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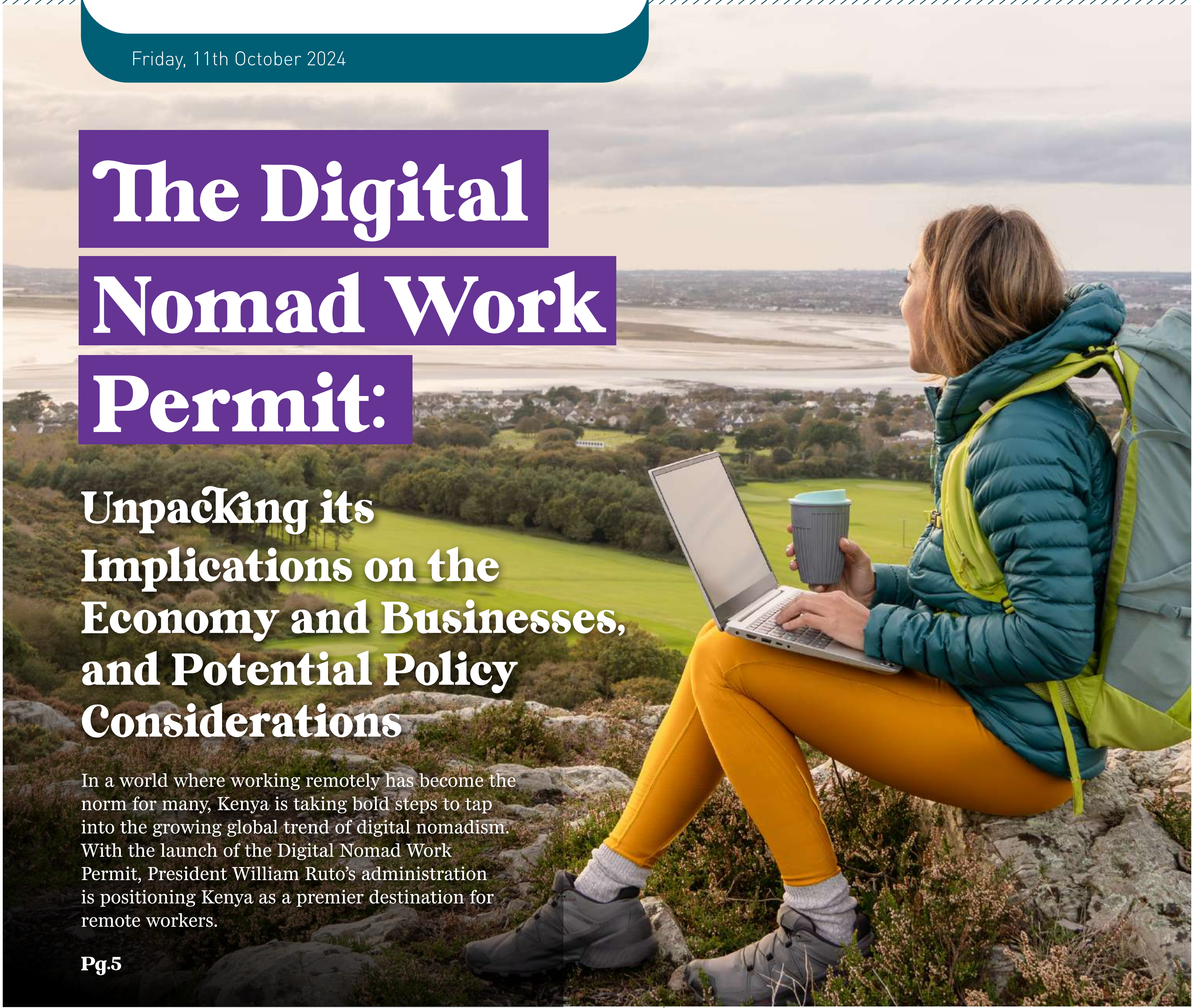

The Digital Nomad Work Permit:

Unpacking its Implications on the Economy and Businesses, and Potential Policy Considerations

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Special Features

The proposed constitutional changes and their implications for the business landscape

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Leveraging e-commerce for business growth

E-commerce, the buying and selling of goods and services online, is evolving with the fourth industrial revolution (4IR), marked by technologies like the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence(AI), Virtual Reality(VR), machine learning, and big data. These technologies enable seamless integration between the digital and physical worlds, transforming business operations and making them more resilient.

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Gachagua's troubles mark the end of equals at the top

While the impeachment proceedings against Rigathi Gachagua dominated the headlines this week, the Daily Nation ran a series of stories about the travails of others in his position.

The stellar case studies feature Dr. Josphat Karanja and Prof. George Saitoti, but Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua's eventual departure could mark the beginning of something different – the idea of the presidency as a shared position.

Both Dr. Karanja and Prof. Saitoti were spurned by President Daniel arap Moi, the former through proxies and humiliation in Parliament, and the latter directly as Moi looked to pass the baton to Uhuru Kenyatta rather than his long-serving deputy.

Moi's actions, such as leaving the vice presidency vacant for nine months, partly inspired the entrenchment in the Constitution passed in 2010 the provision that a presidential candidate name his running mate before they are elected. With the Jubilee Alliance under Uhuru Kenyatta and the Kenya Kwanza Alliance by Ruto, running mates were presented as equal partners.

But in the three full presidential terms since the promulgation of the Constitution, the idea has mostly failed, and Gachagua's ejection could mark the death of the idea of the shared presidency.

While the Jubilee Coalition had been fashioned as a co-presidency into which Kenyatta had brought The National Alliance and Ruto the United Republican Party, things would change at the start of the second term.

