

9th Annual Kenya Bankers Association Banking Research Conference



CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON
FINANCIAL MARKETS AND POLICY®

CALL FOR PAPERS

Theme: Banking and Socio-Economic Development: Market Structure, Behavioural Evolution and Policy Dynamics

The Kenya Bankers Association Centre for Research on Financial Markets and Policy® invites researchers to submit proposals for papers to be presented at its 9th Annual Kenya Bankers Association Banking Research Conference. The theme for this year's Conference, scheduled for September 2020, is: *"Banking and Socio-Economic Development: Market Structure, Behavioural Evolution and Policy Dynamics"*.

The Conference will seek to put a spotlight on how the interaction between the structure of the banking industry, the behavioural evolution of economic agents seeking financing, and the underlying regulatory environment influences the finance – economic growth nexus.

The thrust of the Conference papers will be their ability to steer the conversation on the collective role of banks in socio-economic development in the context of Kenya beyond the conventional assumption that more finance is always a prerequisite for strong economic performance. This will entail the showcasing of analytical work on three areas:

- (i) Interrogating the influence of the structure of the banking industry on funds allocation and pricing behaviour. A formalised analytical work on the appropriateness of the structure of the banking industry will contribute to the current debate on the subject of market consolidation that so far has been devoid of determining how it will influence pricing behaviour and resource allocation.
- (ii) Empirically analysing the evolving expectations of the non-financial sector economic agents on the value proportion of the banking industry players – at the local, regional and international level – with a view to determining whether it meets the convenience, competitiveness and appropriateness criteria. The analytical imperative here is to test the assumption of rationality on the banking industry players as well as on the consumers of banking services.

Considering the fact that the provision of bank-like services by non-bank financial market players is an evident addition to the choices available to bank customers even when in that regard convenience supersedes competitiveness and appropriateness, the counterintuitive market expectations are worth to understand.

- (iii) Examining the policy and regulatory environment underpinning the banking industry operations with a specific focus on how it relates to market stability, credit allocation, market structure, and the strategic regulatory intention of steering the market in the direction of optimising its role in socio-economic development. With the understanding that there are no trade-offs between the pursuit of stable financial markets and sustained growth, this strand of analysis is meant to contribute to our understanding of the co-evolution of expectations of the financial market regulators and the regulated agencies in the pursuit of a deeper financial system.

The emphasis of the Conference will be on high-quality research on the theme motivated above in the context of Kenya, with a clear balance between theory and application, and policy and/or business relevance of the research findings.

An honorarium will be paid for each paper selected for the conference. Further, all conference papers will be reviewed for possible publication in the KBA Centre for Research on Financial Markets and Policy® Working Paper Series (https://www.kba.co.ke/working_paper.php).

Requirements

1. Researchers should submit a written research proposal to the KBA. All proposals should be strongly aligned to the above motivated theme of *"Banking and Socio-Economic Development: Market Structure, Behavioural Evolution and Policy Dynamics"*.

Each proposal **should not be more than five pages** and should include:

- Motivation of the study
 - Key hypotheses to be tested
 - Research methodology
2. The research area can focus on either one of the areas outline or bring out dimensions of linkages to other areas in the theme line.
 3. The proposal should include a **300 - 500** word abstract.
 4. A **brief biography of the researcher/ research team** including their professional qualifications and research experience. The biography **should not be more than two pages**.

Key Dates 2020

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| 9th April 2020 | Deadline to submit research proposal |
| 8th May 2020 | Selection of research papers and notification of authors |
| 16th July 2020 | The full research papers completed by the authors and submitted to KBA Centre for Research on Financial Markets and Policy® |
| August 2020 | Technical Review Workshop |
| September 2020 | 9th Annual KBA Banking Research Conference |

Submission

Researchers responding to this call can submit their proposals by email:

Email: research@kba.co.ke
To the Attention of: The Director, KBA Centre for Research on Financial Markets and Policy
Email Caption: Annual Research Conference 2020