

**SPEECH BY DR. YEMI KALE, STATISTICIAN-GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION
AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE TO SENSITIZE THE MEDIA ON NBS' DATA
PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION PROCESSES, AND THE RELEASE OF THE
SECOND, THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTER 2013 JOB CREATION SURVEY
RESULTS.**

NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS. ABUJA. 26TH MAY 2014

I am delighted to address you this morning and I invite you to explore with me very briefly the data production and dissemination processes at the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). I will also at today's briefing be releasing the results of the second, third and fourth quarter 2013 job creation survey results and more importantly, I will be sharing with some of our key programmes over the next few months.

Today's briefing is in line with the National Bureau of Statistics' (NBS) renewed efforts in the last few years to ensure availability of reliable and timely statistics which are necessary for policy-making and business decisions and to give an opportunity for data users like yourselves to ask questions and seek regular clarification on any issue. It is also consistent with our determination to ensure that data and the data production processes of the bureau are properly understood and the results accurately reported in the public space. This briefing is also informed by our concern in recent times of the increased misunderstanding or politicization of data. As the national institution by law responsible for all official data, the authoritative source and custodian of all official data and coordinator of the National Statistics Office, it is our responsibility to advocate for the correct processes for producing and disseminating data as well as for the use of data for evidenced based policy and decision making. Accordingly, it is our responsibility to ensure data as important as it is for growth and development isn't mixed with ideology or politics (for or against).

It is also our responsibility to ensure that the data that is produced is credible and reliable and understood. In recent times there has been some scepticism expressed about data produced by the NBS especially when it appears positive. This scepticism is understandable given that for a very long time in our national history, data users and the general public have been disappointed. Many of you

will however have observed that data from NBS have been both positive and negative in recent years. As a developing country, it is expected that some indicators will reveal progress in some areas while others will reveal existing challenges. But the mandate of NBS is to identify those indicators whether positive or negative for proper planning and decision making by our government, the general public, development partners and NGOs or domestic and foreign investors. And this, you will observe is what we have always done.

This scepticism is even welcome and encouraged by us at the National Bureau of Statistics as it enriches the debate and ensures we are kept on our toes and improve our processes. After all better and more intellectual debate and analysis of data yields better solutions to economic and social challenges and consequently better decision making. We want to emphasise that we understand that it is our responsibility and not data users and the general public to convince an understandably sceptical public that data produced or coordinated by the NBS is as accurate as possible, is reliable and credible.

This informs our invitation to you today to enable you ask your questions and make clarifications. To give comfort to users and the public on data produced at NBS we have often invited the press to act as independent monitors during the process of collecting data. This we will continue to do and we will be extending this to other interested stakeholders. An NGO, Spaces for Change, for example, has requested clarifications regarding jobs creation data from NBS and we have responded to them. Additionally we have invited them to serve as independent monitors during the next and during subsequent job creation surveys so they can observe how the work is done and how the data on job creation is computed.

Why are we doing this? We are doing this not because we have to or have been told to but because we believe that the most important point of data is that it be used for evidence based decision making. However data that isn't trusted or understood will not be used and if it isn't used then, we may not have even bothered to generate the data in the first place as it will be a waste of resources.

Accordingly, I wish to commend the media for the very important role it continues to play in informing the general public, as well as its continued support for NBS' data dissemination strategy. This is not just important for evidence-based decision making and policy formulation, but also for educating Nigerians on the performance or otherwise of government. The commitment of the current administration to medium and long term strategic planning for the country, as well as increased data transparency, has been aptly demonstrated by its support for NBS' operational independence, as we release to the public accurate, timely and unbiased data (both flattering and unflattering) on a regular basis in a manner unprecedented in the history of NBS. Data collected through our regular surveys and via our system of administrative statistics around the country present a vital source of evidence, as they provide us with clear, objective, numerical data on all aspects of our lives and the state of our country. We would therefore continue to publish accurate and timely data, as well as seek more efficient and innovative ways of producing useful information to guide government policy, and serve as a tool for the public to monitor the performance of government for the overall growth and development of Nigeria.

In a few moments, I will provide an update on NBS' data production activities as well as an overview of the 2013 Job Creation Surveys.