The back story is yet to be told fully, but Kenyatta was reported to have been unhappy with the conduct of his deputy as Ruto garnered the support he would need for a run at the presidency.

Despite heartfelt public assurances that he would never allow his deputy to be treated as he was, Gachagua has complained of the same sort of mistreatment that Ruto suffered under Kenyatta.

While Ruto's allies had feared that he would be betrayed, in the political interpretation of the word, his exclusion from Kenyatta's inner circle was at first subtle. It would go full steam in the last 18 months of Kenyatta's presidency, with Ruto bearing it all and reportedly bearing great costs as his staff were denied allowances.

Gachagua's ejection has come much quicker and with more resolve. Those he had wronged, especially in his own party, told their stories on the floor of the National Assembly and in the corridors.

> **Despite heartfelt public assurances that he would never allow his deputy to be treated as he was, Gachagua has complained of the same sort of mistreatment that Ruto suffered under Kenyatta.**

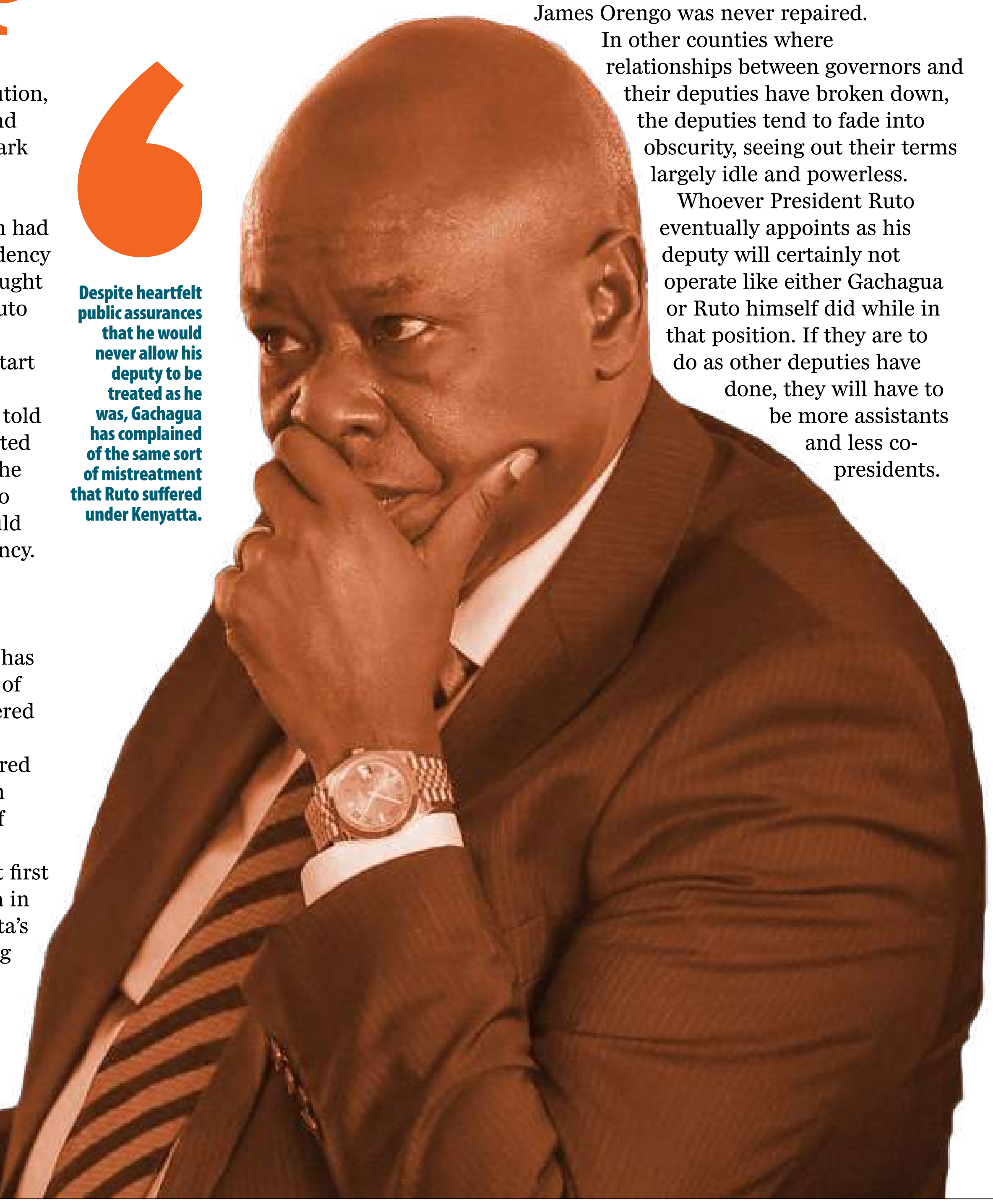
According to Members of Parliament, the Deputy President was as abrasive in person as he was in public against the then Opposition, its leader, and even the media.

President Ruto's silence on his deputy's impeachment and the ferocity with which his party leaders have gone at Gachagua suggest the process has his support. Similar disputes between deputies and their elected bosses have happened before, mostly at the county level, where the stakes have not been as high.

In Siaya, William Oduol was spared removal by the Senate, but the reality back home is that his relationship with Governor James Orengo was never repaired.

In other counties where relationships between governors and their deputies have broken down, the deputies tend to fade into obscurity, seeing out their terms largely idle and powerless.

Whoever President Ruto eventually appoints as his deputy will certainly not operate like either Gachagua or Ruto himself did while in that position. If they are to do as other deputies have done, they will have to be more assistants and less co-presidents.



