



The African Economic
Research Consortium

Report of the Executive Director, 1st Quarter of 2024/25

1 April – 30 June 2024

26 June 2024
Nairobi, Kenya





Strategic Themes: 2020-2025





The African Economic
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Quality Enhancement of Research Outputs





Testimony: High-Quality Policy-Oriented Research

AERC on “*Harnessing Human Capital Sustainable Growth and Development in Africa Demographic Dividend and Circular Movement of Skilled Labour*” at the AfDB Annual General Meetings - 30 May 2024





Testimony: High-Quality Policy-Oriented
Research

The AfDB Side Event: AERC-ODI-IDRC Policy Workshop

Theme: *Making the global
financial architecture work for
African countries*








Testimony: High-Quality Policy-Oriented Research



[China-Africa Bulletin](#)

China-Africa Economic Bulletin 2024 EDITION

THEME:
**Shaping Africa Voice on
Special Drawing Rights
Through Global Financial
Architecture Reforms:
From Allocation to Utilization**

LOCATION: Kenyatta International
Conference Center (KICC)

DATE: 30th May, 2024



Improved researchers' capability and dissemination capacity

**AERC funded
papers published
in top-tier
journals, 2023/24**

No.	Journal	No. of Papers
1.	World Development	1
2.	Journal of African Economies	13
3.	Health Economic Review	3
4.	International Journal of Health Governance	1
5.	Economic Change & Restructuring	1
6.	Review of Development Economics	5
7.	The World Economy	9
8.	World Development Perspectives	1
9.	Health Economics	1
10.	International Journal for Equity in Health	1
11.	Defence and Peace Economics	1
12.	Telecommunication Policy	1
13.	Journal of International Trade & Economic Development	1
14.	European Review of Service Economics and Management	1
15.	International Journal of Manpower	1



FCDO Performance Incentive Awards 2023/24

(submitted May 2024)

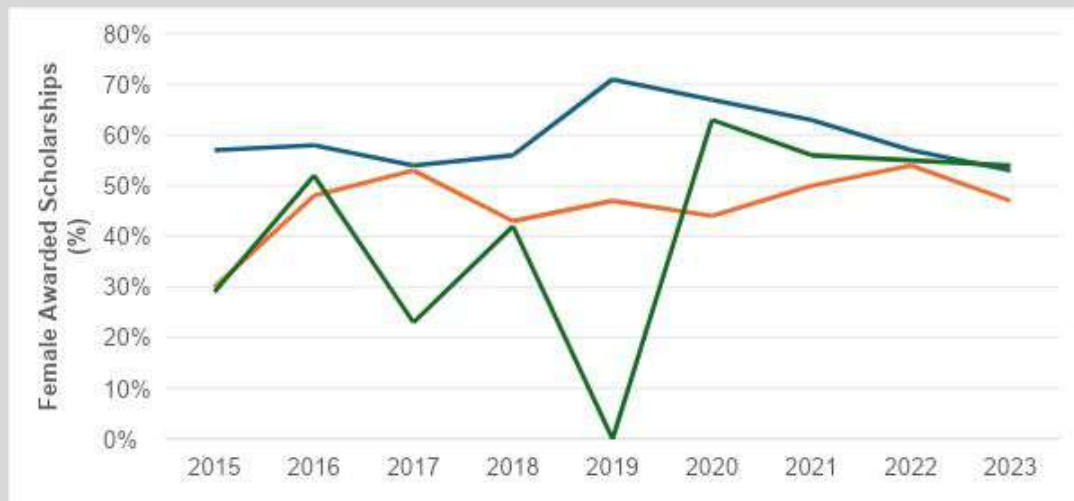
Paper Title	Author	Journal	AERC Ranking
Fiscal multipliers and structural economic characteristics: Evidence from countries in sub-Saharan Africa	Gabriel Temesgen Woldu and Szakálné Izabella Kano	<i>World Economy</i> , Volume 46, Issue 8, 2023, Pages 2335-2360, https://doi.org/10.1111/twec.13405	3*
Emigration and external imbalances in Sub-Saharan Africa: Do migrants' skills matter?	Dramane Coulibaly and Blaise Gnimassoun	<i>Journal of African Economies</i> , April 2023; https://doi.org/10.1093/jae/ejad008	2*
The cost of keeping-up with the Joneses: Relative deprivation and food spending in Cameroon	Ebenezer Lemven Wirba, Ernest Ngeh Tingum, Francis Menjo Baye	<i>Journal of International Development</i> Volume36, Issue 1, 2024, Pages 415-434. https://doi.org/10.1002/jid.3822	2*
Analysis of gender wage gap and the Nigerian labour market: New empirical evidence	John Nana Francois	<i>International Journal of Manpower</i> , 2023, https://doi.org/10.1108/IJM-11-2022-0549	2*



