IDS Conducts Largest Public Opinion Survey

The University of Nairobi’s Institute for Development Studies (IDS) made history recently after successfully conducting the largest ever public opinion survey in Kenya.

The survey was supported by a US-based nongovernmental organisation that supports and strengthens democratic institutions worldwide through citizen participation, openness and accountability in government. It involved more than 6,000 respondents across the country. Some 2,700 adult respondents from households nationwide were involved while another sample of 3,300 adult respondents in 11 counties was conducted.

The two-week survey, which was launched on 16th May 2012 by IDS Director Prof Mohamud Jama and Prof Karuti Kanyinga, Research Associate Professor, was concluded on 31st May 2012 and will inform key development policies in the country.

The study team was coordinated and led by Dr. Joseph Onjala, Senior Research Fellow at IDS. It was supported by Researchers Dr. Adams Oloo and Dr. George Michuki. The team also comprised four Project Assistants led by Ms. Mediatrix Tuju, who graduated with Master’s Degree from IDS in 2011. Other Project Assistants were Mr. Sammy Mwangi, Mr. Peter Koome (PhD candidate at IDS) and Ms. Brenda Bill. Data Manager was Mr Samuel Balongo. Unlike other surveys conducted by IDS, the historic study was monitored closely by independent spot-checkers.

The renowned American institution has supported Kenyan efforts to strengthen democratic institutions and advance democratic reforms since 1993 and has worked with several political parties to

Institute to Provide Expertise in Maiden MSME Survey

The upcoming Kenya National MSME Survey 2012 will be the first national MSME survey to be conducted in Kenya. The survey will be coordinated by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics in collaboration with the Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi, and the African Centre for Economic Growth.

IDS team in the project includes Prof. Dorothy McCormick (Team Leader), Prof. Winnie Mitullah, Dr. George Michuki and Mr. Samuel Ngigi. IDS will offer technical expertise, participate in proposal and survey instrument development, collaborate in the training of trainers and enumerators, contribute to survey report writing and the writing of a set of analytic reports on selected themes emerging from the survey.
Message from the Director

Welcome to our new-look edition of the IDS Newsletter after a long break. Despite the lull, the newsletter remains committed to informing and educating you on landmark events by the Institute staff.

Since our last publication, the Institute has made major strides in research and teaching. The successes are too immense to be adequately covered in this space. I wish to thank the IDS staff members, both academic and administrative, who have tirelessly worked hard to ensure we continue to be a leading light. IDS promises to remain faithful to its service delivery pledges, in accordance with its Service Charter published recently.

In this issue, we highlight some of the milestones in the recent past. As our lead story indicates, IDS recently successfully carried out the biggest ever public opinion survey in the country. Hot on the heels of this monumental achievement is another maiden survey on MSME.

Besides this, the Afrobarometer survey has grown in leaps and bounds in measuring social, political and economic atmosphere in the East African region. The SAFIC project investigates how and why African firms are able to be successful in changing business and institutions environment. The African Clothing and Footwear Research Network study seeks to improve understanding of the ways in which the Chinese ascendancy in the global clothing industry interacts with the continents’ clothing sector capabilities. This is a mere tip of the iceberg considering the major activities at IDS. We will remain committed to the goal of ensuring that the University of Nairobi remains the hub of academic excellence not only in the region but also worldwide.

The Institute has witnessed tremendous staff development. Several academic staff members have climbed higher rungs while several other members have come on board. A record five students are also pursuing PhD studies.

On a sadder note, the Institute lost one of its longest serving staff, Mr. Elijah Mugo, who was a driver for over 25 years. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Prof Mohamud Jama
Director, IDS

IDS Conducts Historic Survey

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strengthen their internal democratic practices so that they become more representative and accountable institutions that can advance the national reform agenda. Research has been identified as a way to encourage political parties to realise their representational responsibilities by responding to the needs and aspirations of the electorate.

According to Dr Onjala, decisions are often made by top leadership with little or no consultation with party members. The senior researcher says few parties have capacity to conduct research and analysis that would better inform their policy positions. He says formalised mechanisms to communicate between national leadership and party branches are non-existent or ineffective.