The Digital Nomad Work Permit:

Unpacking its Implications on the Economy and Businesses, and Potential Policy Considerations

In a world where remote work has become the norm for many, Kenya is taking bold steps to tap into the growing global trend of digital nomadism. With the launch of the **Digital Nomad Work Permit**, President William Ruto's administration is positioning Kenya as a premier destination for remote workers. This new policy is more than just a nod to global trends; it is a strategic move aimed at economic diversification, tourism growth, and the transformation of Kenya's business landscape.

The announcement of the Digital Nomad Work Permit represents a pivotal moment for Kenya, underscoring the country's ambition to solidify itself as a regional tech and business hub. However, while the prospects seem promising, a closer look at this policy reveals both opportunities and challenges.

Digital nomadism refers to a lifestyle where individuals leverage digital technologies to work remotely, often while traveling or residing in foreign countries. With the rapid rise of internet connectivity and digital tools, professionals in fields such as software development, content creation, marketing, and consulting can now work from anywhere in the world. Countries like Portugal, Estonia, and Barbados have introduced policies to attract these mobile professionals, and Kenya is now joining this race.

> **One of the immediate benefits of attracting digital nomads to Kenya is the potential boost to tourism and the hospitality sector.**

The launch of Kenya's Digital Nomad Work Permit signals the country's desire to tap into this growing global market. By offering an official permit for remote workers, Kenya is opening its doors to a new demographic of professionals who are eager to experience a different culture, enjoy a favorable climate, and explore the beauty of the country, all while continuing their professional duties from afar.

For the economy, it has the following implications:

Boost to Tourism and Hospitality: Sectors One of the immediate benefits of attracting digital nomads to Kenya is the potential boost to tourism and the hospitality sector. Unlike traditional tourists, who may visit for a few days or weeks, digital nomads often stay for months at a time, contributing significantly to local economies. They rent apartments, frequent restaurants, use local services, and immerse themselves in the culture. This extended presence translates to a steady stream of income for local businesses. Furthermore, Kenya's rich biodiversity, stunning beaches, and vibrant cities make it an ideal destination for individuals seeking to blend work with leisure. By attracting digital nomads, Kenya can effectively extend its tourism season beyond the peak months, ensuring a more consistent flow of income for the hospitality industry throughout the year.

Promoting Local Talent and Innovation: Another critical aspect of this policy is its potential impact on Kenya's talent pool and innovation ecosystem. With the influx of digital nomads, many of whom are tech-savvy professionals, Kenya stands to benefit from knowledge transfer and collaboration. Local entrepreneurs, freelancers, and businesses can interact with these professionals, exchanging ideas, learning new skills, and forming partnerships.
This dynamic can also foster innovation and growth within Kenya's burgeoning tech ecosystem. Nairobi, known as "Silicon Savannah," is already a hub for startups and tech companies, and the presence of experienced digital professionals from around the world could further accelerate the sector's development. Additionally, the arrival of digital nomads can provide mentorship opportunities for young Kenyans, enhancing skills in areas such as digital marketing, software development, and business management. This can contribute to building a more competitive and tech-savvy workforce, aligning with Kenya's broader goals of becoming a regional tech leader.

Diversifying the Economy: Kenya's economy has traditionally relied heavily on agriculture and tourism, with recent growth in technology and services. However, the COVID-19 pandemic exposed the vulnerability of relying too much on specific sectors, particularly tourism. By attracting digital nomads, Kenya is diversifying its economic base, positioning itself as a destination not only for tourists but also for long-term, high-spending professionals. This diversification aligns with the country's broader vision of becoming a middle-income nation by 2030, as outlined in the Vision 2030 strategy. By tapping into the digital economy, Kenya can bolster its service sector, enhance its foreign exchange earnings, and reduce its reliance on traditional industries.

The influx of foreign digital professionals also presents opportunities for collaboration, outsourcing, and even hiring for Kenyan businesses. Businesses in tech, marketing, consulting, and other sectors could potentially tap into this highly skilled workforce to enhance their operations. By interacting with global talent, Kenyan businesses may find new ways to innovate and compete in the international market.

What Does This Mean for Businesses

1. Opportunities for Businesses

For Kenyan businesses, particularly in the hospitality, real estate, and services sectors, the Digital Nomad Work Permit opens up a lucrative new market. Digital nomads will need access to housing, reliable internet, co-working spaces, and other essential services. This demand presents an opportunity for businesses to tailor their offerings to meet the needs of this new demographic.

Moreover, businesses that can offer digital-friendly services such as cafes with high-speed Wi-Fi, mobile payment solutions, and secure workspaces are likely to thrive in this new environment. The opportunity for growth is not limited to Nairobi or Mombasa; even smaller towns and regions with attractive climates or scenic beauty can market themselves as ideal destinations for remote workers.

Additionally, the influx of foreign digital professionals also presents opportunities for collaboration, outsourcing, and even hiring for Kenyan businesses. Businesses in tech, marketing, consulting, and other sectors could potentially tap into this highly skilled workforce to enhance their operations. By interacting with global talent, Kenyan businesses may find new ways to innovate and compete in the international market.

This can be particularly beneficial for startups that are looking to scale. The presence of digital nomads who often come from developed countries with mature startup ecosystems can provide valuable insights, mentorship, and access to global networks that could help Kenyan startups grow and thrive.

2. Challenges for Businesses

The above notwithstanding, the introduction of the Digital Nomad Work permit also presents some challenges that businesses must navigate. One major concern is the competition for resources. As digital nomads flood into popular areas like Nairobi or Diani, there may be increased demand for housing, driving up prices and potentially displacing locals. Businesses will need to balance catering to this new demographic while ensuring they do not alienate their existing local customers.