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Improvement of quality and delivery of graduate training





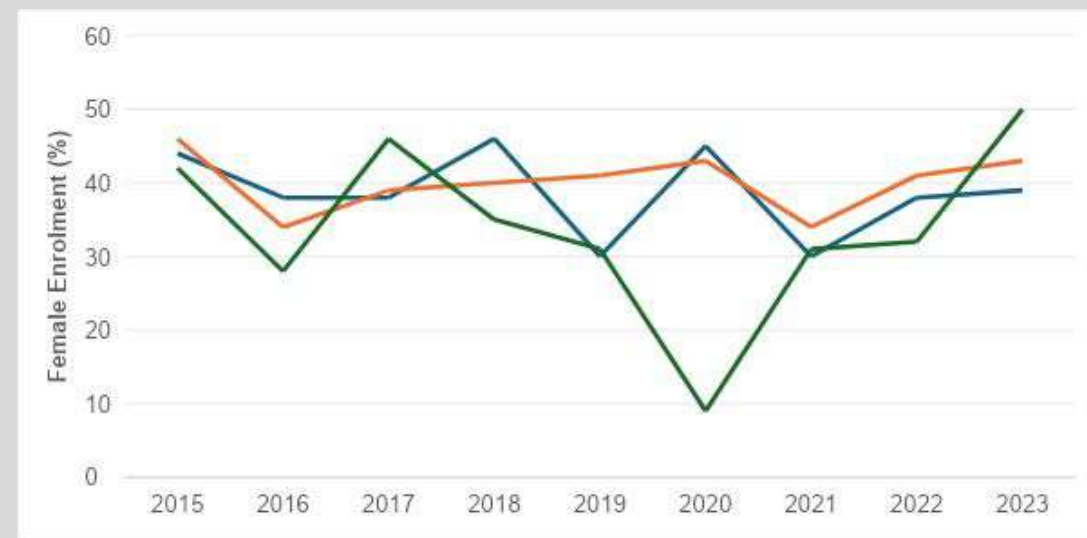
Proportion Scholarships Awarded to Female Students enrolled in CMAP, CMAAE and CPP

SUCCESS STORY

“Thank you very much for the chance AERC has offered to us. I am so grateful to the organization. We learned a lot; the training was fantastic and hospitality at the hotel was of another level. We are grateful to your team for a well-planned event. The lessons are of great impact to us as well as our community. Looking forward to implementing the knowledge acquired during the training. We are happy.”

- Catherine Mumia, Farmer, Machakos, Kenya.

- ❖ AERC has introduced Quotas in proportion of support to women students in collaborating universities. This is gradually improving the enrolment of women.



Trend Analysis of Enrolment of Female Students in CMAP-CPP JFE and CMAAE SFSE (2015-2023)

