

Governor's Closing Remarks
SIIPS in Africa 2025 Report Launch
13 November 2025, CBE Complex, Ezulwini

- Your Excellencies, our Central Bank Governors,
- AfricaNenda Foundation CEO, Dr Robert Ochola,
- CEOs of Instant Payment Systems,
- Policy makers,
- Industry experts,
- Distinguished guests,
- Media representatives,
- Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Afternoon!

APPRECIATION

1. As we draw this significant event to a close, I want to extend my gratitude to AfricaNenda and all our partners for their exceptional leadership in advancing inclusive instant payment systems across our continent. Your commitment to this cause has made our discussions rich and insightful.
2. I particularly appreciate the collaborative spirit and knowledge-sharing that has permeated throughout this event, as well as the innovative media workshop held for the first time, which has equipped our media representatives with vital knowledge about instant payment systems.

SIGNIFICANCE OF SIIPS 2025 REPORT

3. Today, we unveiled the SIIPS 2025 Report, a crucial resource for tracking progress and identifying opportunities in Africa's payment ecosystem. This report serves as a guiding light for policymakers, regulators, and industry leaders, steering us toward more inclusive, interoperable, and innovative payment systems.
4. The data-driven insights and case studies within this report are instrumental in shaping the digital financial future of our continent.

THEMES FROM THE EVENT

5. We have engaged in rich discussions and panel sessions that focused on several key themes:
 - i. Advancing the inclusivity of instant payment systems and fulfilling the promise of digital public infrastructure.
 - ii. Connecting Africa through accelerated cross-border retail payments and regulatory harmonization.
 - iii. Maximizing the value and integrity of instant payment systems, promoting government-to-person adoption, and strengthening our fraud and security frameworks.
6. I am also pleased to acknowledge the launch of the IIPS Sustainability Working Group, marking a significant step toward achieving long-term impact in our payment systems.

LESSONS AND SUCCESS FACTORS

7. As we reflect on the lessons learned from this event, three key points stand out:
 - The importance of strong governance and regulatory alignment.
 - The necessity of early stakeholder engagement and readiness.
 - The need to balance innovation with consumer protection and affordability.
8. Critical success factors for our journey ahead include:
 - Inclusive stakeholder involvement.
 - Consumer trust and protection.
 - Technological innovation and scalability.
 - Collaboration for effective risk management and public awareness.

REGIONAL INTEGRATION & CROSS-BORDER PAYMENTS

9. We cannot overlook the transformative potential of interconnected instant payment systems for enhancing intra-African trade, bolstering the competitiveness of our MSMEs, and driving economic growth. It is imperative that we adopt unified approaches, including harmonized standards, fintech passporting, and the establishment of a Pan-African Payment Services Directive.

CALL TO ACTION

10. I urge all stakeholders to leverage the insights from the SIIPS 2025 Report to help close the financial inclusion gaps, particularly for women, youth, and rural communities. Let us continue to collaborate in building an Africa where digital payments are instant, inclusive, and accessible to all. I

encourage everyone to download, read, and act on the SIIPS 2025 Report, joining the movement for payment transformation.

LOOKING FORWARD

11. As we look to the future, the immediate steps our region should take must include:
 - Expanding public awareness campaigns.
 - Strengthening our regulatory frameworks.
 - Deepening stakeholder capacity building.
 - Ensuring that mobile devices and data are affordable for all.
12. I am optimistic about Africa's digital leap and the vital role each of you plays in driving payment innovation across the continent.

CONCLUSION

13. In conclusion, I want to thank all of you, delegates, partners, and organizers for your invaluable contributions to this event. Your engagement and dedication are paramount to our collective success.
14. I invite everyone to join us at the cultural gala dinner, where we will celebrate our shared progress and partnership. Together, let us continue to shape a brighter financial future for Africa.

I Thank you all!