“To play a more constructive role in promoting Kenya’s long-term political and economic stability, political parties will need to strengthen their internal democratic practices, and become more representative, accountable democratic institutions,” said Dr Onjala in his research proposal.

In the recent past, IDS has partnered with several organisations to conduct national surveys. One of the most recent collaborative works is the Afrobarometer Round 5 Survey 2011. The Afrobarometer is a comparative series of public attitude surveys, covering up to 20 African countries. Based on representative national samples, the surveys assess citizen attitudes to democracy, markets, and civil society. It was completed in November 2011.

The Institute also conducted a survey on perceptions regarding changes in political environments, horizontal inequalities and identities in seven African countries. It was commissioned by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and completed in February 2011.

In a study completed in October 2011, IDS carried a nationwide survey for the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) on water and electricity.
Dr Kanyinga and Dr Atieno
Appointed Associate Profs

Two professorial appointments are some of the recent key changes in the academic staff at the Institute for Development Studies.

Dr Kanyinga Karuti and Dr Rosemary Atieno, who were Senior Research Fellows, were appointed Associate Professors in March 2011.

Prof Kanyinga

Prof Kanyinga is a PhD graduate of Roskilde University in Denmark. His dissertation in International Development Studies is titled: "The Land Question in Kenya; Struggles, Accumulation and Changing Politics in Kenya."

His research specialisation is in governance, democracy and development. He teaches Development Management Theory, Development Management Practice, Research Methods and Issues in International Development.

Prof Atieno has a PhD in Agricultural Economics from University of Giszsen, Germany. Her research topic was: "Institutional Credit Lending Policies and Efficiency of Resource Use among Small Scale Farmers in Kenya."

Her area of research is Development Economics, focusing on labour market, gender aspects of labour market participation and occupational choices, microfinance and enterprise development, as well as human development.

Prof Atieno has been a consultant for major national and international organisations and successfully coordinated major collaborative research projects within East and Southern Africa regions.

Dr Joseph Onjala and Dr Paul Kamau were appointed Senior Research Fellows while Dr George Michuki is now Research Fellow. Previously they were Research Fellows and Junior Research Fellow, respectively.

Dr Onjala, a PhD graduate of Roskilde University in Denmark, is an Environmental and Economics Researcher with special interest in development issues. His PhD dissertation was entitled: "Managing Water Scarcity in Kenya: Industrial Response to Tariffs Regulatory Enforcement."

Dr Kamau specialises in Development Economics, Entrepreneurship and Human Resource. His PhD, from the University of Nairobi, is in Development Studies. It was titled: "Upgrading and Technical Efficiency in Kenyan Garment Firms: Does Insertion in Global Value Chains Matter?"

Mr. Herbert Wamalwa, Mr Abel Oyuke, Mr Samuel Kiuru, Mr Humphrey Ringera, Ms Marilyn Omneh and Ms Carolyn Gatimu.

Mr. William Abungu was appointed the Institute’s Senior Administrative Assistant. He replaced Mr Fred Olouch, who moved to the College of Health Sciences. Prior to joining IDS, Mr Abungu worked at DALC Education.

Five Students Pursue PhD Studies

Five students are currently pursuing Doctor of Philosophy programme in Development Studies at IDS. This is the highest number of PhD candidates since the inception of the programme.

The Doctor of Philosophy students are Mr Geoffrey Njeru, Mr Peter Koome, Mr Shem Watako Ms Grace Githaiga and Ms Anne Juepner.

Eleven students are pursuing Master of Arts in Development Studies. The programme, which was launched in October 2000, targets students who desire to join the academic profession as well as policymakers and development practitioners who aspire to improve their project conception, planning and implementation skills.

Seven students were awarded the Master of Arts in Development Studies during the last graduation ceremony held on 2, December 2011. The graduates were Carolyne Wanjiiku, Joan Kariuki, David Tei, Elizabeth Wanjiiku, Julius Shoboi, Humphrey Mwirigi and Mediatrrix Awour.

During the 2010 graduation, thirteen students were awarded MA. The graduates were Evelyne Awino, Darius Getanda, Jackson Nyabicha, Faith Kagwira, Stephen Siro, Mary Mboodza and Lucy Nyambura. Others were Linda Adhiambo, Valerie Nangidi, Marilyn Omneh, Francis Odari, Vincent Odhiambo and Winfred Mutindi.

