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...and pickup trucks for cane transport has been banned, as they are often linked to illegal trade.

Cultural institutions tipped to boost data quality

BY KARIM MUYOBO

KAMPALA. The Uganda Bureau of Statistics (Ubos) is seeking closer collaboration with cultural institutions to improve the quality, accessibility and cost-effectiveness of data collection across the country.

The Ubos Executive Director, Dr Chris Mukiza, said the agency is shifting from a centralised model to a decentralised system that empowers local institutions to generate and manage their own statistics.

"The Uganda process cannot be everywhere. We are now liberalising statistics. Once people understand how to manage simple data, it can be produced better by the actual producers," Dr Mukiza said during a meeting with officials from Tooro Kingdom in Kampala on Wednesday.

He noted that much of the country's data is generated through routine administrative processes at the local level,

which, if properly harnessed, can significantly improve national planning and decision-making.

"Most activities take place at the local level, and that is where the data is generated," he said.

Under the proposed model, Ubos will sign Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with cultural institutions to support the digitisation of administrative data and improve efficiency in data handling.

"The MoU helps to modernise statistics from administrative actions. It emphasises digitisation, which brings efficiency in data production and use," Dr Mukiza said.

He added that the approach will enable local institutions to own and utilise their data, while UBOS maintains an aggregated national database.

"From the micro level, our role is to keep a central database. But local institutions will know exactly where interventions are needed because they gen-



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Dr Mukiza said working through cultural institutions is expected to improve response rates, as communities are more likely to cooperate with their traditional leaders than external enumerators.

"The response rate from members of a kingdom to their leaders is much higher. This will improve the volume, quality and cost-effectiveness of data," he said.

He added that the model will reduce operational costs, as data will be collect-

ed locally and shared digitally instead of deploying enumerators from Kampala.

"This partnership is budget-neutral. It is about producing quality statistics faster and using them more effectively," he said.

Ubos is also expanding its regional presence to support the new approach, with plans to establish offices in Busoga, Rwenzori and Teso, among other regions.

Participating institutions will set up their own statistical units, with Ubos providing technical support.

The prime minister of Tooro Kingdom, Mr Calvin Armstrong Rwomire, welcomed the initiative, saying it will support evidence-based planning within the kingdom.

"This partnership will help us conduct censuses, identify key challenges, and measure the impact of our interventions," he said.

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