

Press Release: CSEA & NBS Organise Sensitization Workshop on 'Understanding New Nigerian Labour Force Statistics'



Participants at the Sensitization Workshop hosted by the Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA) in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)

In the sensitization workshop event titled "Understanding New Nigerian Labour Force Statistics," experts and other stakeholders gathered in Abuja on Monday, March 18, 2024, to deliberate on the importance and impact of Labour force statistics data for policy formulation and resource allocation, amongst others. The event was hosted by the Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA) in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

“As we convene for this one-day Sensitisation Workshop, it is our responsibility to use our understanding of labour force statistics to effect positive change in Nigeria and around the globe. - *Dr Chukwuka Onyekwena, Executive Director, at CSEA, emphasized in his welcome address that understanding the labour market dynamics allows policymakers to devise strategies to stimulate job creation, boost workforce skills, and increase productivity, resulting in inclusive growth and reduce poverty and inequality. He also noted that producing high-quality labour force statistics is a significant feat that requires robust methodologies, stringent data collection approaches, and advanced analytical tools.*

Following the welcome address, **Saheed Bakare, a Principal Statistician at the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)**, introduced National Labour Force Statistics and the Nigerian labour market. He shed light on how NBS rose to the challenge of improving labour market statistics and matching international standards to have robust data production going forward. In response to the challenges of unemployment and underemployment, **Abiola Arosanyin, an Assistant Chief Statistician at the National Bureau of Statistics**, followed by delving into critical indicators and trends **such as labour force participation, informal employment,**

employment-to-population ratio, unemployment rates, underemployment rates, and demographic breakdown to set the tone of the conversations in the

The first and second panel sessions were moderated by Nancy Illloh-Nnaji, Broadcaster and Executive Producer/Anchor of Moneyline With Nancy on Africa Independent Television (AIT). The panel comprised of the following panellists: **Prof. Adeola Adenikinju, President of the Nigerian Economic Society; and Prof. Uchechi Rex Ogbuagu, Professor of Economics at the University of Calabar, Esther Adegunle, Associate Director at New Business and Economic Growth, Dr. Yacouba Diallo, Senior Statistician at ILO Decent Work Team for West Africa and Dr. Godstime Osekhebhen Eigbiremolen, an Economist, World Bank.** Each panellist provided insightful feedback to questions ranging from addressing youth unemployment, access to quality education, how academia can merge with NBS, the challenges Nigeria will have to interpret and implement labour force statistics, how the statistics affect civil society associations in assisting to emphasize public awareness, how to utilize labour force statistics, and how the NBS captures online business owners.

The third session included in-depth presentations on the Systems Approach to Labour Market Analysis by **Dr Adedeji Adeniran, Director of Research at CSEA, A Policymaker's Dilemma by Dr Afolabi Olowokeere, Managing Director and Chief Economist at Analysts' Data Services and Resources (ADSR) and the Unraveling Unemployment by Prof. Emmanuel Nwosu, Professor at the Department of Economics, University of Nigeria.**

The following panel conversations explored the role of labour force data in Nigeria's employment generation strategies and skills development programs, the challenges government agencies face in accessing accurate statistics, and the potential for academic institutions to collaborate with policymakers to translate labour market research into actionable policy recommendations. Amongst the panellists were **Prof. Oluwakemi Okuwa, Professor of Labour and Education Economics, Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER); Mr Edmund Onwulin, Director of Planning Research and Statistics, National Directorate of Employment (NDE); Dr Olumide Taiwo, Chief Economist at Helpman Institute, Dr Ifediora Amobi, Economic Consultant, Econcepts Nigeria, and Dr John Chizea Senior Lecturer, Baze University** to questions.

The workshop welcomed a gathering of stakeholders from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), National Economic Society (NES), International Labour Organization (ILO), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the World Bank, Baze University, University of Abuja among others served its purpose of transformative data in solving complex labour challenges; the workshop offers a ray of hope and a path toward a more equitable, sustainable, and prosperous future.

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