The MA in Development Studies is a fulltime regular programme that admits students every year.

Dr Michuki made history at IDS as the first student in MA programme to graduate with a PhD, which was awarded by the University of Leipzig, Germany, in July 2008. His PhD dissertation was titled: “Trapped in Subsistence? A Study of Poor Rural Livelihoods in Kenya with a Focus on Non-Agricultural Activities.”

Several project assistants were also recruited. They are Mr Samuel Ngigi,
IDS Appointed Regional Core Partner for Afrobarometer

The Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi, was elevated to serve as the Afrobarometer Network’s Core Partner (CP) in charge of East African Region.

Until the end of 2010, the Institute served as the Network’s National Partner (NP) for Kenya and was responsible for coordination of survey implementation, including recruitment and training of researchers, data collection, data management, analysis and dissemination. The Institute served as a NP for 5 years from 2005 to 2010 and successfully implemented Round 3 and 4 of the survey.

Afrobarometer research project measures social, political and economic atmosphere in Africa. It is managed by a network comprising Centre for Democratic Development (CDD), Ghana; Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy (IREEP), Benin; Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA), South Africa and IDS, University of Nairobi.

The main purpose of the survey is to produce scientifically reliable data on public opinion in sub-Saharan Africa. The data is aimed at strengthening institutional capacities for survey research, dissemination and application of research findings to development policy and practice. Round 5 surveys, which began in 2011, are funded by the Department for International Development (DFID), UK; Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA); Mo Ibrahim Foundation; and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The elevation of IDS to CP comes in the wake of the Network’s ambitious expansion programme in Round 5 in which it targets to conduct surveys in 35 African countries. This will be 15 more countries compared to the 20 covered in Round 4.

Core Partner responsibilities are guided by Prof. Winnie Mitullah, the Core Partner Project Director for the region and managed by Mr. Abel Oyuke, the Core Partner Programme Manager for the region. This team provides the intellectual leadership and management services for all AB activities in the region. It is assisted by Dr. Paul Kamau (IDS), Dr. Adams Oloo (Chairman, Department of Political Science and Public Administration and Dr. Joshua Kivuva (Political Science).

The implementation of Kenya Round 5 survey began in late 2011 and continues in 2012. Data collection was conducted between 4th and 29th November 2011 followed immediately by data management through to early January when communication activities began. There have been three dissemination workshops and the fourth is due in late July 2012.

SAFIC Project Probes African Firms’ Successes in Changing Environments

The Institute for Development Studies and four other institutions have established a four-year collaborative project to investigate how and why African firms are able to be successful in changing business and institutions environment.

The Successful African Firms and Institutional Change Project (SAFIC) is collaboration between Copenhagen Business School, Denmark, the University of Dar es Salaam, the University of Nairobi, Roskilde University and the University of Zambia.

The project runs between January 2012 and June 2016. IDS’s Prof Dorothy McCormick, a Research Professor, is the University of Nairobi’s Team Coordinator. Team members are Dr Jackson Maalu, Prof. Lotte Thomsen, Dr. Radha Upadhyaya, Dr. Paul Kamau

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Clothing and Footwear Project Under way in Seven African Countries

The African Clothing and Footwear Research Network (ACFRN) is conducting research on clothing and footwear in seven African countries. The two and a half year research project is entitled: “Adjusting to Chinese Ascendancy in the Global Clothing Industry: Dimensions, Variations, Sources and Limits of Post-MFA Stabilisation in African Clothing Exports.” The study, which is a detailed country-level analysis, is being undertaken in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Lesotho, Swaziland, Madagascar and Mauritius. It utilises the services of network members based in each country. This study aims to improve understanding of the ways in which the Chinese ascendancy in the global clothing industry interacts with the continents’ clothing sector capabilities (industrial specialisation, resources, policy, and innovation) and available trade preferences to determine the extent of Post-MFA stabilisation. The project is funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

Prof. Dorothy McCormick, a Research Professor at the Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi, is the International Coordinator while Dr. Paul Kamau is the Kenya Country Coordinator. Dr Kamau is a Senior Research Fellow at IDS. Other Country Coordinators are Prof. Tegegne Gebre Egziabher (Ethiopia), Prof. Andrew Mbwambo (Tanzania), Prof. Mike Morris (South Africa) Dr. Vinaye Anchaz (Mauritius) and Dr. Arielle N’diaye (Madagascar). The Project Assistant is Ms. Carolyne Gatimu.

