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Political forces nexus with growth of export oriented entrepreneurship. A survey of performance of selected exporting firms in Kenya.

Abstract

Kenya's endeavor to develop an export led growth of its economic development has been ongoing for decades. It is documented in sessional Paper No. 1 of 1986 on Economic Management for Renewed Growth, Vision 2030 and more recently in its 2017 to 2022 national growth policy dubbed the Big 4. This has involved a paradigm shift in trade policy, from an inward to an outward approach that forays trade as a key contributor to economic growth target rate of 10% per year. This notwithstanding exporting firms are yet to record regional or global competitive levels that would envisaged in such policy agenda. So this research thus sought to determine the effect of the specific political and regulatory frameworks on strategic entrepreneurship of Kenya's exporting firms. It was based on an extraction of GEM model adaption by UNCTAD 2004. The study applied the survey research design to collect data from 770 export firms registered with Export Promotion Council, Kenya. The findings were that political and regulatory framework conditions of political environment; fiscal policies and inflation; rule of law, and international trade protocols ratified were significantly affecting growth of export-oriented entrepreneurship ($p=0.047$). The study therefore recommends that formulation of Kenya's national entrepreneurship policy should specifically address political and regulatory that ensure favorable environment necessary for export oriented firms for its agenda for its economic growth to become competitively export driven.

Key Words: Export oriented entrepreneurship, firm growth, political and regulatory framework, political environment; fiscal policies and inflation; rule of law, international trade protocols

Keywords

entrepreneurship. firm growth. political and regulatory framework

Primary authors: Dr OGUNDO, Joyce; Dr GITAU, Geoffrey

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