144,497	10,958,676	5,259,787	4,301,952	9,561,740	49.3	22.9	10.3	26.3
Female	38,626,981	14,440,777	11,983,327	7,135,577	5,067,301	12,202,878	62.6	31.6	13.1	31.0
Place of Residence										
Urban	28,513,287	14,655,146	6,606,244	3,277,044	3,974,853	7,251,897	48.6	25.4	13.9	23.2
Rural	51,778,607	20,930,128	16,335,759	9,118,320	5,394,400	14,512,720	59.6	28.0	10.4	31.5

Source- National Bureau of Statistics

Gross Domestic Product At 2010 Constant Basic Prices (=N=Million)								
	2019					**2020**		
	Q1	**Q2**	**Q3**	**Q4**	**Total**	**Q1**	**Q2**	**Q3**
CONTRIBUTION TO GDP								
AGRICULTURE	21.89	22.78	29.25	26.09	25.16	21.96	24.65	30.77
INDUSTRIES	23.56	23.34	22.17	20.27	22.25	23.65	21.87	21.59
SERVICES	54.55	53.87	48.59	53.64	52.6	54.39	53.49	47.64
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100.00
NON OIL	90.78	91.02	90.23	92.68	91.22	90.5	91.07	91.27
OIL	9.22	8.98	9.77	7.32	8.78	9.5	8.93	8.73
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100.00
GROWTH								
AGRICULTURE	3.17	1.79	2.28	2.31	2.36	2.2	1.58	1.39
INDUSTRIES	0.42	2.84	3.21	2.75	2.31	2.26	-12.05	-6.12
SERVICES	2.41	1.94	1.87	2.6	2.22	1.57	-6.78	-5.49
REAL GROWTH RATE AT BASIC PRICE	2.1	2.12	2.28	2.55	2.27	1.87	-6.1	-3.62
REAL GROWTH RATE AT MARKET PRICE	2.06	2.14	2.14	2.46	2.21	1.95	-6.04	-3.14
NON OIL GROWTH RATE	2.47	1.64	1.85	2.26	2.06	1.55	-6.05	-2.51
OIL GROWTH RATE	-1.46	7.17	6.49	6.36	4.59	5.06	-6.63	-13.89

Source- National Bureau of Statistics

"If your experiment needs Statistics, you ought to have done a better experiment"

ERNEST RUTHERFORD
(1871 – 1937 New Zealand born Physics: became known as the father of nuclear Physics)

Composite Consumer Price Index (Base November 2009 = 100)