The Network has engaged in a number of key activities in the recent past. Prof. McCormick, Prof. Mbwambo and, Ms. Gatimu attended this year’s African Development Bank Annual meeting in Arusha, Tanzania, from 28th May to 1st June, 2012. They made a presentation based on the findings of “Adjusting to Chinese Ascendancy” project. The theme for the 2012 annual meetings was “Africa and the Emerging Global Landscape: Challenges and Opportunities”.

Between April 24th and 27th 2012, Prof. McCormick attended an “Origin Africa” event in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and made a presentation on “Adjusting to Chinese Ascendancy in the Post-MFA Global Clothing Industry: Innovation, Technology, and Markets of African Exporters.” This event was organised by African Cotton and Textiles Industries Federation (ACTIF).

The Kenyan research team held a paper-writing workshop in Naivasha in February, 2012. The retreat saw the drafting of five papers, based on five different themes emanating from the research carried out. Prof. McCormick is doing a cross-country analysis of all the themes addressed while Dr. Kamau is writing on issues of labour availability and technical skills in the Kenyan garment industry. Dr. George Michuki is looking at the overall industrial policy in Kenya and how it affects the garment sectors competitiveness. Ms. Gatimu is looking at innovation in the same industry while Dr. Abala is doing an analysis of trade data on exports (clothing and apparel) from all ACFRN countries. The team is expected to produce journal articles from the research.

From September 2011 to February 2012, ACFRN countries held workshops to disseminate the findings of the on-going study. The discussions have continued to shape the papers and journal articles on the research.

In September 2011, Dr. Kamau and Ms. Gatimu attended an International Conference for East African Cotton, Textile and Apparel (CTA) Value Chain to Develop Competitiveness in Mombasa. The overall theme of the conference was to address the issues impacting the competitiveness of the cotton, textile and apparel value chain in Eastern Africa and exploring opportunities for trade, capacity building and investment.

Publications Editor Joins the Institute

The Institute for Development Studies has a new Publications Editor.

Mr Otuma Ongalo joined IDS in May after working for the Standard Group as Senior Editor in charge of production and quality for six years. “I’m happy to join the IDS fraternity to sample new experiences. I hope to learn and also bring in new ideas.” said the editor.

Mr Ongalo has Bachelor of Education (English and Literature) from the Moi University and Postgraduate Diploma in Mass Communication from the University of Nairobi. He previously worked as a high school teacher.
Scholars Study Paratransit Operations and Change in the Private Sector

The Institute for Development Studies is undertaking a study on the private-sector character of paratransit operations. Its overall aim is to understand how paratransit operators’ business strategies affect government’s ability to implement change in the transport sector.

The Project 14 research is led by Prof. Dorothy McCormick. Team members are Prof. Winnie Mitullah (IDS), Prof. Prof. McCormick has been collaborating with Prof. Roger Behrens (University of Cape Town) and Prof. David Mfinanga (University of Dar es Salaam) on a survey of approximately 20 experts on public transport in Africa using the Delphi technique. The survey seeks information to enable the researchers to evaluate policy approaches to upgrading and integrating paratransit in African urban public transport systems.


In December 2011, the Project 14 research team attended the ACET Partner meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, and presented the project’s progress report as well as the chapter outline for the paratransit book.

Preston Chitere (Sociology Department, UoN), Dr. Risper Orero (Kenya Methodist University), and Ms. Marilyn Ommeh (IDS).

The paratransit project is part of a larger programme that is supported by the VOLVO Research Educational Foundation (VREF) Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Studies in Public and Non-Motorised Transport housed at the University of Cape Town.

