



Speech for the Launch of Fieldwork for the National Household Budget Survey

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great honor and enthusiasm that I stand before you once again, this time to inaugurate the fieldwork for the National Household Budget Survey (NHBS). As stated in April, during the Launch of the Survey, this significant undertaking marks a pivotal moment in our effort to build a foundation for evidence-based policymaking, improve governance, and ensure the well-being of the people of South Sudan.

The importance of this survey cannot be overemphasized. For too long, our country has suffered from an acute lack of reliable data, hampering our ability to make informed decisions and craft policies that address the pressing needs of our citizens. The NHBS promises to close this critical gap by providing nationally representative statistics on household incomes, expenditures, and living standards. These data will illuminate the landscape of our people's everyday realities following independence and will serve as a guiding resource for shaping sound economic policies, enhancing governance, and fostering sustainable development.

As we embark on this endeavor, I want to underline the critical role of quality assurance in ensuring the integrity and reliability of the data collected. Rigorous methodology and adherence to international best practices is central to our approach. Training programs for enumerators, close supervision during fieldwork, and meticulous validation processes have been instituted. These guarantee that the findings of the NHBS are not only credible but

actionable. Every response gathered, every household visited, and every datapoint recorded carries immense weight in building the statistical profile of South Sudan's economic stature.

The survey results, if used, can significantly impact our nation. They will empower policymakers, institutions, and stakeholders to identify challenges, seize opportunities, and allocate resources where they are needed most. With the revision of the National Development Strategy, the NHBS data will play a critical role in monitoring government priorities and guiding macroeconomic plans. Moreover, with sustained stability, these statistics will strengthen confidence in South Sudan's potential, paving the way for both public and private investments.

Field work commences on Monday, July 22nd and runs through August 12th.

None of the stage we have built would be possible without the dedication and cooperation of those who have committed themselves to this mission. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the researchers whose expertise, commitment, and diligence will ensure the success of this survey. To our community leaders, your active participation and willingness to engage with our researchers are pivotal to the success of this undertaking. To the state governors and county commissioners, your leadership and facilitation have brought us to this launch. And to the wider communities, your unwavering support and cooperation form the backbone of this Survey. Together, we are shaping a brighter future for South Sudan.

As we set forth on this journey, I encourage our stakeholders to remain steadfast in their efforts and their belief in the transformative power of Statistics. Let us move forward with resolve and cooperation, for this period is not just the start of fieldwork but the beginning of a new era of transformative knowledge for a prosperous nation.

As the Director-General of the National Bureau of Statistics, I am pleased to officially launch the fieldwork phase of the National Household Budget Survey.

Thank you, and may this endeavor be a resounding success.