		All Items Index				All Items less Farm Produce				Food				
		Monthly	Month-on change (%)	Year-on change (%)	12-Month average change (%)	Monthly	Month-on change (%)	Year-on change (%)	12-Month average change (%)	Monthly	12-Month Average	Month-on change (%)	Year-on change (%)	12-Month average change (%)
Weights		1000				513.1				507.06				
2019	January	276.6	0.74	11.37	11.8	258.8	0.81	9.9	10.34	298.9	282.8	0.83	13.51	13.93
	February	278.6	0.73	11.31	11.56	260.4	0.65	9.8	10.19	301.3	285.8	0.82	13.47	13.62
	March	280.8	0.79	11.25	11.4	261.8	0.53	9.5	10.04	303.9	288.8	0.88	13.45	13.42
	April	283.5	0.94	11.37	11.31	263.7	0.7	9.3	9.91	307.4	291.9	1.14	13.7	13.34
	May	286.6	1.11	11.4	11.299	265.6	0.75	9	9.77	311.7	295.1	1.41	13.79	13.37
	June	289.7	1.07	11.22	11.297	267.9	0.85	8.84	9.64	316	298.2	1.36	13.56	13.42
	July	292.6	1.01	11.08	11.291	270	0.77	8.8	9.52	319.9	301.3	1.26	13.39	13.46
	August	295.5	0.99	11.02	11.271	271.8	0.67	8.68	9.41	323.9	304.5	1.22	13.17	13.46
	September	298.6	1.04	11.24	11.27	274.2	0.89	8.94	9.34	328.1	307.7	1.3	13.51	13.47
	October	301.8	1.07	11.61	11.3	276.2	0.74	8.88	9.25	332.4	311.2	1.33	14.09	13.54
	November	304.9	1.02	11.85	11.35	278.4	0.79	8.99	9.19	336.6	314.7	1.25	14.48	13.65
	December	307.5	0.85	11.98	11.4	280.6	0.81	9.33	9.15	339.9	318.3	0.97	14.67	13.74
2020	January	310.2	0.87	12.13	11.46	282.9	0.82	9.35	9.11	343.2	322	0.99	14.85	13.86
	February	312.6	0.79	12.2	11.54	285	0.73	9.43	9.09	346.2	325.8	0.87	14.9	13.98
	March	315.2	0.84	12.26	11.62	287.3	0.8	9.73	9.11	349.5	329.6	0.94	14.98	14.11
	April	318.4	1.02	12.34	11.71	290	0.93	9.98	9.17	353.6	333.4	1.18	15.03	14.22
	May	322.2	1.17	12.4	11.79	292.5	0.88	10.12	9.27	358.6	337.3	1.42	15.04	14.33
	June	326.1	1.21	12.56	11.9	295	0.86	10.13	9.37	363.9	341.3	1.48	15.18	14.46
	July	330.1	1.25	12.82	12.05	297.2	0.75	10.1	9.48	369.5	345.4	1.52	15.48	14.63
	August	334.6	1.34	13.22	12.23	300.3	1.05	10.52	9.64	375.7	349.8	1.67	16	14.87
	September	339.5	1.48	13.71	12.44	303.2	0.94	10.58	9.77	382.7	354.3	1.88	16.66	15.13
	October	344.7	1.54	14.23	12.664	306.95	1.2468	11.137	9.9648	390.21	359.13	1.9569	17.378	15.416
	November	350.3	1.60	14.89	12.923	309.14	0.7135	11.05	10.136	398.19	364.26	2.044	18.298	15.746

Source- National Bureau of Statistics

"There are two ways of lying. One, not telling the truth and the other, making up Statistics"

JOSEFINA EUGENIA VAZQUEZ MOTE
(1961, Mexican business Woman and Politician)

Imports By Section (N'Million)2018 TO 2020(JAN TO JUN)

	2018	2019	2020 YTD(JAN TO SEPT)
I. Value (cif N million)			
Live animals; animal products	364,981.81	422,943.69	617,585.34
Vegetable products	526,675.65	585,882.70	723,008.43
Animal and vegetable fats and oils and other cleavage prod.	72,889.74	84,277.11	90,169.37
Prepared foodstuffs; beverages, spirits and vinegar; tobacco	529,087.49	676,364.25	651,907.02
Mineral products	3,971,207.40	2,718,829.74	2,258,334.12
Products of the chemical and allied industries	990,846.32	1,388,030.86	1,586,834.55
Plastic, rubber and articles thereof	607,207.80	695,205.24	702,484.68
Raw hides and skins, leather, furskins etc.; saddlery	10,887.13	23,342.73	38,318.20
Wood and articles of wood, wood charcoal and articles	22,504.27	39,095.22	55,760.80
Paper making material; paper and paperboard, articles	214,370.71	491,108.51	367,885.82
Textiles and textile articles	168,669.31	220,468.04	200,661.28
Footwear, headgear, umbrellas, sunshades, whips etc.	31,223.29	39,632.67	29,306.19
Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica, ceramic	63,032.42	606,902.57	81,530.28
Pearls, precious and semi-precious stones, precious metals	1,254.34	1,561.41	1110.12462
Base metals and articles of base metals	641,400.17	784,976.55	787,058.54
Boilers, machinery and appliances; parts thereof	2,608,882.77	4,541,153.10	3,692,144.68
Vehicles, aircraft and parts thereof; vessels etc.	2,091,185.02	2,351,983.42	1,575,016.38
Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring appliances	201,567.97	1,209,951.06	324,884.66
Arms and ammunition, parts thereof	1,946.63	12,773.83	56,705.48
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	45,227.52	65,221.36	66,009.04
Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques	79.59	171.01	1,736.58
Special items not classified according to kind	0		0
Total	13,165,127.35	16,959,875.06	13,908,451.54

Source- National Bureau of Statistics

"Those
who ignore
Statistics are
condemned to
re-invent it"