A wide range of urban transport studies are being undertaken in the three project cities of Cape Town, Dar-es-Salaam and Nairobi by teams from the University of Cape Town, University of Dar-es-Salaam and University of Nairobi.

The study is done under the auspices of The African Centre of Excellence for Studies in Public and Non-motorised Transport (ACET). Its objective is to produce and disseminate knowledge on the development and governance of public and non-motorised transport in African cities, and to serve as a hub of research and capacity building. ACET Project 14 is studying paratransit under the broad umbrella of ’Paratransit Operations and Institutions.

In July 2012, Prof McCormick, Prof Chitere, Dr Orero and Ms. Ommeh will present papers at the 31st Southern African Transport Conference in Pretoria, South Africa.

SAFIC Project Probes African Firms’ Successes

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and Mr. Wamalwa Nyukuri. Wamalwa is the Project Assistant.

The Kenya country study investigates food processing and the manufacture of food processing equipment. Under the food processing, the country study investigates horticulture products, fruit juices, grain milling, bakeries and snack foods subsectors.

The food processing equipment study will examine machinery and other equipment used by these sub-sectors together with selected items used in other types of food processing. The project combines quantitative methodology with detailed case studies in a country and sector comparative perspective in order to produce statistical and analytical generalisations. The knowledge generated will enable the development of improved theoretical understanding of African firms, private sector development and economic growth.

The main funder of the project is the DANIDA Fellowship Centre, through the Copenhagen Business School. In order to contribute to the capacity building of researches in African universities, the project supports five PhD scholars and 21 Masters students. SAFIC has awarded Mr. Wamalwa a full PhD scholarship and awarded six research grants for University of Nairobi’s Masters students. The project builds the capacity of the participating academic staff.

It also hopes to contribute to economic growth and development in Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia by informing current private sector development initiatives by utilising the strategies identified.

SAFIC held the first joint workshop in Nairobi 21 -23 February 2012. The meeting brought together IDS and collaborating partners.
T he Institute for Development Studies academic staff members have been on several scholarly missions both locally and internationally. The following are some of the selected recent events:

**Prof Winnie Mitullah**

Prof Mitullah was in South Africa on 23rd and 24th February 2012 for Expert Group Meeting on ‘Unleashing the Economic Potential of African Cities’. The Cape Town meeting was organised by UN-HABITAT and Human Sciences Research Council.

On 2nd March 2012, she was a member of a panel on New Constitution, Good Governance and the Fight against Corruption, in Nairobi. She presented a paper entitled “Implementing Devolved Government.” The panel was organised by the German supported Programme Go-Africa.


At a meeting jointly organised by University of Nairobi and the Brazilian Embassy on 20th April, 2012, she delivered a public lecture entitled ‘Women’s Rights and Gender Equality in Compared Perspectives: Response to Maria Carolina Marques.”

She was a member of Task on ‘Policies on Increasing Access and Participation in Science, Technology and Innovation of Youth, Gender Variation and Vulnerable Groups in Kenya’.

**Prof Rosemary Atieno**

Prof Atieno is currently working on a project with the International Labour Office (ILO) on “Studies on Growth with Equity.” The project covers Argentina, Bangladesh and Kenya. It aims to analyse the links between social equity and economic growth and explore how both goals can complement each other. The work started in April 2012 and is expected to be completed in October 2012, with publication of the book in mid 2013.

She contributed a chapter in the publication «Agribusiness for Africa’s Prosperity in 2011», by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). The publication is the culmination of a research project covering eight countries in Africa - Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Zambia. Prof. Atieno covered the Kenyan component. The work presents new evidence for the case for agro-industrial development and the promotion of agribusiness in Africa.

One of its key arguments is that agro-industrial development is seen as an important instrument by which to improve the economic situation of rural and urban households, of informal sector and small agribusinesses, and of rural small farmers by extending activities to off-farm production by way of creating employment, improving the diet and quality of food and enhancing urban and rural livelihood.

She contributed a chapter in *State of Kenya Population 2011*, a publication by the National Coordinating Agency for Population and Development (NCAPD). The report presents the analysis of the opportunities and challenges facing the 41 million Kenyans today using different thematic approaches. Her chapter was on Women and Girls: Empowerment and Progress. By analyzing the challenges facing the population and the opportunities at hand, this report informs the government, civil societies, individuals and the entire spectrum of stakeholders, areas where policies and development programmes should focus.