Update on Data Production Activities

One major aspect of data production that NBS is currently focused on improving is on the quality of data. Our efforts so far to improve data quality have resulted in a comprehensive review of NBS' data production processes. This review covers all aspects of data production, including planning stage, field work, data entry, data processing, to data dissemination and archiving. With respect to field work, NBS as many of you are aware has offices and staff in all the 36 states of the federation including the Federal Capital Territory who regularly collect data across the country. It is important to stress that whatever data you see us publish is collected from households, public agencies and businesses. Most of the time when many of you quote World Bank or Unicef etc data it is collected and analysed by NBS staff in partnership with these agencies. The quality of data is accordingly

linked to the quality of information we collect from the general public. Our thousands of staff collect real time and actual data across the country. We do not make estimates in Abuja, guess or develop models but go into the field on a regular basis. In some instances our staffs have had to cross water logged areas in the south-south region on small boats for hours to get to some enumeration areas to collect data. Some of you present that we have invited to serve as independent monitors have witnessed this yourselves. For example agricultural output data involves going to households and asking rural farmers to take us to their farms where we use electronic devices which we will be showing you today to measure farm output. With respect to corporate farms we get the data from the companies directly and or review financial statements submitted to FIRS or SEC

Improving conditions of field work both on the part of our field workers and the respondents is one area we have been working on.

Another necessary part of this process of improving data quality is the review and updating of statistical methodologies across various data products, as prescribed by the Statistics Act 2007, in line with international best practice. The recent release of rebased national account series (which is better known as the GDP rebasing exercise) is only one of such efforts. Other methodological reviews which are on-going include unemployment, poverty, prices, trade statistics and several others. As it has been our practice, we will be informing and even involving the general public as each of these reviews are completed.

Permit me at this juncture, to intimate you of three important data production exercises currently ongoing at the Bureau. The first of such is the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Performance Tracking Survey 2014. This is the second in its series, coming two years after the successful conduct of the 2012 MDGs Performance Tracking Survey, and a year before the 2015 target date of the MDGs. As before, the exercise is being undertaken in collaboration with the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on MDGs (OSSAP-MDGs). The aim of the exercise is to report on progress made in Nigeria with respect to the MDGs. The survey covers both urban and rural areas of all 36 States, including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The reporting units for

which data is being collected are Households, Individual Women between (15 – 49 years) and Children under five years of age.

The second statistical exercise ongoing is the National Census of Commercial and Industrial Businesses (NCCIB). The main output of the NCCIB is the production of a comprehensive and robust business register. This effort is being undertaken in collaboration with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Federal Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (FMITI). The exercise is being embarked on after about 20 years since it was last conducted.

Lastly, is the National Agricultural Sample Census (NASC) which is another major data activity at NBS. It is a census designed to collect information on agricultural production in the country. Last conducted in 1997, it is being undertaken in conjunction with Federal and State Ministries of Agriculture, CBN and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). This is a very important exercise given the critical role the agricultural sector plays in the nation's economy, in terms of growth, job creation and poverty reduction. As part of the activities under this exercise, a nationwide listing exercise has been carried out in all the local government areas of the country. This involved our enumerators going out to list all farms in the country, including corporate farms and small holder farms through the households. A pilot test in 6 States namely; Bayelsa, Gombe, Ebonyi, Zanfara, Osun and Niger has also been conducted, to test both the survey instruments and the logistics. The results and feedback from the pilot are presently being analysed. A sample of corporate and small holder farms will be selected from the listed farms for the main census, which will commence nationwide in the first week of July 2014.

As always we are soliciting the support of the general public, establishments, households and individuals across the country, to provide us with the needed information when approached by any of our field officers. A comprehensive media campaign will be initiated shortly before the field work stages of these censuses to further sensitize the public. We appeal to the media in assisting us to carry out this sensitization campaign successfully.

As most of you are aware, our Data Release Calendar on the website gives details of expected release dates of our statistical reports, which we hope is helping our users to better plan accordingly.

Finally, before I go into the results of the job creation results I want to appeal to you to always read our reports in detail. We take pains in ensuring we give as much information as possible from details of methodology to processes to variations of data to assist you in making your decisions on what the data means. I was embarrassed when during the previous job creation reports some asked where are the jobs and where are they been created when the reports stated this in detail. Most often readers don't go beyond the headlines into the breakdown, methodology and detail but form opinions based on understandable sceptical and cynical sentiments. We want to appeal to you to always go through these reports in detail so if you are to criticize afterwards it is constructive and informed. We are not adverse to criticisms because we fill it enables us to improve on what we do but we need those criticisms and advice to be constructive and useful for improving the statistical system and not just a dismissal of the results.

Let me quickly illustrate the importance of looking deeper into data before drawing conclusions by reviewing the results of two recent football matches.