Moreover, the success of this policy hinges on the government's ability to provide the necessary infrastructure to support digital nomads. Reliable internet, security, and affordable housing are all critical factors that will determine whether Kenya can truly become a hub for remote workers. Without adequate infrastructure, businesses may struggle to attract and retain this new demographic.

Policy Considerations and Long-Term Vision

To maximize the benefits of the Digital Nomad Work Permit, Kenya must adopt a holistic approach to policy development. The government should work closely with the private sector to ensure that the necessary infrastructure, particularly in terms of internet connectivity, security, and transportation, is in place to support digital nomads.

Additionally, Kenya will need to address issues related to taxation and regulatory frameworks. Digital nomads are often short-term residents who earn income from foreign sources. Clear guidelines on taxation, visa renewals, and labor laws will be essential to ensure that both the nomads and local businesses understand their rights and responsibilities.

Finally, the success of this policy will depend on Kenya's ability to market itself effectively to the global digital nomad community. This requires not only promoting Kenya's natural beauty and tourist attractions but also highlighting the country's growing tech ecosystem, affordable living conditions, and welcoming culture.

Conclusion

Kenya's Digital Nomad Work Permit is a forward-thinking policy that has the potential to significantly boost the country's economy and business environment. By attracting remote workers, Kenya can diversify its economic base, strengthen its tech ecosystem, and create new opportunities for local businesses.

However, to fully realize these benefits, the government and private sector must work together to address the challenges that come with this new policy. With the right infrastructure, regulatory frameworks, and marketing strategies in place, Kenya can position itself as a leading destination for digital nomads and a hub for innovation in Africa.

Consumer protection:

Insights from the Competition Authority of Kenya decision

Mogo Auto Limited, an asset financing company, was fined about Ksh 10.8 million and ordered to refund Ksh 340,000 to three customers by the Competition Authority of Kenya (CAK) last Friday. The violation? Engaging in false and misleading representations and unconscionable conduct toward its customers.

While this is a recent decision, it reflects ongoing consumer complaints about loan overcharging, particularly in car financing. In 2019, CAK also fined Harambee Sacco Society Ksh 38.4 million for similar misconduct.

This raises the question: *What legally constitutes false misrepresentation and unconscionable conduct?*

Section 55(b)(i) of the Competition Act, 2010 states that it is an offence for any person, including a corporate body, to supply goods or services, or promote them, while providing false or misleading information.

This includes misleading information regarding the price of goods or services, the availability of repair facilities or spare parts, the place of origin of goods, the necessity of any goods or services or the existence or removal of any warranty or solution.

Whether a representation is considered false or misleading will depend on the circumstances of each case, and what misleads one group of consumers may not necessarily mislead others.

In Mogo's case, the authority found that in all four complaints, the company disbursed loans in KES but calculated the interest in USD despite the facility being issued in KES. This led to overpayments by borrowers due to fluctuating exchange rates. The authority deemed this a misrepresentation regarding the price of services, in this case, the loan facility and proceeded to penalise the financier.

Unconscionable conduct, on the other hand, is described under Section 56 of the Competition Act 2010 as occurring when a person engages in actions that are not only unfair but also shockingly unjust or immoral. Such behaviour goes beyond simple unfairness. It means conduct that is excessively one-sided, exploitative, or unethical to the point of violating good conscience.

Under sections 56(2) and 57(2) of the Act, the CAK considers several factors when determining if the conduct is 'unconscionable.' These include the imbalance of bargaining power between the parties, the imposition of unnecessary conditions, the consumer's ability to understand related documents, the use of undue pressure or unfair tactics and whether the consumer could have obtained similar goods or services from another supplier at a different price or condition.

In Mogo's case, two complaints centred on the company altering loan agreements by changing the interest calculation from a flat rate to a reducing balance without the borrowers' knowledge or consent. The imposition of unilateral charges and fees, which were not disclosed to consumers prior to providing the services, was deemed unconscionable. This undisclosed alteration of terms, especially regarding interest calculations, was a key factor in the findings of unfair conduct in both complaints.

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Penalties

The regulatory body has the authority to impose fines of up to 10 per cent of a business's gross annual turnover from the previous year, which represents the maximum penalty allowed under the Act. However, the Consolidated Competition Administration Remedies and Settlement Guidelines provide room for the CAK to adjust penalties based on the presence of specific mitigating or aggravating factors in each case.

Aggravating factors that could increase the penalty include:

- **Nature of the violation:** Some violations carry heavier penalties than others. For instance, delays in payment may attract higher fines than refusal to accept or return goods.
- **Duration of misconduct:** The longer the unlawful conduct persists, the more likely it is to cause irreparable harm to consumers, resulting in higher penalties.
- **Public interest:** If the case has wider implications beyond the specific parties involved, affecting public interest, it may lead to a harsher penalty.
- **Recidivism:** Repeated violations or a history of similar offences can increase the penalty by at least 3 per cent.
- **Coercion or retaliation:** If the accused coerced or retaliated against other parties to continue the violation despite protests, this will aggravate the penalty.
- **Non-cooperation:** Refusing to cooperate with the CAK during investigations, such as ignoring communications or failing to provide required evidence, can result in an additional 1 percent penalty.

Mitigating factors which can reduce the penalty include:

- **Cooperation with the CAK:** Actively assisting the investigation can result in a lower fine.
- **First-time offender:** If the offender has no history of prior violations, penalties may be reduced.
- **Inadvertent breach:** If the violation was unintentional, this may also lessen the penalty.