In March 2012, Prof Atieno presented a paper at the conference on African development at the Centre for the Study of African Economies, Oxford University, in the UK.

**Mr Geoffrey R. Njeru**

Mr Njeru attended Regional Policy Forum on Food Security in Eastern and Horn of Africa in Kampala, Uganda, in November last year. The forum was organised by the African Research and Resource Forum (ARRF). He presented a paper entitled “Tracking Food Security Using National Food Balance Sheets: Experiences from East Africa”.

On May 2nd and 3rd he participated at the 3rd East African Community Think Tank Network (EAC-TTN) meeting in Entebbe, Uganda. The forum was organised by ARRF and funded by the African Capacity Building Forum (ACBF).

Mr Njeru was the resource person at the Rule of Law Training Workshop for the Military in the Republic of South Sudan. It was held at the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) of the Kenya Defence Staff College, Nairobi. He presented two papers: “State Structures with Reference to South Sudan” and “Governing Cultural Diversity for Rapid Development: The Case of South Sudan,” organized by IPSTC in conjunction with UNDP.

He was a participant at a Regional Policy Forum whose theme was: “Towards an East African Monetary Union (EAMU): Challenges and Opportunities for Partner States, Lessons from the EU Experience and Prospects for the EAC.” The forum was held in Arusha, Tanzania.
Institute Mourns Long Serving Driver

One of the Institute for Development Studies long serving staff, Mr. Elijah Mugo, passed on in June after a short illness.

Mr. Mugo joined IDS on 26th May 1987 and served as a driver for 25 years. He died at the Kijabe Mission Hospital on 6th June 2012, aged 56, and was buried on 14th June at his Gathunguri home in a ceremony attended by IDS staff led by Acting Director Prof Karuti Kanyinga.

Prof Kanyinga hailed Mugo’s dedication to duty and integrity.

“We claim him as one of our own because without him, many of us would not have travelled to many places in Kenya. For about 30 years, he travelled with us in many journeys as a guide to many places. He himself transformed into a great research assistant because he would collect valuable information and give us feedback while we were in the field,” said Prof Kanyinga.

He hailed Mugo not as a vehicle driver but a light shining on the roads members of staff travelled while doing research.

Prof Winnie Mitullah recalled Mugo’s dedication. “If he knew I was going somewhere, he did his basics and informed me, including calling that he was ready for me,” she said.

Prof Dorothy McCormick said Mugo was a driver who often went beyond his call of duty. “He was our first research assistant. I recall many times, as we were conducting the informal interviews, Mugo was busy collecting valuable information from people around,” she said.

Prof Patrick Alila said the recruitment of Mugo was a major turning point in IDS’s independence and efficient management of transport, especially for rural field research. “Mugo will be immeasurably missed as a lead member of the IDS family not only at work but also in our homes, by our family members who he related to with respect, rare kindness and love,” he said.

Mugo was born in Ngewa Kwa Maiko in 1956 and was ordained as a senior pastor of East Africa Israel in 1993.

IDS to Conduct another Historic Survey

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The survey field work will be conducted from August to October 2012. The entire project, including the writing of the thematic reports, will last about one year and is expected to provide statistically valid estimate of the magnitude of the MSME Sector in Kenya and its contribution to employment in the country. The survey will also aim to measure the sector’s contribution to income and also its contribution towards understanding the nature of the jobs created in the MSME sector, the incomes generated and the sector’s overall contribution to the country’s Gross Domestic Product.

Kenya has in the recent past registered mixed economic performance with general indications of worsening poverty and unemployment. These recent economic trends pose numerous questions relating to the magnitude and contribution of the MSME sector to the Kenyan economy in the face of a substantially liberalised economy and changing economic opportunities.

These questions make it uncertain whether policies and intervention programmes drawn on the basis of what is not accurately known of the MSME are not likely to be off the mark in addressing the key constraints and realities of the sector. It is hoped that the national survey will provide a better understanding of MSMEs that can undergird a set of policies and programmes that will allow them to realise their growth potential.