



MINISTRY OF CO-OPERATIVES AND MICRO,
SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSMEs)
DEVELOPMENT
State Department for Micro, Small and Medium
Enterprises (MSMEs) Development

(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025

CLARIFICATION ON CLAIMS OF "UNBORN" HUSTLER FUND BENEFICIARIES

To be eligible for the Hustler Fund, an applicant **MUST** meet the following criteria:

- a. Be a Kenyan citizen of 18 years of age and above.
- b. Have a valid Kenyan National Identification Card (ID).
- c. Have an active SIM card for at least 90 days with any Mobile Network Operator in Kenya

The Fund does not issue phone numbers to applicants but rather relies on National Identification (ID) card numbers of an applicant to ascertain eligibility. This is based on understanding that ID Cards are integrated in the mobile phone number system. Hustler fund, therefore is an opt-in service that leverages on primary data as held by our Telecommunication and Banking Partners.

The discrepancies raised by the Auditor General are primarily data reconciliation and clean up issues. The auditor relies on extracted data from our partner systems since the audit is not performed in a live environment. In the process, a few extraction data errors are bound to arise.

Notwithstanding, our telecommunication and banking partners have since queried the sampled data cited by the Auditor General and have cleared up the errors. We can confirm accurate data on the correct date of birth for the beneficiaries that were flagged out as 'underage' and 'unborn'.

The Hustler Fund personal system is fully digital, with access based on individually customized personal details. The Fund is disbursed through a successful applicant's registered mobile number, which is GIS-enabled. Therefore, it is not possible for such an omission to occur outside the normal data errors which can be queried and rectified.

SUSAN MANG'ENI, CBS
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
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