BRADLEY
EFRON (American
Statistician)

Exports By Section (N'Million) 2018 TO 2020 (JAN TO JUN)

	2018	2019	2020 YTD(JAN TO SEPT)
I. Value (fob N million)			
Live animals; animal products	19,998.50	15,427.65	14,077.10
Vegetable products	176,320.49	155,226.70	149,813.98
Animal and vegetable fats and oils and other cleavage prod.	7,506.30	4,303.33	941.1722983
Prepared foodstuffs; beverages, spirits and vinegar; tobacco	180,281.12	174,256.77	154,984.09
Mineral products	17,444,901.24	16,729,111.79	8,138,731.61
Products of the chemical and allied industries	75,312.34	67,759.28	33,624.45
Plastic, rubber and articles thereof	40,923.71	31,542.86	10,298.47
Raw hides and skins, leather, furskins etc.; saddlery	33,715.00	26,936.48	12,270.78
Wood and articles of wood, wood charcoal and articles	6,199.95	1,401.27	326.7089321
Paper making material; paper and paperboard, articles	1,569.02	1,281.91	1023.484638
Textiles and textile articles	3,674.05	3,314.29	5,057.17
Footwear, headgear, umbrellas, sunshades, whips etc.	6,238.00	3,968.46	1,713.23
Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica, ceramic	2,446.79	3,393.53	643.7631449
Pearls, precious and semi-precious stones, precious metals	19.36	186.15	596.6535114
Base metals and articles of base metals	59,174.67	805,330.40	28,605.72
Boilers, machinery and chemical appliances; parts thereof	8,521.57	3,996.42	11,444.09
Vehicles, aircraft and parts thereof; vessels etc.	464,853.72	1,163,672.01	730,717.71
Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring appliances	17.85	908.61	516.1852443
Arms and ammunition, parts thereof		0	0
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	366.24	216.22	36.45591001
Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques	0.05	0	0
Special items not classified according to kind			0
Total	18,532,039.97	19,192,234.12	9,295,422.83

Source- National Bureau of Statistics

CONSUMPTION PATTERN FOOD MAJOR CATEGORIES

national	Group	Expenditure	Type	Share_in_food expenditure	Share_in_total expenditure
Nigeria	FOOD CONSUMED OUTSIDE OF HOME	4,597,611,647,231	FOOD	20.19	11.43
Nigeria	STARCHY ROOTS, TUBERS & PLANTAIN	2,526,248,133,445	FOOD	11.09	6.28
Nigeria	RICE	1,978,469,588,752	FOOD	8.69	4.92
Nigeria	VEGETABLES	1,760,581,587,249	FOOD	7.73	4.38
Nigeria	FISH AND SEAFOOD	1,334,251,774,137	FOOD	5.86	3.32
Nigeria	GRAINS AND FLOURS	1,283,558,827,015	FOOD	5.64	3.19
Nigeria	PULSES, NUTS AND SEEDS	1,194,512,649,507	FOOD	5.24	2.97
Nigeria	MEAT	1,190,937,052,520	FOOD	5.23	2.96
Nigeria	FRUITS	1,011,397,190,439	FOOD	4.44	2.52
Nigeria	OIL AND FATS	990,280,623,220	FOOD	4.35	2.46
Nigeria	BAKED/PROCESSED PRODUCTS	963,894,524,602	FOOD	4.23	2.40
Nigeria	POULTRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS	879,915,554,716	FOOD	3.86	2.19
Nigeria	OTHER MISCELLANEOUS FOODS	707,845,869,649	FOOD	3.11	1.76
Nigeria	MAIZE	673,145,908,531	FOOD	2.96	1.67
Nigeria	NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINKS	551,193,833,558	FOOD	2.42	1.37
Nigeria	MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS	481,024,780,593	FOOD	2.11	1.20
Nigeria	COFFEE, TEA, COCOA AND THE LIKE BEVERAGES	296,596,090,172	FOOD	1.30	0.74
Nigeria	SUGAR, SWEETS AND CONFECTIONARY	205,537,993,903	FOOD	0.90	0.51
Nigeria	ALCOHOLIC DRINKS (BOTTLE AND CAN)	150,246,013,133	FOOD	0.66	0.37
	TOTAL FOOD CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE	**22,777,249,642,372**		**100.00**	**56.65**