BAYERN	0-4	REAL MADRID
64%	BALL POSSESSION	36%
19	TOTAL ATTEMPTS	13
10	ATTEMPTS ON TARGET	7
3	BLOCKS AND SAVES	10
9	CORNERS	3
0	OFFSIDES	3
112.66 km	DISTANCE COVERED	109.38 km
653 (83%)	PASSES COMPLETED	254 (67%)
13	FOULS COMMITTED	7
1/0	YELLOW/RED CARDS	1/0

In the first match between Bayern and Real Madrid, Bayern, the team on the left had ball possession twice more than the team on the right, Real Madrid, made more attempts, nearly 50 pct more than the team on the right, had three times more corner kicks, infinitely fewer offsides, covered more distance on the field, completed more passes. Based on the statistics you will expect Bayern to win.

But they did not. Real Madrid won and in spectacular fashion despite the statistics suggesting that Bayern should win. If this was the Nigerian Statistical System, NBS will say Madrid won which is what happened but based on the underlying data, some will say NBS cooked the books or the data does not reflect reality on the ground.

Lets now look at another recent football match. In this case the reverse was the case as the team with more possession and attempts at goal actually won the match. In this case the underlying data matched the results.

Manchester City vs Aston Villa Match Statistics

Scoring Summary



Manchester City

4 - 0

7th May 2014 19:45 LIVE

*Time shown in your time zone

England Premier League

Stadium: Etihad Stadium (Manchester)



Aston Villa

! This match has ended. [Upcoming related matches:](#)

Statistics		
Shots Total	18	5
Shots on goal	9	0
Fouls	8	9
Corners	7	2
Offsides	3	0
Possession Time	73%	27%
Yellow Cards	1	2
Red Cards	0	0
Saves	0	5

I am using this to illustrate my point that we should always study the data produced more professionally and try to find explanations for what seems like a paradox or not right and not merely dismiss it as false.

As an example, we can consider the seeming “contradiction” between being the largest economy in Africa and 26th in the world by nominal GDP, and being 121st by per capita GDP. As shown in the table below, only the USA features among the top 10 countries by per capita GDP and by nominal GDP.

GDP and GDP per capita of top 10 economies, 2013, IMF

Rank	Country	GDP USD trn\$	Rank	Country	GDP US\$
1	United States	16.79	1	Qatar	98,814
2	China	9.18	2	Luxembourg	78,670
3	Japan	4.9	3	Singapore	64,584
4	Germany	3.63	4	Norway	54,947
5	France	2.73	5	Brunei	53,431
6	United Kingdom	2.53	6	United States	53,101
7	Brazil	2.24	7	Switzerland	46,430
8	Russia	2.11	8	Canada	43,472
9	Italy	2.07	9	Australia	43,073
10	India	1.87	10	Austria	42,597
26	Nigeria	0.5	121	Nigeria	2,689

I will now go into the details of the 2013 job creation survey, as well as highlight some of the key findings from the survey.

2013 NBS' Job Creation Survey

Job Creation is, no doubt, a pressing topic in Nigeria. It takes centre stage with policy makers at all levels of Government as stakeholders struggle with the fact that despite several years of impressive annual growth rates, unemployment and under-employment remain relatively high. This doesn't mean that jobs aren't being created. With the sheer number of foreign brands entering the country and expanding their networks, banks expanding branches every year, shopping malls springing up everywhere e.t.c clearly jobs are being created. The question is whether the jobs being created are enough to meet the demand for jobs which amount to an average of 1.8 million every year. Even if jobs being created matched jobs being demanded, there is still the problem of the existing pool of millions unemployed. Thus for any meaningful impact on jobs created, the number of jobs created has to surpass significantly the jobs demanded otherwise the impact of jobs created will not be visibly felt and this will lead to the understandable suggestion that no jobs are really being created. There is a Nigerian recruitment firm called jobberman.com who we will soon be working with whose job is to publish vacancies where in only last week over 1500 jobs were advertised. And this is just those that advertise with them. How about the many informal jobs that are being created not advertised

because they are self employment etc and even formal ones that use other means to advertise. We have to understand that the international definition of a job doesn't take into consideration what kind of job or whether the salary you earn from the job is sufficient or not. A job is simply an activity you do full or part time that earns you an income. Another indicator that measures living standards and poverty is what we use to determine the suitability of the job and we should not mix one indicator with another but several indicators should be used simultaneously to give a correct snapshot.

This phenomenon of jobless growth is however not unique to Nigeria, but has become pervasive globally especially since the onset of the economic crisis back in 2008. In particular, it has also become very common in most African economies in recent years. African economies have recorded admirable GDP growth rates, but the pace of employment generation has not kept up with the growth in the economy. As I have explained in previous fora, GDP is a macroeconomic aggregate that depicts the totality of economic output within a nation's borders. While it depicts how rich a nation is, this is not necessarily the same as showing how rich the individuals in the nation are, due to the problem of unequal distribution of wealth. Similarly, growth in GDP is not necessarily synonymous with job creation. It is expected that as the economy grows, people's income rise and their demand for goods and services increase. As a result, producers increase output and employ more people so that employment increases. However, though jobs are being created, the jobs may not be enough to reduce unemployment or poverty. Or the growth may be as a result of capital or technology intensive production processes that don't employ lots of labor but still grow nonetheless. This is the challenge of non-inclusive growth, which occurs when an economy that is greatly endowed with human labour (population) actually employs more capital-intensive production processes rather than labour.