Conclusion

The Competition Authority's decision serves as a critical reminder for businesses to prepare for increased scrutiny from regulatory bodies like the Competition Authority of Kenya (CAK). Organisations should clearly communicate their terms and conditions, especially concerning pricing and interest rates. The potential for fines reaching up to 10 percent of annual turnover underscores the significant financial consequences of non-compliance.

The proposed constitutional changes and their implications for the business landscape

If passed into law, the Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, 2024, is set to significantly alter the political landscape and impact the operating environment for private sector businesses in Kenya. The Bill, first read in the Senate in September and subsequently referred to the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee for consideration, proposes sweeping changes to Kenya's governance structure and fiscal arrangements.

At the heart of the proposed amendments is an increase in county revenue allocation from 15% to 40% of national revenue. The national government, facing a substantial reduction in its available funds, would need to find ways to maintain its essential services and obligations. This could potentially lead to the introduction of new taxes or the increase of existing ones to bridge the revenue gap. The proposed legislation's most immediate impact on the private sector would likely be felt in the realm of taxation. Businesses might face adjusted tax structures as both national and county governments seek to maintain their operational capabilities. This means a more complex tax compliance environment. On the plus side, an increase in resources for country governments could potentially have a positive ripple effect on businesses. The increased funding to county governments could translate into improved local infrastructure and other facilities that directly impact business operations if the funds are utilised efficiently. Local businesses could see increased opportunities for government contracts at the county level in the face of such a change.

The Bill's introduction of a Prime Minister position adds another layer to Kenya's governance structure, potentially creating new channels for business-government stakeholder relations. This structural change, coupled with the proposed extension of electoral terms from five to seven years for the President, Members of Parliament, and County Governors, could result in extended periods of policy continuity. For the business community, extended terms pose a double-edged sword. While this would mean a more stable policy environment allowing for confident long-term investment decisions and strategic plans, the private sector runs the risk of extended periods of unfavourable policies. Further, with leaders staying in power for seven years, companies might want to invest more resources in building sustainable relationships with government authorities and adapting their operations to align with longer-term policy directions.

The Bill is still in its early stages and must navigate several challenges before it can become law. Currently, it is under public scrutiny, with the National Assembly inviting submissions by Friday, October 25, 2024, and a public hearing scheduled for the same day. Adding to the uncertainty about the Bill's future, the ruling United Democratic Alliance (UDA) party has publicly distanced itself from these proposed amendments. The party has described the Bill, introduced by Senator Samson Cherarkei, as a "sensational distraction" and "legislative mischief," raising reasonable doubt about its prospects for success in Parliament.

The proposed constitutional amendments could represent a significant turning point for Kenya. While extending electoral terms might offer more stability by allowing leaders more time to implement their

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policies, it raises important questions about democratic oversight. This is particularly relevant in a context where some leaders have faced criticism for their effectiveness. It is noteworthy that this proposal comes from an MP within the ruling party, which has been grappling with civil unrest over governance issues. This raises concerns about the motivations behind such changes. It is also worth noting that the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) has distanced itself from this proposal, reflecting a commitment to maintaining democratic principles. Kenya has made considerable strides in building a democracy that benefits its citizens and tampering with the mechanisms that ensure accountability could hinder progress. The experiences of our neighbouring countries serve as a reminder of the potential consequences of weakening democratic institutions.

Supporters of the change may argue that it will lead to greater political stability, more time for policy implementation, and long-term planning. Critics, on the other hand, may warn that it risks undermining democracy by reducing accountability and allowing for the entrenchment of political elites. It is a moment that could set a precedent for how power is distributed and exercised in the future. Decisions made in this period will have lasting implications for the nature of governance and the democratic fabric of the nation. The extended electoral terms could either bolster long-term policy-making or weaken the accountability mechanisms that are crucial for a healthy democracy. Either way, it is clear that this is a pivotal moment in Kenya's political evolution.

Legal decision-making and the responsible use of AI in Africa:

UNESCO issues guidelines

Court systems tend to have a backlog of documentation as the gathering of information and evidence is an integral part of the judicial process. Taking down witness statements, logging evidence and the requirement to submit documents throughout a court case in the form of submissions from both parties can lead to a lengthy process delaying the serving of justice. Due to this, judicial systems, particularly those in Africa, have been digitising their court systems and have been quick to embrace Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools such as ChatGPT to hasten the work of judges and magistrates in dispensing justice.

This adoption and transition, while admirable, comes with certain pitfalls that led UNESCO in 2023 to survey judicial operators in Africa to find out how AI tools were being used on the African continent in judicial spaces. The survey revealed that there are many gaps, especially in the training of these operators, which could compromise human rights, dispensation of justice and rule of law. There needs to be standardisation across the board in the deployment of AI tools so that these key elements of justice are upheld. UNESCO, therefore, developed guidelines to this effect that ensure the integrity of the judicial system is still maintained while reaping the benefits of AI.

The Guidelines for the Use of AI Systems by Courts and Tribunals outline the 13 important principles that should be followed, key of which is the protection of human rights by upholding fairness, non-discrimination, procedural fairness, and data protection. This means that AI should not reinforce bias and discrimination. It should not interfere with a fair legal process or expose sensitive information. The principles also touch on informed use, transparent use of AI and, most importantly, human oversight. The development of such systems should involve multiple stakeholders to ensure ample input from those who will be affected by using AI in the judicial system.

After discussing the key principles, the guidelines delve into the adoption of Generative AI in court systems. It is important to carry out an impact assessment before adoption and consulting. National and international laws should be followed in the development of the systems.