Source- National Bureau of Statistics

CONSUMPTION PATTERN NON- FOOD CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE					
national	Group	Expenditure	Type	Share_in_ non food expenditure	Share_in_total expenditure
Nigeria	TRANSPORT	2,588,901,034,916	NON-FOOD	14.85	6.44
Nigeria	HEALTH	2,460,266,138,597	NON-FOOD	14.12	6.12
Nigeria	EDUCATION	2,428,993,052,871	NON-FOOD	13.94	6.04
Nigeria	SERVICES inc Telecoms	2,222,067,290,758	NON-FOOD	12.75	5.53
Nigeria	RENT	2,122,889,646,502	NON-FOOD	12.18	5.28
Nigeria	FUEL/LIGHT	2,016,183,780,851	NON-FOOD	11.57	5.01
Nigeria	CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	1,822,511,258,144	NON-FOOD	10.46	4.53
Nigeria	HOUSEHOLD GOODS	1,142,507,512,895	NON-FOOD	6.55	2.84
Nigeria	ENTERTAINMENT	428,217,151,903	NON-FOOD	2.46	1.07
Nigeria	WATER	197,601,949,559	NON-FOOD	1.13	0.49
	TOTAL NON- FOOD CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE	17,430,138,816,995		100.00	43.35

Source- National Bureau of Statistics

> **"It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data"**
>
> SIR ARTHUR IGNATIUS CONAN DOYLE (1859 – 1930 Scottish Physician and writer)

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Budget and National Planning, Mrs. Olusola Olayinka (left), The Minister of Budget and National Plannionng, Prince Clem Agba, (centre in white dress), the Statistician General of the Federation, Dr. Yemi Kale, (Right in brown caftan dress) and top officials of the ministry and NBS when the minister visited the NBS on 25th May, 2020.

Minister of State for Budget and National Planning, Prince Clem Agba (left), the Statistician General of the Federation, Dr. Yemi Kale (second left) and top officials of the Ministry of Budget and National Planning and NBS singing the National Anthem when the minister led a delegation of the ministry's officials on a visit to the NBS on 25th May, 2020

Group photograph of the minister, the Statistician General of the Federation, and top officials of the Ministry of Budget and National Planning and NBS when the minister led a delegation of the ministry's officials on a visit to the NBS on 25th May, 2020

The Statistician General of the Federation, Dr. Yemi Kale, ushering the Chairman House of Representatives' Committee on Planning and Economic Development and other members of the Committee to NBS' Conference Room, during the committee members' oversight function visit to the agency on 13th July, 2020.

The chairman House of Representatives Committee on National Planning and Economic Development, Hon. Olododo Abdulganiyu Saka, signing NBS visitors' Register during the committee's oversight function visit to the NBS on 13th July, 2020

A member of the House of Representatives Committee on Planning and Economic Development, the Chairman of the Committee, Hon. Olododo Abdulganiyu Saka, (centre) and the Statistician General of the Federation, Dr. Yemi Kale, singing the National Anthem during the committee members' oversight function visit to the NBS in July 2020.

A cross section of members of the House of Representatives' Committee on Planning and Economic Development listening to the Statistician of the Federation's, Dr. Yemi Kale's remarks during the lawmakers' visit to the Bureau on 13th July, 2020

The NBS' Director Corporate Planning and Technical Coordination Department Mr. S. B. Harry (Right) who received the leader Borno State House of Assembly, Alhaji Mustapha Ali, on behalf of the Statistician General of the Federation, Dr. Yemi Kale, when the lawmakers visited the NBS on a fact-finding mission on how to enact law for the proposed Borno State Bureau of Statistics on 24th July, 2020

A cross section of Borno State House of Assembly lawmakers during their fact-finding visit to the National Bureau of Statistics' headquarters in Abuja on 24th July, 2020.

A group photograph of members of Borno State House of Assembly with top management of NBS during the legislators' visit to the NBS recently.