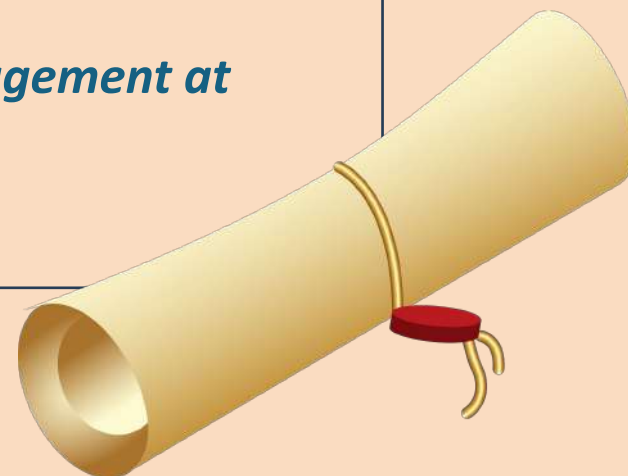


Testimony



I strongly believe that my PhD in economics supported by AERC has inculcated in me the required skills and knowledge necessary to stand out in a competitive world and achieve my goal of becoming a reputable economist and researcher.

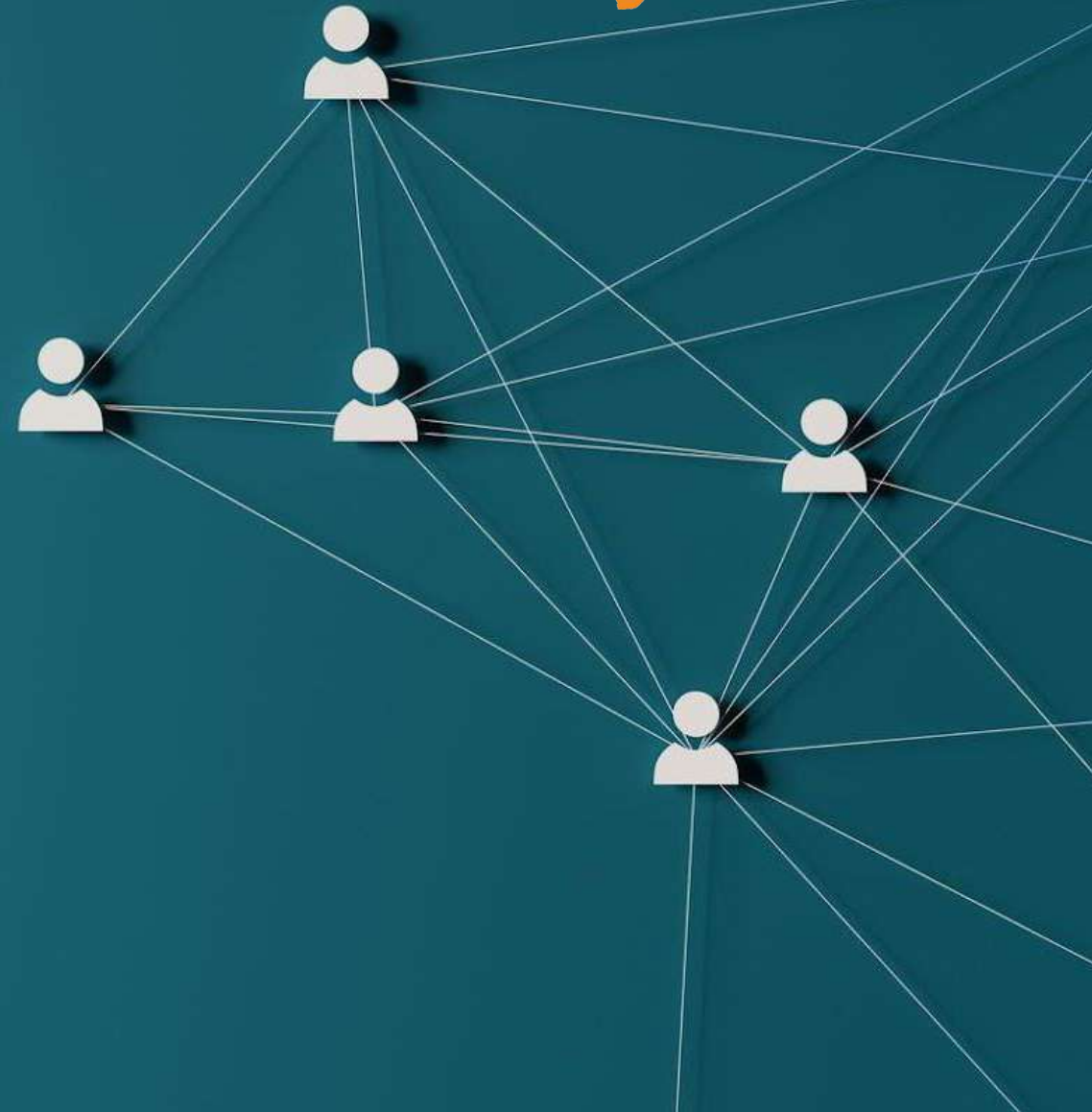
- Nouhan Traore from the Faculty of Economics and Management at the General Lansana, Conte of Sanfonia, Conakry, Guinea.





