



REMARKS BY

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DURING THE OFFICIAL CLOSING CEREMONY

DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION TRAINING

FRIDAY OCTOBER, 7 2011

STAFF CAFETERIA

Trainers,

Trainees,

All protocols observed

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon.

It is a great pleasure for me to give a few remarks at the closing ceremony of this basic statistics training. As a University, we are glad to have hosted you for two weeks on training in data collection, analysis and presentation. We also hope that you enjoyed your stay and that you got an encouraging word to a prospective student in your working community. We also hope that we have become partners with you as individuals, your institutions and your communities in setting trends in training, research and innovation.

The Basic statistics training which was launched two weeks ago has been a very great success. Over these remarkable days, we have together demonstrated the importance and use of statistics in our day to day roles. The general perception that mathematics is difficult has also been demystified by our trainers offering as many practical real life examples. We hope that the practical examples and class exercises during the training has improved your understanding of statistics by relating it to the work environment.

Data collection has been defined from the methods of collecting, editing, sampling and the tools used to collect the data. As you are now aware, once data has been collected, it has to be summarized, analyzed and interpreted to help in providing information thus enable decision making. The methods used in data analysis are dependent on how the data is collected. So if tools for data collection were chosen badly then the final interpretation would be erroneous. Summarization of the data can be either graphical or numerical. Probabilities were introduced and their probability distributions to assist in data analysis. Finally, statistical reporting was introduced to enable presentation of the data in a manner that is easily and well understood.

You were also given an opportunity to interact with a computer on a one trainee per computer basis. Knowledge and practice of use computers is an important precursor to effective handling of SPSS for data analysis. This is very crucial because when it comes to handling big data sets, computing accuracy is very important to bring out the desired result and offer reliable information that will be used in decision making. Usage of computers in data processing takes advantage of the many benefits of computing such as security, distribution using electronic mail, compact storage and retrieval, ease of making amendments and saving on resources such as paper which could be used if data collection and analysis was to be done manually.

In view of this, I would like to urge each and every one of you to go and apply the knowledge you have gained in this training in your working departments and also share the knowledge with your colleagues who did not have the privilege of attending the training. We as trainers cannot claim to have covered all that is involved in statistics but it will be very beneficial to you and your respective institutions to have the passion to learn more individually so that you will be able to implement and customize the scenarios in your places of work. If you undergo any difficulty in the implementation, please be free to contact our trainers who will be more than willing to assist and learn from you as well.

You graduate from the training as a team of sixty six (66) trainees. This is a statistically insignificant number compared to the total population of Kenya. However, your role in the collection, analysis and presentation of data and its impact in decision making means a lot to the people of Kenya and the whole world especially as we strive to accomplish our national dream under the Kenya Vision 2030.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you all for your hard work and dedication. In conclusion, I would like to thank the trainers for their hard work and excellent advice. And in particular, I would like to thank the Head of Research, Consultancy and Training in the ICT Directorate; the Chairman, Statistics and Actuarial Science (STACS) Department and the Director, Directorate of Information and Communication Technology and their teams for their personal commitment to this training.

As I award your certificates, may I declare the first batch of training officially closed.

Thank You.



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