Director of Real Sector and Household Statistics Department of NBS, Mr. Yemi Adeniran, receiving the Ambassador of Ethics and Global Citizen of Conscience Award conferred on the Statistician General of the Federation, Dr. Yemi Kale, from Mr. Saleh Musa Yakubu of Centre for Ethics and Self Value Orientation on 25th September, 2020 in Abuja

A group photograph of NBS management staff and the officials of the Centre for Ethics and self-Value Orientation when the Centre conferred the Ambassador of Ethics on the statistician General of the Federation, Dr. Yemi Kale on 25th September, 2020 in Abuja

Statistician General of the Federation, Dr. Yemi Kale; Permanent Secretary, , Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning, Mrs. Olusola Olayinka Idowu (representing the Minister of State in the ministry – Prince Clem Agba); and Director of Real Sector and Household Statistics Department of NBS, Mr. Yemi Adeniran; singing the National Anthem during the Training of Trainers' (TOT) event flagging off of the National Business Sample Survey held at Barcelona Hotel, Wuse – Abuja on 28th September, 2020 in Abuja

A cross section of participants at the flagging off of the Training of Trainers' (TOT) event flagging off of the National Business Sample Survey held at Barcelona Hotel, Wuse – Abuja on 28th September, 2020

A cross section of trainees at the flagging off of the Training of Trainers' (TOT) event flagging off of the National Business Sample Survey held at Barcelona Hotel, Wuse – Abuja on 28th September, 2020

A cross section of trainees at the flagging off of the Training of Trainers' (TOT) event flagging off of the National Business Sample Survey held at Barcelona Hotel, Wuse – Abuja on 28th September, 2020

Some senior staff of the Corporate Planning and Technical Coordination (CPTC) Department of NBS in a group photograph with some retirees during the during the befitting send-forth ceremony organized for the retirees on 17th December, 2020 at NBS Headquarters, Abuja

A cross section of retirees and other staff during the send-forth ceremony organized for retiring staff of Corporate Planning and Technical Coordination (CPTC) Department of NBS on 17th December, 2020 at NBS Headquarters, Abuja

Right – Left: The Chairman, NBS Board, Dr. Kabiru Nakaura; Statistician General of the Federation, Dr. Yemi Kale, and representative of Nigeria Customs Service NCS) and his Federal Road Service Corps (FRSC) counterpart during the Opening Ceremony of National Consultative Committee on Statistics (NCCS) Meeting held on 14th and 15th December, 2020, at Kini Guest Inn, Akwanga, Nasarawa State

A cross section of attendees at the National Consultative Committee on Statistics (NCCS) Meeting held on 14th and 15th December, 2020, at Kini Guest Inn, Akwanga, Nasarawa State

Statistician General Charges Staff On Commitment To Statistical System Devt

The Statistician General of the Federation and Chief Executive of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Dr. Yemi Kale, has charged all staff of the Bureau to put more efforts in the task of building a more robust statistical system for national development

Dr Kale, who gave the charge during a brief chat with the Newsletter's editorial team in Abuja, said that doing more to enhance the nation's statistical system was critical to national building and sustainable growth of the economy.

The Statistician General said: "Yes, let me commend the entire workforce for what we have been able to achieve thus far in our sustained drive to upgrade the statistical system. My experience with the staff over the past few years has been very exciting based on their contributions to our collective efforts to enhance the nation's statistical system to globally accepted best standards.

"But then, I want to tell our staff not to rest on their oars but to keep adding value to the system. This demands discipline, more work and sometimes personal sacrifices, which they must all be ready to offer. They should demonstrate to their colleagues that their elevation is a call to more service in national development.

"Let me conclude by saying that the government, through our supervisory ministry, has assured to reward diligent workers by giving them all their dues and ensuring that the promotion of deserving employees will not be delayed at all. I am sure that by the time the result of the next promotion examination is released, most of our employees will smile", Dr Kale added.

He also promised that training of the NBS employees

remained a major agenda that would be consistently pursued with a view to improving the technical and analytical competences of the employees and make them a team of professional statisticians that can compete favourably with their peers in other developed countries with very high statistics standards.

...Wishes Retirees Blissful Post-Service Experiences

Meanwhile, the Statistician General also expressed his goodwill to retirees from the Bureau and wished them the best of post-service life experiences.

Dr Kale described the retirees as "valuable assets" to the NBS whose contributions to the growth of the NBS and ultimate departure would be sorely missed but are inevitable.