Cybersecurity and other internal norms should be taken into consideration when developing these systems. Judges and AI-generated documents and evidence should be marked as such for transparency. AI should not be used to generate fake evidence, and binding decisions should not be made using AI without human input.

While all these guidelines are important, various questions arise and that is why UNESCO shared the guidelines for submission of input from the public in September this year. Key amongst these issues is how to determine fake evidence from genuine evidence, given that deep fakes have been used in other situations very convincingly. Ongoing Training of staff, including judicial officers, and reporting of emerging issues is a crucial aspect of the use of these systems. So far in Africa, AI has been used for transcription services, but other more important uses exist, such as language translation.

But the disturbing aspect appears to be risk management, which can analyse the risk of granting someone bail and criminal sentencing, and predictive analysis, which reviews past rulings and case details and helps lawyers assess the chances of the case being won or lost. If used wrongly by judicial officers, unfair judgements can be issued; hence, there is a need to eliminate bias, and it is important that judicial users are aware of these problems.

The digital rollout of AI in Africa may take some time as countries continue to digitise their systems but AI use is already prevalent since Chat GPT can be used by operators even when not embedded into the court system. Without addressing these risks, a miscarriage of justice is likely to ensue. So, training does not even have to wait for court systems to be embedded with AI. Ethical training must begin now.

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Leveraging e-commerce for business growth

E-commerce, the buying and selling of goods and services online, is evolving with the fourth industrial revolution (4IR), marked by technologies like the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence(AI), Virtual Reality(VR), machine learning, and big data. These technologies enable seamless integration between the digital and physical worlds, transforming business operations and making them more resilient. To remain competitive, e-commerce players must forecast mid- and long-term trends.

While e-commerce in Kenya is still in its early stages, the potential is immense. Mobile commerce, driven by the increasing internet access among Kenyans, is the primary force. The data from the Kenya population and housing census (2019) reveals that 40.6% of Kenyans had internet access, with the majority using their phones.

Over the past years, the value of mobile commerce transactions has seen a significant rise, growing from Kshs 1.7 trillion in 2016 to Kshs 9.3 trillion in 2020 (KIPPRA, 2021). According to Statista (2024), a German data and business intelligence organisation, Kenya ranks third in e-commerce market penetration in Africa at 46.7%. Egypt leads at 55.4%, followed by South Africa at 49.4%. This marks an improvement from Kenya's previous fourth position as ranked by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in 2020.

In Kenya, electronics and media products hold the largest share of the e-commerce segment at 41%, followed closely by fashion at 31%. The largest group of online shoppers in Kenya consisted of individuals aged 25 to 34 years, comprising 43% of the total share. Following closely, e-commerce shoppers aged 35 to 44 years constituted the second largest group, accounting for 32% of the total share, while those aged 15 to 24 years ranked third. Statista projects that Kenya's e-commerce revenue will reach approximately Kshs 5.2 trillion by 2027 from Kshs 615 billion in 2023.

A consumer survey conducted by KPMG (2020) noted convenience and time-saving as the primary motivators for online purchases. Furthermore, the survey findings explain the shift from conventional in-store shopping, which is currently perceived negatively by some consumers.

E-commerce trends and skills development

Several skills are required in the e-commerce ecosystem, ranging from marketing, branding, photography, videography, editing, graphic design, data analytics, logistics and cybersecurity (UNCTAD, 2021). There is a shortage of skilled personnel for ecommerce due to skills mismatch in the market. Small-scale traders who require e-commerce to boost their sales lack the necessary skills required to trade online, thus locking them out from accessing wider markets for their products both locally and internationally. To address this, the government has implemented several programmes to improve digital skills in the country, such as Ajira Digital, Jitume in Konza Technopolis and the Presidential Digital Talent Programme, which are crucial in developing digital skills for e-commerce to thrive (Kenya Ministry of Information, Communications, and The Digital Economy, 2024).

The increasingly intense competition within the retail landscape of Kenya emerges as a prominent catalyst for the adoption of e-commerce. Heightened competitive pressures prompt small and medium enterprises (SMEs) entrenched in traditional retail formats, such as supermarkets and convenience stores, to adopt innovative e-commerce strategies to boost sales. A consumer survey conducted by KPMG (2020) noted convenience and time-saving as the primary motivators for online purchases. Furthermore, the survey findings explain the shift from conventional in-store shopping, which is currently perceived negatively by some consumers. Particularly, individuals constrained by time, such as working couples with children or those with physical disabilities, gravitate towards e-commerce for its time-saving. Concurrently, a study on factors affecting e-commerce adoption among SMEs in developing countries found that the younger demographic aged between 17 and 28 exhibits a pronounced preference for e-commerce, largely driven by its inherent convenience.

As consumers increasingly embrace digital platforms for their shopping needs, their expectations regarding product variety, price transparency, personalised recommendations, and seamless purchasing experiences will undergo a paradigm shift. In the future, the internet will continue to empower consumers with access to vast amounts of information as a result of the increased adoption of AI and the IoT, enabling them to make informed purchase decisions, compare prices across multiple retailers, and seek out products that align with their preferences and values. Consequently, businesses must adapt by leveraging technology to deliver tailored and engaging online shopping experiences that meet the evolving expectations of digitally savvy consumers.

Convenience is poised to be the key driver of future e-commerce success. In an increasingly fast-paced and interconnected world, consumers will prioritise convenience above all else when engaging in online shopping activities. This will include various aspects of the shopping process, including browsing, purchasing, payment, delivery, and returns. From streamlined mobile shopping experiences to one-click checkout options and same-day delivery services, convenience-enhancing features will play a pivotal role in attracting and retaining customers in the highly competitive e-commerce landscape. Businesses that will prioritise convenience and optimise their operations to remove friction points in the online shopping journey are poised to thrive in the future e-commerce marketplace.

