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Preliminary National Accounts 2016

1. It is our pleasure to present the economic developments for 2016 according to the Preliminary National Accounts.
2. Let me first talk about the revision practices as per the compilation of the national accounts. National accounts revision are informed by updated information received from data sources as time passes.
3. Under normal circumstances, that is all things being equal, revisions in the national accounts affect the last three years. These revisions are part of international best practices.
4. In 2016, the domestic economy recorded a marginal growth rate of 0.2 percent, indicating slowing of economic activities compared to 6.1 percent recorded in 2015. The main drivers behind the slower growth in GDP was the secondary and tertiary industries.
5. The secondary industries in 2016 recorded a contraction of 10.4 percent in real value added compared to a growth of 6.9 percent in 2015.
6. The contraction in the secondary industries is due to the construction sector that recorded a decline in real value added of 29.5 percent compared to a strong growth of 27.0 percent in 2015.
7. This 29.5 percent decline in the construction sector is attributed to the drop in investment of the mining sector, registering a huge reduction of 65.3 percent in 2016 compared to a massive growth of 39.4 percent registered in 2015.

8. Construction works done by general government sector has slowed down to a growth of 6.3 percent in 2016 compared to 31.0 percent recorded in 2015.
9. The tertiary industries registered lower growth of 3.4 percent in real value added, compared to an increase of 7.4 percent recorded in 2015.
10. The slow performance in the tertiary industries is attributed to all the sectors that have slowed except for financial intermediation and private household with employed persons.
11. However, a recovery is observed in primary industries although still contracting, by recording a decline of 2.4 percent in real value added compared to 5.2 percent registered in 2015. The recovery is attributed to fishing and fish processing on board and agriculture and forestry sectors.
12. Overall, the 0.2 percent GDP growth registered in 2016, is the lowest growth when compared to the last six years. In fact, the last time we experienced a slow growth is during the world financial meltdown of 2009, when the economy registered a growth of 0.3 percent.
13. In conclusion, NSA would like to thank the data providers and to encourage others data providers to responds to our annual economic surveys which can greatly enhance the accuracy of measurement of the GDP growth of the country.



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