



PUBLIC NOTICE ON UNLICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING ENTITIES AND PYRAMID SCHEMES

The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) and the Sacco Societies Regulatory Authority (SASRA) wish to draw the attention of members of the public to the re-emergence of unlicensed deposit-taking entities and Ponzi/pyramid schemes. Such entities entice members of the public to place money with them and promise quick and abnormally high returns on their money or acquisition of non-existent properties. CBK and SASRA advise members of the public not to place their money with such unlicensed entities.

CBK and SASRA are the sole licensing authorities for deposit-taking institutions in Kenya. In particular, CBK licenses commercial banks under the Banking Act, and microfinance banks under the Microfinance Act. SASRA licenses deposit-taking SACCOs under the SACCO Societies Act.

There are however other cooperative societies registered by the Commissioner for Cooperative Development (CCD) to mobilize savings from their members and also provide credit facilities against the collateral of such savings. These are the non-deposit-taking SACCO Societies, which are governed by the Cooperative Societies Act. However, they are not authorized to take withdrawable deposits or present themselves to the public as deposit-taking entities.

Members of the public should exercise caution and ensure they place their funds with credible and duly licensed deposit-taking institutions. The list of licensed deposit-taking financial institutions can be obtained from CBK's website www.centralbank.go.ke and SASRA's website www.sasra.go.ke.

Inquiries on the activities of all other cooperative societies or non-deposit-taking SACCOs should be directed to the office of the Commissioner for Cooperative Development or the nearest County/District Cooperative offices.

CENTRAL BANK OF KENYA SACCO SOCIETIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

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