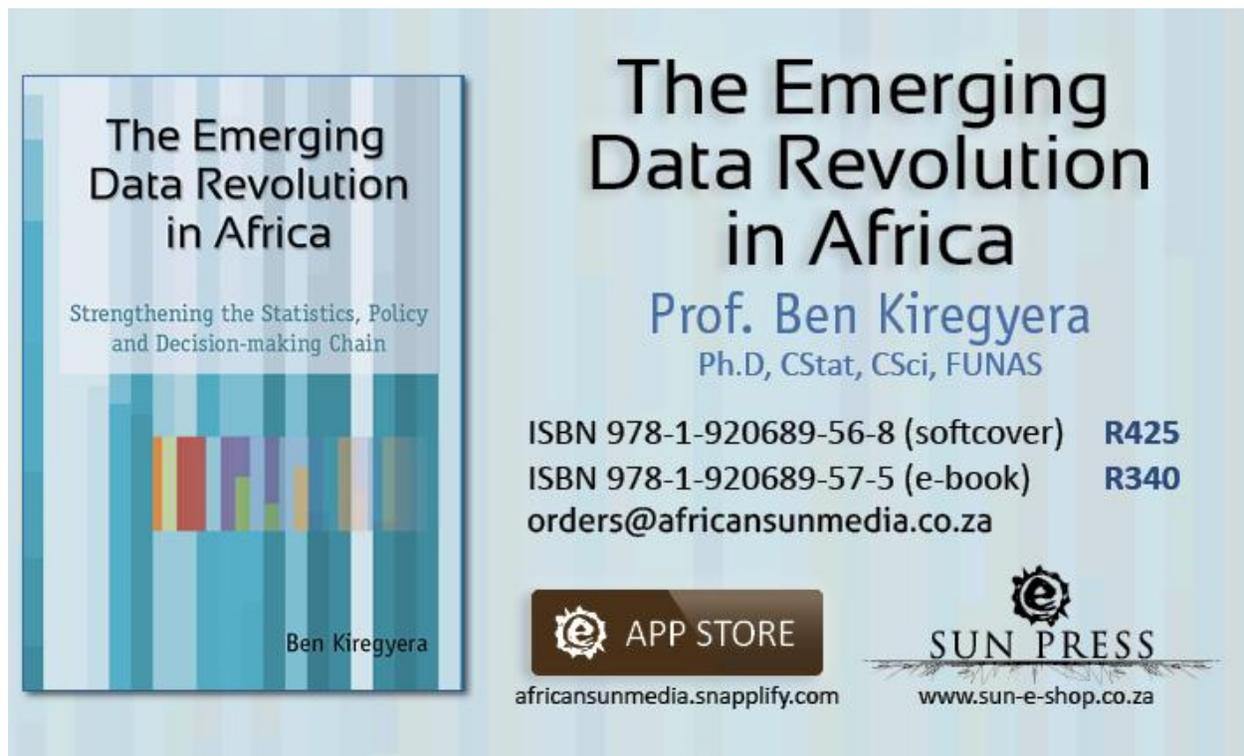


**Ben Kiregyera's Book**  
***The Emerging Data Revolution in Africa: Strengthening the  
Statistics, Policy and Decision-making Chain***

The book *The Emerging Data Revolution in Africa: Strengthening the Statistics, Policy and Decision-making Chain* by Ben Kiregyera presents a nuanced narrative about statistical development in Africa since around the time of independence. See below for a summary of the book.



The image shows a promotional graphic for the book. On the left is a thumbnail of the book cover, which features a bar chart with various colored bars (orange, red, purple, green, yellow, blue) and the title 'The Emerging Data Revolution in Africa' and subtitle 'Strengthening the Statistics, Policy and Decision-making Chain' by Ben Kiregyera. To the right of the cover, the title 'The Emerging Data Revolution in Africa' is displayed in large black font, followed by the author's name 'Prof. Ben Kiregyera' and his credentials 'Ph.D, CStat, CSci, FUNAS'. Below this, the ISBNs and prices are listed: ISBN 978-1-920689-56-8 (softcover) for R425 and ISBN 978-1-920689-57-5 (e-book) for R340. The contact email 'orders@africansunmedia.co.za' is also provided. At the bottom, there are logos for 'APP STORE' with the URL 'africansunmedia.snaplify.com' and 'SUN PRESS' with the URL 'www.sun-e-shop.co.za'.

**The Emerging  
Data Revolution  
in Africa**

**Prof. Ben Kiregyera**  
Ph.D, CStat, CSci, FUNAS

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The book was launched recently in several countries:

- In Uganda, at the 10th Africa Symposium on Statistical Development held in Kampala on 13-15 January 2015, by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of Uganda. The launch was attended by three Government Ministers, the Governor of the Central Bank and over 300 statisticians from the African Statistical Community, the international community and Managers of Civil Registration Offices in Africa.



The Prime Minister of Uganda Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda launching the book (left) with Prof. Ben Kiregyera (right)

- In Namibia, at a special event attended by official statisticians and academia in Windhoek, on 29 January 2015.
- In South Africa, at a televised media breakfast event hosted by TNA Media (Pty) Ltd., by the Minister for Planning in the Presidency. The event was organized by Statistics South Africa as part of its Data Revolution Outreach. Following the launch, the book was presented and discussed at an event hosted by the Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute, University of South Africa.

The next launch will be at a Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration in Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire (9-13 February 2015).

***The Emerging Data Revolution in Africa:  
Strengthening the Statistics, Policy and Decision-making Chain***  
**by Ben Kiregyera**

Summary

The book presents a nuanced narrative about statistical development in Africa since around the time of independence when emerging states needed statistics mainly to support their planning processes. It highlights challenges faced then, some of which have persisted, including institutional, organizational and technical challenges. These challenges manifest themselves in countries with different degrees of severity and are quite severe in post-conflict countries. Key statistical programmes to support statistical development in Africa especially in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s are presented.

The book shows that embracing management for results agenda by African countries created unprecedented demand for statistics that overstretched young and fragile National Statistical Systems but also engendered opportunities to address the above challenges. The results agenda also raised the profile of statistics in countries and at continental organizations, and led to increased investment in statistics in addition to positioning statistical systems to play a greater role in policy, planning and decision-making processes at different levels in African countries. National statistical systems have also been positioned to play a greater role in regional and continental integration processes and development by providing more reliable and harmonized statistics. The book presents various frameworks, strategies, structures and initiatives (some home grown) that have been put in place by the African statistical community especially in the last ten years to meet the above challenges and lay a firmer foundation for statistical developments in the countries and continent. The role of civil registration systems in fostering statistical development is also addressed. So too are the various roles of change agents in statistical development – national governments, statistics champions, leaders and managers, national and international statistical associations, “ubuntu” value system, inter-governmental processes, regional and continental organizations and development partners.

In short, the book presents the African statistical agenda and trajectory that is heralding into the continent a “data revolution” that is slated to change the African statistical landscape and calculus thereby leading to better development outcomes in Africa – a better Africa. It presents the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics as a framework that will power this data revolution in the continent. Other pathways for consolidating achievements made so far and for stemming possible reversals are presented. The book calls on the African statistical community to embrace change, to be more proactive in addressing user needs including new development policy areas such as gender, energy, environment and governance, and to be more creative, innovative and professional in confronting remaining statistical development challenges. Finally, the book uses recent studies and events on the ground to debunk myths about the quality and use of African development data spread in recent years by Afro-statistical pessimists. It shows that in spite of challenges faced, there have been a lot of improvements in scope, quantity, quality and use of data especially for policy, planning, decision-making, monitoring and evaluation.