The Job Creation survey, which we have been tracking since third quarter 2012 is a direct response to this challenge. It is borne out of government's desire to confront the issue fully armed with accurate and reliable information, which is needed to proffer effective policy solutions to the problem. It is specifically designed to track the number of jobs being created, as well as the economic sectors and

activities generating this new employment. This is vital, as it enables policy makers identify the areas in which successes are being recorded, and the sectors that require policy adjustments. As indicated in the earlier presentation, it is a nationwide survey covering private establishments, households and public institutions at all levels. The results of the survey being announced today cover the second, third and fourth quarters of 2013.

The Results

The findings are categorised into Formal sector, Informal sector and Public sector jobs. Formal jobs refer to employment generated in establishments that employ 10 persons and above, or formal professional services that employ less than 10 persons. The Informal jobs are those generated by individuals or household businesses employing less than 10 or those businesses operating with little or no structures e.g. those in Agriculture and Wholesale and Retail Trade. While the Public Institutions are the Government Ministries, Departments, Agencies (MDAs), Government Parastatals, Academic and Research Institutions at Federal, State and Local government levels.

The results of the survey showed that the Nigerian economy generated 221,054 jobs in the 2nd Quarter of 2013, 245,989 jobs in the 3rd Quarter and 265,702 jobs in the 4th Quarter of 2013. A breakdown of jobs created in the 2nd quarter indicates that 80,412 jobs were created in the Formal sector, 112,567 jobs in the Informal sector and 28,075 in the Public sector. The Formal sector contributed 76,385 jobs to the total jobs generated in the 3rd Quarter of 2013, while the Informal and Public sectors generated 140,673 and 28,931 jobs respectively. In Quarter 4 2013, of the total 265,702 jobs, the formal sector contributed 101,597, while the informal and public sectors created 143,278 and 20,827 jobs respectively.

Job Creation Q2 - Q4 2013			
Sector	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013
Formal	80,412	76,385	101,597
Informal	112,567	140,673	143,278
Public	28,075	28,931	20,827
Total	221,054	245,989	265,702

The informal sector continues to lead the way in new employment generated in the economy. In the three quarters covered, the informal sector contributed over 54percent of total employment, making it the highest employer of labour in the economy. Under the formal sector, in the second quarter of 2013, it was observed that, of the 80,412 new jobs, 45,409 (56.47 per cent) were taken up by males and 35,003 (43.53 per cent) by females. The education sector recorded the highest number of 37,578 new employees followed by manufacturing with 9,000 new employees. The lowest number of 85 new employees was recorded in Administrative and Support Services Sector.

Education and Manufacturing sectors recorded the highest number of jobs created in the formal sector in the third quarter of 2013. Education generated 29,777 new employments, while manufacturing generated 13,946 new jobs. The sector that reported the lowest number of jobs created in the third quarter of 2013 was Administrative and Support Services Sector with 30 jobs. A similar trend was also recorded inQ4 2013, with Education and Manufacturing sectors contributing 76,874 and 12,337 new jobs respectively.

In the three quarters covered, employment generated were attributed to three major reasons; *Business Expansion, Seasonal Growth and New Skill Required*. These reasons for employment generation point to a thriving business environment in the country and gives further credence to the economic growth indicators. A full report with all the details of the survey, including the design, methodology and coverage will be published on our website shortly after this briefing.

Conclusion

NBS remains committed to fulfilling its mission to “generate on a continuous and sustainable basis, socio-economic statistics on all facets of development in Nigeria.” Considerable efforts and resources have been invested in ensuring that this exercise is sustained and meets standards of the highest quality and reliability.

Going forward, we look forward to working closely with private sector and civil society organizations, to see how we can further enrich this job creation exercise. In doing this, we will be

able to improve the quality and robustness of the results, while creating greater efficiencies in the process. It will also make the process much more transparent and inclusive, increasing public acceptability and ensuring that, we all play our roles in the development and growth of our nation.

It is our expectation that the findings from this survey will further deepen our understanding of the Nigerian labour market, and provide policymakers with the information necessary for evidence-based policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation. As usual, NBS remains open to providing further information and clarifications on this or any of our other statistical products.

Thank you for your attention.

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