

**In Washington, D.C.:**

Nadine Ghannam

Phone: +1 202-473-3011

E-mail: nsghannam@ifc.org**In Nairobi:**

Lawrence Henri C. Mensah

Phone: +254-20-275-9305

E-mail: LMensah@ifc.org**Business Regulatory Reforms Improve Local Business Environment for Domestic Firms in Kenya**

Nairobi, June 26, 2012—A new report from the World Bank and IFC, finds that government-implemented business reforms in Kenya have paid off, making it easier for local entrepreneurs to start and operate a business throughout the country.

Launched today, *Doing Business in Kenya 2012*, documents business reforms in all four of the areas measured—starting a business, dealing with construction permits, registering property and enforcing contracts.

Doing Business in Kenya 2012 is the second in a series that analyses business regulations from the perspective of small and medium enterprises in 13 Kenyan cities. Results show that all 13 cities have improved business registration processes over the last two years while two cities expedited the approval of construction permits. Mombasa city made the most improvements across three out of the four areas measured. In Mombasa, due to a broad-based business-reform program, starting a business and issuance of municipal building permits are one month faster today than in 2009. Also, the opening of a specialized court in September 2011 paved the way for more efficient commercial dispute resolution.

According to the report, it is easiest to start a business in Thika; to deal with construction permits in Malaba; to register property in Mombasa; and to enforce a contract in Garissa. It is most difficult to start a business in Kisumu, to deal with construction permits in Nakuru, to register property in Isiolo, and to enforce a contract in Nairobi.

In the past two years, reform efforts by the national and local governments have reduced the average time to start a business by 22 days and the average cost by five percent. “Globally, the *Doing Business* project has shown that streamlining procedures and the cost to start a business play a key role in enabling local small and medium enterprises,” said Mierta Capaul, Lead Private Sector Development Specialist, World Bank Group. “Such reforms are important for Kenya’s future, where informality still keeps wages down and where a growing population needs a similar growth in employment opportunities.”

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