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**Networking to build
strong institutions,
diversified resource
base and inclusive
participation**





Testimony: Consolidating partnership for funding and impact

“This collaboration aligns with our mutual goals for fostering young professionals' opportunities. *AGRA's Strategy 3.0* aims to impact 28 million farmers and partnering with AERC will be vital for achieving a **locally-driven, inclusive, and sustainable transformation** of Africa's food systems. Together, our focus on **policy reform** and **capacity building** will help shape agricultural policies for the sector's growth, job creation, and prosperity in Africa.”

- Dr. Agnes Kalibata, President, AGRA





Consolidating Partnership for Funding and Impact



- Ms. Erin Tansey, IDRC Director for Sustainable Inclusive Economies courtesy call on new ED, Prof. Victor Murinde.
- Discussions focused on the ongoing projects funded by the IDRC and the possibility for future engagement with the IDRC Sustainable Inclusive Economies department.



Testimony: Consolidating partnership for funding and impact

“

It was all a product for AERC tutelage and tremendous goodwill. I am proud of my association with AERC and look forward to continuous association.

- Dr. Nazira V. Abdula, Ministry of Health, Mozambique.





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Expanding influence





Improved strategic communication capability

[60th AERC Biannual Research Workshop Plenary Session - News Feature on Kenya Broadcasting Corporation \(KBC\)](#)



Home > News > Local News > [AERC urges African governments to enhance youth skills, nurture employability, entrepreneurship via widespread Technical Vocational Education and Training – TVET provision](#)

Front human capital development to enhance youth skills, nurture employability, governments urged

By Christine Muchira | Jan 4, 2024



Dr. Madrak Njoroge, Partner Governor, Central Bank of Kenya

African governments have been urged to front human capital development to enhance youth skills to nurture employability and entrepreneurship via widespread Technical Vocational Education and Training – TVET provision.

This as well as aligning the education curriculum to embody science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) related courses in order to spur competitiveness and innovation in various sectors.

- EDITOR PICKS**
- Durban FilmMart calls for submissions from African animators
KBC Digital | November 13, 2023
 - State procures 50 wagons to bolster Medaraka Express freight service
Christine Muchira | February 6, 2024
 - Drought: Kilifi leaders urge gov't to fast-track dam project
Margaret Kalviya | June 19, 2023
 - Five ASAL Counties to benefit from Ksh19.3B World Bank water project
Bruno Mutunga/Gwen Sibaka | January 23, 2024



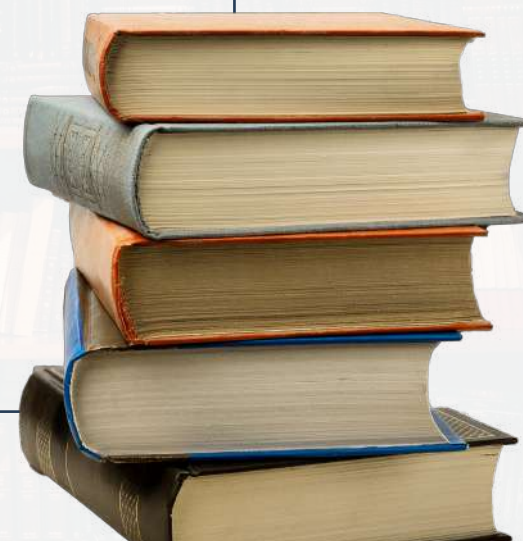


Testimony: Improved strategic communication capability

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From my two and half years' experience as an AERC sponsored student, I accessed very high-quality publications from AERC's library and have nothing to fear having gone through a thorough training in Master of Science in Agricultural and Applied economic at Egerton University in collaboration with University of Pretoria.

