

# Investing in entrepreneurship: the future of Africa?

Presentation of 'Accesserator Magazine 2018'

Wednesday 17 April 16.30 – 19.30 pm

@ EMMA – Wijnhaven 88, The Hague

**Accesserator, a Dutch for-profit company, started investing in start-ups and scale-ups in Malawi in 2017. Through their extensive network, they locate profitable businesses and committed entrepreneurs, such as cattle farmers, a beekeeper, a smokeless-briquette maker, and a soap and detergent producer. EMMA researched this Accesserator model in Malawi and created the 'Accesserator Magazine 2018': an annual report in the critical, narrative and visual EMMA-style. On April 17<sup>th</sup>, we will present this magazine during the 'Investing in entrepreneurship' event, where Dutch and international experts on African and Malawian development will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of this modern form of 'aid'. Is it the future of Africa?**

Development aid, NGO's, government relief programs; Africa has seen it all over the last centuries. Where these types of aid were key after a long history of colonization, the tides recently seem to have changed. Countries such as Zambia, Tanzania and Kenya have seen an influx of impact investment in entrepreneurship. In Malawi, this happening is relatively new. The country ranks 4<sup>th</sup> to last in the list of poorest countries in the world (IMF). There is a missing middle of SME's and entrepreneurship is not yet widespread in the country. Recently, a handful of companies has been investing in entrepreneurs, both looking to boost the country's economy bottom-up.

## **The Accesserator model in Malawi**

Accesserator started investing in Malawi in 2017. Nowadays, it supports 13 entrepreneurs, such as a smokeless-briquette maker, a soap and detergent producer and a bee keeper. The Accesserator model focusses on ownership and responsibility, where Accesserator takes a minority interest in the businesses with Dutch investment capital. The local entrepreneur remains main shareholder and responsible for the direction of the business. Accesserator coaches and monitors. Moreover, the entrepreneur buys back all shares gradually and becomes full owner after five years.

## **Join the discussion**

EMMA and Accesserator invite you to join the discussion on '*Investing in entrepreneurship: the future of Africa?*' Experts on African and Malawian development, journalists specialized in the continent, government officials, investors and entrepreneurs will elaborate on this question in two table-discussions. The first discussion focusses on Africa broadly, the second on the Accesserator model and Malawi. Director of the Accesserator Malawi office Patrick Namakhoma will participate.

## **Accesserator Magazine 2018**

The event will close with the presentation of 'The Accesserator Magazine 2018': For this magazine, EMMA advisors Laura Sofie van der Reijden and Gijs Kist went to Malawi to see with their own eyes how the Accesserator model works and to meet the entrepreneurs.

## **Sign up**

Are you as interested in the subject as we are? Come join us on April 17<sup>th</sup> from 16:30 – 19:30 at Wijnhaven 88, The Hague. Some food and drinks will be served to keep the energy high. Sign up [here](#).

We hope to see you there!