Strategies to improve e-commerce adoption in Kenya

Internet infrastructure

The Kenyan government is implementing a digital superhighway project to improve internet infrastructure and digital inclusivity. The project aims to enhance the affordability and speed of internet services, boost Kenya's competitive edge in the digital economy, and foster digital inclusivity. The government will collaborate with telecommunications companies like Safaricom, Kenya Power's extensive electricity transmission network, and technology providers to extend the reach and reliability of internet services across Kenya.

Skills gap

Kenya's education system needs to address infrastructural challenges to build a skilled workforce in the digital economy. Despite connecting 95% of primary schools to electricity, only 34% have access to computers or digital devices. Investing in internet access and equipping schools with digital tools can help develop e-commerce skills from an early age. Creating industry-specific e-commerce service stations and training programs on essential e-commerce skills can foster a vibrant e-commerce ecosystem.

Logistics

Hybrid e-commerce combines online and offline retail, creating a seamless shopping experience. The digital superhighway project will enhance internet access and connectivity in rural areas, promoting the agency model of e-commerce. Regulations should ensure local retail shops integrate with larger platforms, maintain service quality, and provide fair competition, data protection, and consumer rights. The National Addressing Bill (2021) is crucial for establishing a National Addressing System, enabling accurate GPS mapping and drone deliveries in rural areas.

Environmental sustainability

E-commerce companies should focus on sustainable practices, such as 3D printing and green last-mile delivery strategies. These strategies can reduce environmental footprints while meeting consumer demands. A circular economy framework promotes eco-friendly practices, focusing on reducing, reusing, and recycling resources throughout the product life cycle. This includes designing products and packaging with durability, facilitating repair and refurbishment, and promoting sharing and rental models. Fostering collaboration and innovation across the value chain can drive the transition towards a more sustainable and eco-friendly e-commerce ecosystem.

5.2trillion

The projected e-commerce revenue for Kenya by 2027, according to Statista, up from Kshs 615 billion in 2023.

'Urbisa' movement:

How women in Marsabit are restoring dryland ecosystems

Indigenous communities rely heavily on their immediate natural environments for their day-to-day lives and feel the impact of climate change more significantly. Due to persisting gender roles, women bear a greater responsibility for managing these changes, as they are in charge of securing food and water for their livestock and families while men graze livestock.

In Marsabit, a remarkable movement is taking root. Dubbed "Urbisa" (collecting seeds), women have come together to save their environment and build a sustainable future. As climate change continues to fuel the challenges associated with desertification and land degradation, these women are not only improving their ecosystem but also securing their communities' futures through empowerment, leadership, and awareness. The people's traditional sources of income, heavily reliant on pastoralism and subsistence farming, have been increasingly threatened by erratic weather patterns. This has subsequently led to food insecurity and diminishing resources. In this challenging context, women have emerged as key agents of change, harnessing their knowledge and skills to combat environmental degradation.

Their efforts are centred on collecting and preserving acacia tree seeds, a species vital for restoring dryland ecosystems and a common indigenous tree in the area. These trees are renowned for their ability to withstand harsh conditions, improve soil fertility, and provide shade and forage for livestock. By gathering and storing acacia seeds, the women are building seed banks that not only safeguard biodiversity but also create a valuable resource for reforestation efforts and livestock feed.

This change-making initiative began with a local women's group that recognised the pressing need for action. With guidance from environmental NGOs and local knowledge about the importance of acacia trees, they were trained in seed collection, storage techniques, and their ecological significance. The women learned that by planting acacia seeds, they could revive degraded land, enhance water retention, and improve soil health. This knowledge powered Urbisa.

The process of creating a seed bank is very hands-on. The women venture into the hot, arid landscapes, often walking for long distances to find mature acacia trees. Once suitable trees are identified, seeds are carefully collected, ensuring that they are harvested sustainably. These seeds are then cleaned, sorted, and stored in conditions that preserve their viability. The women also educate their communities about the importance of these seeds, encouraging others to participate in the collection process. The impact of these efforts is multifaceted. By restoring acacia populations, the women are enhancing the resilience of their ecosystems. Acacia trees play a crucial role in preventing soil erosion, improving soil structure, and creating microclimates that support other plant species. This, in turn, fosters a more diverse and balanced ecosystem, which is vital for wildlife and agricultural productivity.

As climate change continues to fuel the challenges associated with desertification and land degradation, these women are not only improving their ecosystem but also securing their communities' futures through empowerment, leadership, and awareness. The people's traditional sources of income, heavily reliant on pastoralism and subsistence farming, have been increasingly threatened by erratic weather patterns.

Moreover, the seed banks serve as a community resource. Whenever they collect more seeds than needed, the women distribute seeds to local farmers and landowners, promoting reforestation and agroforestry practices. This not only encourages sustainable land use but also empowers local farmers to diversify their crops and improve their livelihoods. The community is beginning to recognise the economic benefits of investing in ecosystem restoration, as healthier land yields better harvests. In addition, beyond environmental benefits, the project has fostered social cohesion among the women involved.

As they gather to collect seeds and participate in workshops, they form strong bonds, sharing experiences and knowledge. This collaboration has enhanced their confidence and leadership skills, enabling them to advocate for their needs and rights within their communities. The women under Urbisa are beginning to be increasingly recognised as environmental stewards and leaders, challenging traditional gender roles and inspiring future generations, leading to a sustainable future through impact. To address limited resources, ongoing support from NGOs, government agencies, and international partners is crucial. Investing in capacity building, training, and networking opportunities will amplify the women's efforts and ensure the sustainability of their initiatives.

