

**Every Year UBOS celebrates the Africa Statistics Week every November. Last year the Africa Statistics week was celebrated in the week of 18<sup>th</sup> November**

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AFRICA STATISTICS WEEK 2017 .**

Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) joined other Africa National Statistical Organisations (NSOs) to celebrate the Africa Statistics Week from 13<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The annual event is intended to increase statistical awareness in the respective countries. As UBOS commemorated the 2017's Africa Statistics Week, her major Objective was to further increase public visibility, awareness and appreciation of quality statistics and their contribution to the attainment of National goals and priorities.

During the celebrations week that climaxes on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November, the Bureau engages in a number of activities. This time round we broke the status quo and incorporated many other activities other than the usual. It was therefore business unusual for the statistics week 2017. To the Statisticians, this day means a lot. It's the day that we celebrate what we do, a day that we are celebrated. Generally it's a day of loving, appreciating and devising means of making what we do better. To the users of statistics, it's a day that we get to meet the producers and providers of statistics, a day to share and better understand statistics. The theme for the 2017 Africa Statistics Week was **'Better Lives with better Economic Statistics'**.

A number of events were organised by the Bureau throughout the week. These were: the African Commission on Agriculture Statistics (AFCAS) from 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, the National Data Forum 14<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup>, a Media Workshop, celebration of the Geo-Information Systems Day (15<sup>th</sup> November 2017), Uganda Statistical Society Workshop and a Dinner (17<sup>th</sup>), Blood Donation as Corporate Social Responsibility (13<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup>). The whole week's events were crowned by the Bureau's participation in the MTN marathon where the Bureau paid for her staff to be part of the cause in fighting cancer and maternal death.

The events were spearheaded by a joint team led by UBOS staff, academic institutions and Development Partners such as UNFPA, USAID, UNWOMEN, and UNDP.

### **African Commission on Agriculture Statistics (AFCAS)**



Seated Centre in Purple is Ms.Imelda Atai Musana DED /SPD and Mr. Patrick Okello Director Agricultural and Environment Statistics with delegates for the African

The African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS) which is held every two years was part of the ASW celebrations. The 25<sup>th</sup> session of AFCAS was held in Entebbe, Uganda from 13 to 17 November 2017. It brought together Senior Statistics officials from FAO member countries in the African continent. These members are responsible for the development of agricultural statistics in their respective countries. They reviewed and exchanged ideas on the state of food and agricultural statistics in the continent and advised member countries on the development of their agricultural statistical systems within FAO's programme of Work and Budget for Africa. The theme of AFCAS 2017 was “**Agricultural statistics in the Sustainable Development Goal era: Challenges and opportunities.**”

### **Media Brief**



Mr. Godfrey Nabongo, Manager Communication and Public Relations addressing the Media during the National Data Forum.

UBOS conducted a Media workshop where different Media houses were invited and briefed on the activities of the week and urged the media houses to capture and document the proceedings of the different events. A total of 45 journalists attended the workshop. They were briefed on how to appreciate statistics and later how to report on them.

### **The High level National data Forum 2017**



Seated second Right is Ms Aida Nantaba Minister of State for Information and Communication Technology with Mr. Ben Paul Mungyereza ED and Officials who organised the National Data Forum

The Bureau also hosted the first ever **High level National data Forum** during the week's celebrations. With the theme "**Leveraging the Data Revolution for National Development**". The event that took place at Imperial Royale Hotel from 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017 attracted high level dignitaries from all sectors of the economy to interrogate the changing face of the data and the evolving data revolution. The forum brought data producers into one space and gave them an opportunity to exhibit and showcase their data technologies and how they can be exploited to influence and guide the national development process. The forum came on the foothills of the World Data Forum that was held earlier this year in Cape Town South Africa. The forum proceedings also rhymed well with the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which emphasises the adage – "*Living No one Behind*". Africa's Vision 2063 which looks to optimise the use of the continent's local resources for the local population and as well the 2050 East Africa Community Dream have a lot to '*feed and benefit*' from the emerging Data Revolution. The emerging benefits have a spill over effect to the Uganda Population and the realisation of the objectives of the National Development Plan II and Vision 2040 alike. It is therefore important to note that the Data Revolution is designed to support "transformative actions needed to respond to the demands of a complex development agenda" including the National Development Plan (NDPs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for a better, transformed and civilised society.

