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Date

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Evidence Dialogue on SME Development in Kenya

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya
October 29, 2019

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Arrival & Registration
8:30 AM - 8:40 AM	Welcome Remarks Phebeans Oriaro, Country Director - Innovations for Poverty Action
8:40 AM - 8:50 AM	Opening Remarks Henry Rithos, Director General/ Chief Executive Officer - Micro and Small Enterprise Authority
8:50 AM - 9:20 AM	Remarks Charles Wathika, Board Chairman - Micro and Small Enterprise Authority
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM	Remarks Dr. Francis O'Dwaine, PhD, Principal Secretary - State Department for Industry
9:15 AM - 9:30 AM	Keynote Address Hon. Peter Munya, MP, Cabinet Secretary - Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and Cooperatives
9:30 AM - 9:50 AM	Session 1: Access to Finance Access to finance is traditionally reported as one of the major impediments to SME growth in the developing world. Previous studies have shown how small variations in the lending process could lead to improved lending outcomes for financial institutions and entrepreneurs. The session will feature a panel discussion on some of the key learnings on the topic and discuss how recent innovations in SME lending, particularly those leveraging technological advances, show promise in expanding access to credit for a growing number of SMEs. The session will conclude with a moderated discussion on the application of these learnings in the Kenyan context and identify the directions for future work. Research Presentation by Bilal Zia, World Bank Group

IPA Co-Hosts Policy Dialogue on SME Development in Kenya

On October 29, IPA in collaboration with the Micro and Small Enterprises Authority (MSEA), a state corporation under the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Cooperatives held a one-day policy dialogue on MSME development in Kenya. The event aimed to bring together policymakers, researchers, and practitioners to discuss the key priorities, opportunities, and

challenges facing the SME sector in the country. Recognizing that the SME sector may be a catalyst to advancing economic and social development, the Kenyan government has rolled out the Big Four Agenda, under which SME will play an important role as part of the manufacturing agenda. However, rigorous evidence on what works to promote SME development is very limited, highlighting an urgent need to identify effective solutions that can steer investments to areas where they will have the most impact. This dialogue focused on: access to finance, management, and access to markets for SMEs.

Address Crowne Plaza

Hotel **City** Nairobi **Country** Kenya