

SPEECH BY HON. (AMB.) UKUR YATANI, EGH, CABINET SECRETARY, THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND PLANNING, DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE REPORT OF THE SURVEY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON HOUSEHOLDS:

19TH MAY 2020, NAIROBI.

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PLANNING,

DIRECTOR GENERAL, KNBS

Members of the Press,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon!

Let me take this opportunity to welcome you all to this official launch of the Report on Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households survey. The survey, whose data was collected during the month of May 2020, highlights the impact of COVID-19 on Health, Labour Market, Transport Cost and Housing Sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The Government's response to COVID-19 and its effects on the economy has taken a comprehensive and multi-pronged approach and is led by H.E. The President of the Republic of Kenya. He established a National Coordination Committee on Response to Corona Virus Pandemic (NCCRCP) which provides leadership and policy guidance on the overall response to the Pandemic. Among the working groups of the committee

is the National Economic and Business Response Working Group which leads Kenya's response to the macro and micro economic impact of COVID-19.

Ladies and Gentlemen

For targeted response and sound formulation of strategies and policies, accurate quality data is important. It is in recognition of this that the National Economic and Business Response Working Group tasked the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics to undertake a survey on Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households.

The survey, which is population-based, will be implemented in 6 waves until July 2020. The objectives of the survey include an assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on health, labour market, transport, and housing. The survey is also aimed at assessing the awareness of COVID-19 and the appropriate protective measures. The data collection for the first wave was undertaken from 2nd to 9th May 2020. The survey is being implemented using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI) approach in which the interviews are conducted through telephone.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Among the key findings of the report in the first wave of the survey include;

Economic Activity

Participation rate of the population aged 18 years and above in the seven days preceding the survey was 56.8 per cent. About two thirds (65.3%)

males were in the labour force while slightly more than half (51.2%) of the females were found to be outside the labour force in the reference period. Almost half of the respondents who were absent from work said that it was due to lockout or stay away instructions as guided by the Government and/or employers.

Transport

Overall, there has been a 51.7 per cent increase in the cost of transport. Migori County recorded the highest increase while Turkana County recorded the least at 77.2 and 24.4 per cent respectively.

Rent

The results show that 21.5 per cent of the households in Kenya, who usually pay rent on the dates agreed with landlords, were unable to pay rent for the month of April 2020. Reduced income/earnings was cited by majority (52.9%) of the households as the main reason for their inability to pay rent. Only a small proportion (8.7%) of households received waiver/relief from their landlords for the same month.

Health

Findings from the survey show that 17 per cent of the households reported having at least one member with a pre-existing medical condition. About 12.4 per cent of households reported having a member who had sought health services during the period under review.

Knowledge on Corona Virus

Almost all (99.4%) adults age 18 years and above have heard about Coronavirus. Majority of those who had heard about corona virus acquired the information through Radio and Television at 82.0 and 63.3 per cent, respectively. According to the survey, 97.2 per cent of households cited soap and water for hand washing as the main method that one can use for protection against Coronavirus.

Coping Mechanism on Learning

Nationally, more than half (57.9) of the households have members who usually attend learning institutions. Home schooling was reported as the main coping mechanism used by majority (42.8%) of the households for their members to continue with learning. Notably, 24.6 per cent of households with members who usually attend any learning institution were not using any method to continue with learning at home.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to extend my special gratitude to the management and entire staff of KNBS for their commitment in provision of reliable, comprehensive, timely and quality statistics. My Ministry will continue to offer both financial and other support required by KNBS in undertaking its activities. I would also like to offer my heartfelt gratitude to the general public for their continued cooperation in provision of data to the Government which facilitates it in formulation of policies geared towards offering quality services to the citizenry.

I also wish to recognize the technical and financial support provided by United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-women).

In Conclusion and as mentioned earlier, the survey on the Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households is being implemented in 6 waves. Data collection for the second wave will begin on Saturday, 23rd May 2019. I appeal to those who have been selected to participate in the subsequent waves of this survey to respond to all the questions when contacted via telephone.

Finally, Kenyans are urged to continue adhering to the measures that are aimed at controlling the spread of the Covid 19.

Thank you and God bless