

**CENTRAL BANK OF KENYA**



Remarks by

**PROF. NJUGUNA NDUNG’U, CBS  
GOVERNOR  
CENTRAL BANK OF KENYA**

at the

**CENTRAL BANK OF KENYA/ ALLIANCE FOR FINANCIAL INCLUSION  
JOINT LEARNING PROGRAM ON FINANCIAL INCLUSION**

*Kenya School of Monetary Studies (KSMS)  
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**Representatives of the Alliance for Financial Inclusion;  
Distinguished Program Participants;  
Colleagues;  
Ladies and Gentlemen:**

I am honoured to welcome you to Nairobi to participate in the Joint Learning Program on Financial Inclusion organised by the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) in collaboration with the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI). For those who have not been to Kenya, may you have memorable experiences of our exotic culture as well as fulfilling encounters of the warmth of the Kenyan people.

Let me at the outset express my gratitude to AFI for partnering with CBK to organise this forum. The Joint Learning Program provides a platform to share national experiences in expanding financial inclusion. This in turn contributes to AFI's mandate of promoting global financial inclusion.

**Ladies and Gentleman;** I look back at Kenya's journey and successful partnership with AFI with joy and gladness. Our first interaction with the Network was in 2009 when we initiated discussions and ultimately hosted a successful inaugural annual AFI Global Policy Forum in 2009. Our subsequent interaction with AFI saw the Central Bank of Kenya propelled into remarkable leadership opportunities as the:

- Chair of the AFI Steering Committee, providing overall innovative and strategic guidance on the future direction of the AFI Network, from 2009 to September 2012;
- Chair of the African Mobile-phone financial services Policy Initiative (AMPI), a regional peer-learning and exchange sub-network of AFI focusing on enhancing use of mobile-phone financial services in Africa, from February 2013 to February 2014;
- Chair of the AFI Sub-Committee on Independence established in September 2013 to develop a framework for the independence of AFI.
- Participation as a non G-20 member in the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI) launched in 2010.

One of the landmark collaborations that CBK has had with AFI was on agency banking. In October 2009, AFI facilitated a knowledge exchange to Colombia and Brazil on agency banking. CBK led the team that incorporated the National Treasury and the Kenya Bankers Association. The exchange

facilitated the fast tracking of legislative and regulatory changes needed to embed the agency banking model in Kenya. In record time, by May 2010, the model had been rolled out. To date we have 16 commercial banks and 3 microfinance banks that have engaged 33,316 agents spread across the country. These agents have moved more than 121.1 million transactions worth Kshs 717.43 billion (USD 7.1 billion) over the same period. My colleagues will in the course of the week be sharing with you our experiences so far in agency banking.

Besides the Central Bank of Kenya, the Sacco Regulatory Authority (SASRA) and Retirements Benefit Authority (RBA) have also benefited immensely from their membership and interaction with AFI. During our participatory involvement with AFI, together with yourselves and the totality of its' member institutions, we have been able to develop this incredible global knowledge-sharing Network from a funded project to an independent entity with clear priorities, direction, structures and resources to move the global agenda of financial inclusion forward.

**Ladies and Gentlemen;** in all of this, we have established that one of the key bedrock's of the AFI network is its peer learning and partnership building programs. Indeed AFI's peer learning programs are an integral part of the Network's success. The importance of peer learning and exchange cannot be underscored. It is an important mechanism to sustain active consultations on approaches and innovations to sustain action towards a certain end, in our case, financial inclusion.

It is laudable that AFI has purposefully created a framework and numerous platforms to catalyze peer learning and peer pressure exchanges. This has helped early adopters of various solutions share their lessons and experiences for others to learn from in order to grow and also avoid similar pitfalls. It is for this reason that this JLP has been, and will continue to be, an important facet of AFIs objectives. I therefore encourage you to openly share your experiences to enhance the peer-to peer learning exchanges amongst yourselves while at the JLP in Nairobi.

The discussions, however, will not be limited to AFI members. By expanding knowledge sharing and peer learning beyond the AFI network to the critical actors in the private sector, the potential and impact of financial inclusion could see exponential growth. In the recognition of the critical role of private sector,

therefore, we have also invited private sector players to engage with us in the financial inclusion dialogues during this Program.

The week promises to be interactive and informative; according us an excellent platform for peer consultations, sharing and learning on financial inclusion. I, therefore, encourage you to engage with one another and with the private sector as candidly as is possible. With those remarks, **Ladies and Gentlemen**, it is my pleasure to declare the Joint Learning Program on Financial Inclusion in Nairobi officially opened.

**Thank You.**