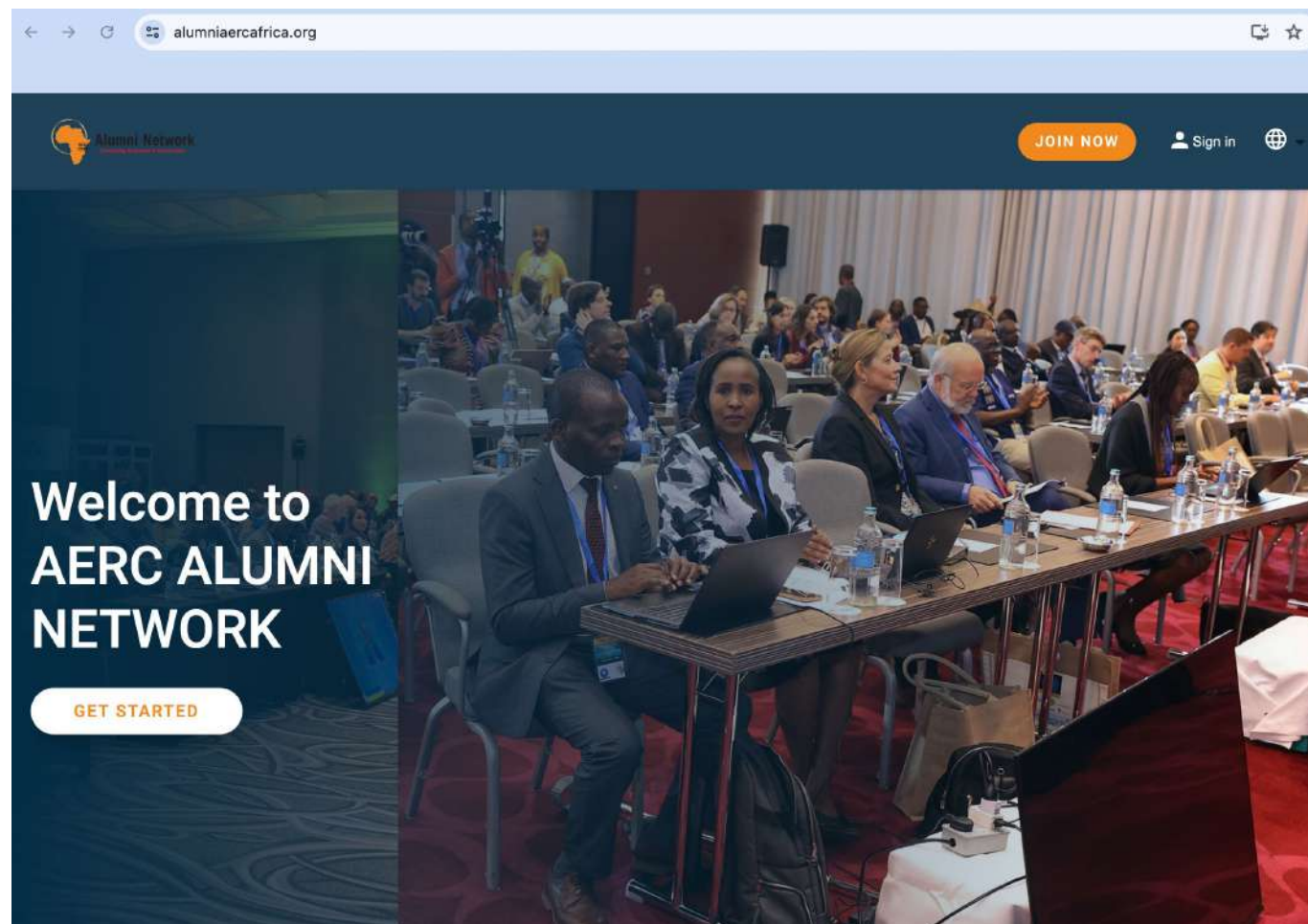
Venny K. Mayaka, CMAAE Alumni





Testimony: Improved strategic communication capability

<https://alumniaercafrica.org>



Success Stories

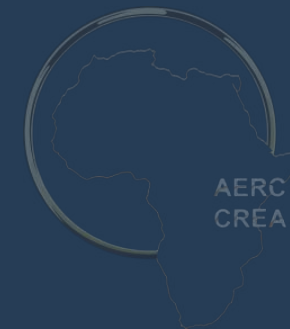


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High-Quality Policy-Oriented Research



2024/25 Finance Bill: Redesigning Tax Policies in Kenya

AERC research partnership with
the National Treasury, DANIDA,
KIPPRA & University of
Copenhagen



- Pioneer AERC PhD Students.
- The first graduates of the Collaborative PhD (CPP) programme.
- From left: Dr. Bruno Yawe, Dr. Eria Hisali and Dr. Emmanuel Aikaeli.
- AERC has supported over 500 African students under the PhD thesis grant award.
- Members of **AERC Alumni Association (AERCAA)**.





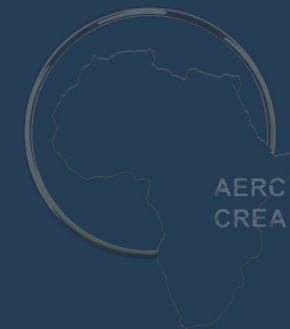
PASHFARM researchers



AERC is supporting a total of 20 research projects spread over 15 sub-Saharan African countries on rural and urban markets for nutrition with the aim of developing policies on how to incentivize Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) to offer affordable foods to low-income consumers



Thesis dissemination and farmer training workshops



Equipping farmers with knowledge and skills on farming as a business to enable the transformation of African agriculture from subsistence to a vibrant, commercialized agricultural enterprise.



Mainstreaming Gender at the AERC:

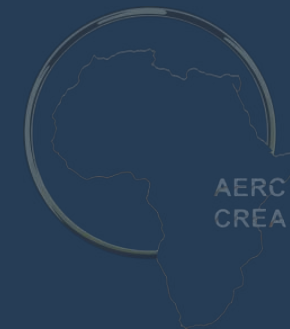


Recognizing barriers to women's access and retention of careers in economics & finance.

Creating equal opportunities for women.

Integrating women empowerment in AERC policies, planning & programmes.

AERC celebrating International Women's Day – 8 March 2024.





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Challenges and Opportunities





Challenges



- The shifting of funding priorities of funding partners towards supporting targeted research projects rather than long-term capacity building initiatives (Masters and PhD scholarship support).