The forum was officially opened by the Rt. Hon Kirunda Kivejinja, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Affairs on behalf of His Excellency the President of Republic of Uganda. The four day event featured different daily sub-themes so as to give delegates an opportunity to digest and expound on the selected core areas of data. The forum opened with an Annual Gender Statistics Forum under the theme '*Increasing Demand and Use of Gender Statistics in the Data Ecosystem*'. This was officiated by Hon. Janat Mukwaya, Minister of Gender Labour and Social Development.



R-L Mr. Ben Paul Mungyereza-ED UBOS, Ms. Aida Nantaba MoS ICT, Godfrey Nabongo-MC&PR, Ms. Miranda Tabitha DCRRep UNFPA, Ms. Norah Madaya DSCS and Mr. Ivan K Mafigiri at the Launch of the Gender Monographs during the National Data Forum at Imperial Royale Hotel.

Similarly, Hon. Idah Erios Nantaba, State Minister for ICT officiated the discourse on the role of Information systems in the data ecosystem and how access to such systems of data can be broadened. In unison, the Honourable Ministers implored the delegates to come up with data solutions that respond to local development problems in a diverse and innovative manner. This in turn would help trigger a technology paradigm shift necessary to influence evidenced based decision making for effective service delivery, citizenry engagement and total societal transformation.

The forum therefore strengthened partnerships and built synergies among data producers and users and raised key pointers for a better and well-coordinated NSS to fully maximize Data Revolution benefits. It also spread its antennas into how new data players can be rallied and helped into data production and use with a view of Closing data gaps, building capacity and data literacy in 'small data' and 'big data' analytics, modernizing systems of data collection, liberating data to promote transparency and accountability and developing new targets and indicators in order to leverage and harness the efforts and benefits therein for a more collaborated and evidence-based national planning and decision making framework.

In conclusion, the Bureau in line with her mandate, shall continuously avail a well-coordinated and all-inclusive platform necessary to take forward the gains of multi-stakeholder engagements on the data revolution whilst strengthening and enabling the interactions and relationships between state, non-state and private sector actors in the data production process. The Bureau will also continue in increasing the demand and usability of official statistics for sustainable development. It is our dream therefore and with continued support from Development Partners, to have this High Level National Data Forum as an annual event. ***Together, we embrace 'Better Data for Better Lives'***

***The Uganda Statistical Society Workshop;***



300 Students from 7 Universities attending one of the

The Society brings together Statistical professionals and practitioners Students of Statistics from various academic institutions including; Kampala International University (KIU), Makerere University, Kyambogo

University, Makerere University Business School, Uganda Martyrs University, Uganda Christian University among others. Speakers at the workshop included selected delegates from the Uganda Statistical Society and the Young Statisticians Association. The participants debated on a range of topics purposed to increase awareness and appreciation of specific statistical subjects and activities within the student community as well as the public and private sectors.

## **BLOOD DONATION**



Inset are some of the people who donated blood at City square, Statistics House and Imperial Royale hotel.

UBOS is a Corporate Social Responsible Organisation and as a result every year we participate in various Corporate Social Responsibility activities such as the MTN Marathon, the Cancer run and Blood Donation. As we celebrated the Africa Statistics Week 2017. We thank all staff who donated blood to save lives. The exercise was undertaken at Constitutional Square, Statistics House and Imperial Royale Hotel where UBOS staff, Participants at the National Data Forum and the general Public donated blood to save lives. In collaboration with the Uganda Blood Transfusion Services, over 200 pints of blood were donated. This will go a long way to save many lives. This further improved the Bureau's Public relations. Blood donors were blessed with UBOS Census branded pens and copies of abridged versions of UBOS products. **World Geo-information Systems Day celebrations**

15, November, 2017 is World Geo-Information Systems Day. UBOS joined the World to commemorate this day. Uganda as part of the Africa Statistics Week held a parallel session at Imperial Royale Hotel to Mark the celebration.

The theme was “**Discovering the World through GIS**”. This event provided an international forum for users and stakeholders of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to demonstrate real-world applications that are making a difference in our society. It was attended by over 130 delegates.