

## **MoKash to boost Financial Inclusion and a Cashless Economy**

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017 saw Rwanda's largest telecommunication provider MTN Rwanda partner with Commercial Bank of Africa (CBA) to launch a savings and loans product dubbed *MoKash*. The product will enable MTN Mobile Money customers save and earn interest and take short-term loans using their phones. MoKash allows MTN Mobile Money customers to borrow as much as 300,000Rwf as well as save as little as Rwf 100, while earning interest of up to 7%.

The launch of this product comes at a time when the Government of Rwanda is driving a cashless economy. In his speech, the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning Amb. Claver Gatete lauded the innovation citing that the new product is expected to boost government's efforts to transform Rwanda into a cashless economy.

"The launch of MoKash in Rwanda is in line with the government's objective of making Rwanda a cash-less transaction economy, and we are proud to play our part to this vision," Minister Gatete said.

The National Bank of Rwanda being at the center of driving the cashless economy, has been challenging bankers to innovate products and services that are well aligned to the digital era and make it easy and affordable for customers to transact. At the launch, the Vice Governor of the National Bank of Rwanda Dr. Monique Nsanzabaganwa appreciated the product and further highlighted that the product will boost financial inclusion. She however urged stakeholders to work closely with the central bank to make sure the product is a success.

"Mobile money has been a phenomenal economic driver in Rwanda, lives have been transformed by improving the speed and convenience of payments. Therefore, no doubt that this new product will greatly enhance efficiency and competitiveness of the financial sector in the country," she noted.

Whereas the Government of Rwanda's target is to increase savings to GDP ratio to 20% by 2020, the Ratio of e-payments transactions to GDP rose from 0.3% in 2011 to 16.5% in September 2016.