

Evidence informed policy making and Kenya's Big 4 Agenda

For Immediate Release

Nairobi, April 29 - The Chairman of the Council of Governors, HE Hon. Wycliffe Oparanya of Kakamega County; and Mr Kevit Desai, Principal Secretary in the State Department of Vocational and Technical Education (TVET) in the Ministry of Education will officially open an Africa-wide gathering on how evidence can best strengthen policy making on the continent. *Towards a Pan- African Transformation: Innovative Approaches to Evidence Uptake and Use in Africa* takes place on May 2- 3, 2019 at Movenpick Hotel and residences in Nairobi.

Organized by the Kenya-based Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR) and partners, with support from the Robert Bosch Stiftung and Hewlett foundations, the meeting brings together evidence-informed policy researchers, policy actors and government officials.

The meeting will also showcase the flagship *Utafiti Sera* program, through which PASGR has been researching and supporting solutions for the social challenges confronting key African countries such as youth employment creation and social protection in Kenya; poverty and gendered vulnerability in Uganda; affordable housing in Rwanda; integrated housing in Ethiopia; and, agriculture for inclusive growth in Nigeria.

PASGR Executive Director Prof. Tade Aina, said, "Kakamega County is using evidence to inform its policy on maternal health, Kenya's national government is using evidence to design solutions for its challenges with youth unemployment, housing and other pillars of the Big 4 agenda and so we see that by involving everyone in the production and sharing of knowledge we are able to help governments and communities infuse their policies with the values of compassion, justice and inclusivity."

We welcome media coverage of the event and interviews with select participants. Please contact the PASGR representatives below for media registration and coverage requests.

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About PASGR

PASGR is an independent, non-partisan pan-African not-for-profit organisation established in 2011. PASGR is currently engaged in more than 12 African countries and works to enhance research excellence in governance and public policy that contributes to the overall wellbeing of women and men.

PASGR's vision is 'a vibrant African social science community addressing the continent's public policy issues'. PASGR works towards the realization of its vision through partnerships with universities, research institutions, governments, policy actors, researchers and academics. PASGR establishes national, regional and international partnerships to advance research, higher education and training. It also facilitates the creation of policy to research communities as well as institutionalization of a research culture in African universities and research organizations. PASGR also coordinates a collaborative Masters of Research and Public Policy programme operating in over 12 universities across Africa.

For more information about PASGR please visit: <http://www.pasgr.org>

About Utafiti Sera

'*Utafiti Sera*' (Kiswahili for research policy) is a combination of many things that ensure and enhance policy outcomes – a process, place, forum, platform or a vehicle for transforming empirical research evidence for policy uptake. It aims to create and sustain a vibrant research policy community that frequently convenes around key policy issues in need of intervention. *Utafiti Sera* is therefore a house that brings all relevant stakeholders together including but not limited to, research organizations, think tanks, external organizations, central and local government, media, policy makers, CBO's, NGO's and interest groups. Through the *Utafiti Sera* Model, policies, stakeholders and existing research evidence around a specific issue in a specific country are mapped and synthesized, packaged it into policy briefs, video documents and newspapers and then channelled into communication platforms such as policy debate,