- Over reliance of AERC support by several partnering universities to implement their graduate programmes. With the dwindling funding support for scholarships and low or no enrolment of privately sponsored students, several partnering universities have been unable to mount their programmes.



- Low enrolment of women in the graduate training programmes as well as integration of gender studies in

the curricula.



- Increased fatigue among students of the fully online delivery of the JFE. Budgetary constraint continues to be an impediment to the transitioning into blended learning combining online with face-to-face learning.



- The Research Management System (RMS) is dysfunctional and requires



Opportunities



- The ongoing bid for ARUA-AERC partnership has the potential of providing 100 PhD scholarships annually and reversing the challenges of low enrolments in CPP network universities.



- Using e-learning platforms, the collaborative training model can further be expanded to include partnerships with universities across the globe that offer frontier online courses within the repertoire of AERC training courses.



- Webinar series conducted in partnership in other international research institutions and universities have provided opportunities to offer methodological training on impact evaluation to a diverse range of participants globally.



- The AERC can partner with African governments for capacity building projects for economic policy analysis, akin to the Government of Kenya project.



- Projects under targeted funding support to meet administrative costs, thus providing some organizational and programme sustainability.



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In Conclusion...

The Board is hereby requested
to approve the
Report of the Executive Director
for the 1st Quarter 2024/25.