Reflecting on the roles of some of the senior employees in the NBS over the years, particularly since his assumption of office,

the Chief Executive of the NBS said: "From my experiences with most of the retirees, I know they were embodiment of hard work and discipline.

"So, letting them go now is like giving your daughter or son out in marriage. Yes, you love that son or daughter dearly but you cannot wish that he/she stays with you forever in your home. My wish is that the retirees, some of whom are still very agile, is that they enjoy their post-service life in good health and happiness", Dr Kale added.

Mr & Mrs. Moses Okeyi during their wedding at Living Faith Church, Jikwoyi, Abuja

Mr.& Mrs Harry Ibiyemi during their traditional marriage at First Forty Hotel,,Wuse 2, Abuja on 26th September, 2020

Mr & Mrs Izuchukwu Opara during thier wedding at St Paul's Anglican Church Nyanya, Abuja on Ist August 2020

Mrs. A. Nwokocha, one of the honoured retirees, receiving her gift from some staff during the send-forth ceremony organized for retiring staff of Corporate Planning and Technical Coordination (CPTC) Department of NBS on 17th December, 2020 at NBS Headquarters, Abuja

"**Facts are stubborn things but statistics are pliable**"

SAMUEL LANGHOME CLEMENS, better known by his pen name, Mark Twain (1835 – 1910 American author & humourist)

1. What is the difference between Inflation and Inflation Rate?

Inflation is defined as a persistent increase in the general price level over time. Consumer Price Index (CPI) is used to measure movement of the general price level. CPI is constructed by using a Basket which contains 740 items (goods and services) regularly priced by consumers. Since the goods and services in the Basket are so many, it becomes difficult, if not impossible, to monitor changes of all the prices of goods and services at the same time. This is why the construction of the Index becomes necessary to show changes in all the prices at a time by looking at the Consumer Price Index. On the other hand, the rate of change of Inflation is called Inflation Rate. It is calculated by dividing the current CPI by the CPI of last period and the product is multiplied by 100. The resulting percentage is subtracted from 100 to arrive at Inflation Rate.

2. The National Bureau of Statistics stated in its recent publication that Inflation Rate is falling but prices of goods and services in my area are still high. Why?

It is possible for inflation rate to fall and prices of goods and services still remain high. This can be understood by using this simple analogy. Assuming that in an economy, only one good is produced and let's call that one loaf of bread. In January 2019, the price of the loaf of bread is N100. In February of the same year, the price of the loaf of bread rose to N150, amounting to an increase of N50. In March of the same year, the price of the same loaf went up to N155, an increase of N5 over the previous price. At N155, even though the rate of increase is falling (price increasing at decreasing rate), the price remains higher than the previous one, showing that the increase has slowed. Despite the decrease in the rate of inflation rate, individual prices of consumable items are still high. This is the reason why inflation rate is falling and yet prices of goods and services in your area are still high.

3. Assuming the population of Nigeria is two hundred million people and NBS says 23% of Nigerians are unemployed could we apply this percentage on the population to get the absolute number of the unemployed in Nigeria?

It is not right to simply apply the percentage to the population of Nigeria to get the actual number of the unemployed. In calculating the number of the unemployed, the first step to take is to determine the working population. Working population is the number of people who are in working age group.

According to the Nigerian constitution, the working age population includes Nigerians between the age of 18 and 60 years.

However, we should be aware of others such as judges, university professors and some workers of research institutes who work until 70 years. The second step is to determine the labour force from the population. Labour force comprises of people within the working age population, who are qualified, willing to work and physically fit. Going by this definition, those who are permanently in school but are in working population, the disabled/physically challenged who cannot take up any employment or engage in any productive activity and those who are not willing to work, etc, are not part of the labour force even though they belong to the working population. Having determine the labour force, those who worked for twenty hours in the last one week are said to be employed, if below, they will be considered unemployed. It is this definition that NBS applied which gave 23% unemployment rate in the third quarter of 2018. To apply the 23% unemployment rate to the population of Nigeria to get the absolute population of those not working in Nigeria will lead to an over estimation of the number of people who are not working in this country.

4. The growth rate of Gross Domestic Product in Nigeria is increasing yet the poverty rate is increasing. Why?

Ordinarily, an increase in GDP growth rate should lead to an improvement in the level of welfare of the people because growth is the totality of value addition of the people in monetary terms. This happens when the growth is inclusive, that is, brought about by the involvement of the people in the economic activities of the country. If the growth is brought about in sectors of the economy that are capital intensive, the growth will not be inclusive and it is only the few owners of capital will benefit from the growth. In Nigeria, growth in GDP is not manifesting in the welfare of the people because of various reasons or factors. One of such is, the population growth rate of Nigeria has been consistently above the growth rate of GDP. For example, while the National Population Commission estimated the population growth rate to be 3.2%, but the GDP has remained below 2% in the last four years. Secondly, the little growth we witnessed in the last four years was attributable to the oil sector, which is capital intensive. This type of growth will positively affect owners of capital rather ordinary man on the street. Even if the growth is not inclusive, the government can make the growth inclusive by taxing the rich to provide services mostly patronised by the poor in the society. In conclusion therefore, it is possible for an economy to grow without the majority of the populace benefiting from the growth.

5. Why should NBS use International definitions standards in the compilation of its data?

Nigeria is in a global world and as such it should cooperate with the rest of the world to achieve certain common objectives for the benefit of humanity. For example, one of such areas is the

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDGs is a developmental programme agreed by all the countries of the world to be implemented for the improvement of living standard of the people all over the world by the year 2030. SDGs have goals and targets which must be met by the end period of the programme. The targets are measured by data which are comparable across all countries in order to ascertain their level of achievements of the SDGs. Without using international definitions, it will impossible for the targets of SDGs to be comparable across the world to ascertain which of the countries are succeeding in the programme or otherwise. It must be added here that sometimes NBS domesticates the international definitions to fit into Nigeria's local environment to make the outcome of such statistical activities realistic. For example, the agency has been using ILO's one hour of work in the last one week to measure its unemployment rate, but the rate from that definition was too low to be realistic to the Nigerian unemployment situation. This made the major stakeholders in the employment generation sector to review the definition which led to the twenty hours of work definition in the last one week.

6. How does NBS generate its data?

NBS was established by Statistics Act of 2007 with the sole objective of generating quality data for decision making. In generating data, NBS uses three systems or methodologies of data production. They include the National Integrated Survey of Households (NISH), National Integrated Survey of Establishments (NISE) a n d System of Administrative Statistics (SAS). NISH and NISE are umbrellas covering household and establishment based surveys respectively. On the other hand, SAS is based on secondary data collected from Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of government in Nigeria at all levels. In seeking information from households, NBS develops instruments for data collection and administers same to sampled households which are analysed, thereby giving rise to household data set such as; unemployment rate, poverty rate, literacy rate, household size, etc. Examples of NISH-based surveys are; Labour Force Survey (LFS), Nigerian Living Standard Survey (NLSS), Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), among others. NISH data sets comprise capacity utilization, employment in the formal sector, value production in manufacturing industry, Index of manufacturing, etc. Survey of manufacturing, National Survey of industries and businesses, Wholesale Distribution Survey, etc, are some of the surveys conducted by NBS under the NISE System of data production. SAS data production involves collection of data on the day to day activities of MDAs at all levels of government in Nigeria. MDAs are expected to fill data request templates administered by NBS on variables of interest which are usually returned for analysis and generation of tables for public use. Data collection under the System of Administrative Statistics is the cheapest.

"A knowledge of Statistics is like a knowledge of foreign languages or of algebra; it may prove of use at any time under any circumstances"

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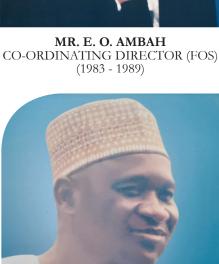FEDERAL OFFICE OF STATISTICS (FOS)
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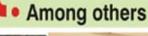NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS
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Support the

2020

NATIONAL BUSINESS SAMPLE CENSUS
(NBSC)

Objectives
- To develop a national directory of commercial and business establishments with all their associated social and economic characteristics
- To provide the country with comprehensive and detailed information about the structure of the economy
- Among others

Starts October 12th, 2020

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