The story of the women in Marsabit is a testament to the power of grassroots action in combating environmental degradation, inspiring hope in action. Through their commitment to collecting acacia seeds and establishing seed banks, they are not only restoring their dryland ecosystems but also transforming their communities. Their efforts highlight the critical role women play in environmental conservation and underscore the importance of empowering local communities to take charge of their ecological futures.

As we deal with climate change, the lessons from the women of Marsabit and the Urbisa movement offer hope and inspiration to people. By nurturing the land and preserving its biodiversity, these women are paving the way for a more sustainable and resilient future—one acacia seed at a time.

The Marburg virus outbreak in Rwanda

The first case detected of the Marburg Virus (MVD) in Rwanda was announced on 27 September 2024. As of 7 October 2024, the Rwandan government has reported 56 confirmed cases of the virus, with 12 of those cases reported dead, 8 in recovery, and 36 in isolation.

The World Health Organisation (WHO), in partnership with the Rwandese government, states that controlling the outbreak of MVD relies on a number of interventions, that is, isolation and case management, including surveillance of active cases, contact tracing, optimal laboratory services, prompt safe and dignified burial. They have also increased awareness of the disease among members of the community and especially among the healthcare communities.

The Ministry of Health Rwanda has put in place prevention measures such as:

- Avoid close contact with symptomatic individuals.
- Urging those who are experiencing MVD symptoms to avoid public places and crowds and seek medical help.
- Refrain from handshaking, hugging, and crowded places.
- Avoid handling the bodies of deceased individuals from MVD.
- Wear protective equipment when caring for patients.
- Maintain good hygiene by washing hands frequently and following health authority guidelines.

The Marburg Virus is described as a highly virulent disease that can cause hemorrhagic fever and is clinically similar to Ebola diseases. People are initially infected with Marburg virus when they come into close contact with Rousettus bats, a type of fruit bat that can carry the Marburg virus and are often found in mines or caves. Marburg virus spreads between people via direct contact (through broken skin or mucous membranes) with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected people and with surfaces and materials (e.g. bedding, clothing) contaminated with these fluids. Healthcare workers have previously been infected while treating patients with suspected or confirmed MVD. Burial ceremonies that involve direct contact with the body of the deceased can also contribute to the transmission of the Marburg virus.

According to the WHO, the incubation period for the Marburg Virus is 21 days. The illness caused by this highly virulent virus begins abruptly, with high fever, severe headache, and severe malaise. Severe watery diarrhoea, abdominal pain and cramping, nausea and vomiting can begin on the third day. Although not all cases present with haemorrhagic signs, severe hemorrhagic manifestations may appear between five and seven days from symptom onset, and fatal cases usually have some form of bleeding, often from multiple areas. In fatal cases, death occurs most often between eight and nine days after symptom onset, usually preceded by severe blood loss and shock. It's important to note that there is currently no available treatment or vaccine for MVD, making prevention the best defence.

Based on the current risk assessment, WHO advises against any travel and trade restrictions with Rwanda.

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Political
and Regulatory Round-up

Friday, 11th October 2024 | **Vellum Weekly**

Kenya

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua impeached
On Tuesday, members of the National Assembly voted to impeach Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua in a precedent-setting move under the 2010 Constitution. Two hundred and eighty-two members voted in favour of the motion. Forty-four members voted against the motion, and one member abstained from voting. The mover of the motion MP for Kibwezi West Constituency, Mwengi Mutuse, needs 233 members (two-thirds) to support the motion as per the requirements of the Constitution. The impeachment motion was followed by a long day of debate, and the Deputy President came up to defend himself on the 11 charges levelled against him. The Speaker of the National Assembly, after the vote, is required to inform the Speaker of the Senate within two days of the motion to impeach the Deputy President. Once the Speaker of the Senate acknowledges the Notice of Impeachment, they shall have seven days to convene the Senate meeting to discuss the charges against the Deputy President. Gachagua's fate now rests in the House of Senate.

(Source: (The Daily Nation)

Tanzania

No funding, no project implementation, Nchimbi tells councils
CCM Secretary General Ambassador Dr. Emmanuel Nchimbi has directed district councils across the country not to implement projects that have not been assigned funding in the budget. He insisted on this position, stating that the party would continue advising the government on holding embezzlers accountable, including civil servants who tend to divert public funds to their own pockets. This sentiment arose following a complaint made by a trader overpayment of TZS 38 million for services he had rendered to the Meat Council that had not been made since the year 2012. Dr. Nchimbi stated that the Meat Council has 30 days to make the payment and that a follow-up on this matter shall be made to ensure that the Council fulfils its responsibilities. Dr. Nchimbi has also come out to encourage members of the community to register to vote for the upcoming local elections on 27th November 2024 and ensure that they vote for leaders with integrity.

(Source: The National Daily News)

Somalia

Global assistance must continue to assist in strengthening country's human rights institutions, say UN experts
Somalia is demonstrating resilience in persistence in security and Human rights matters. However, there is a need for greater international support, especially with climate change and natural disasters compounding suffering and violation of rights. Further, the conflict between Al-Shabaab and the Somali authorities, with the support of allied regional and international forces, continues to have a devastating impact on civilians while deadly inter-clan conflicts over access to natural resources and political power also continue exposing civilians to increasing violence and displacement. There is deep concern that patterns of human rights violations persist unabated, particularly concerning the rights of women and children, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities, people of minority clans and other vulnerable groups. Further, human rights groups are calling on the government to take concrete measures to ensure their protection.

(Source: UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner)

Uganda

DP's legal advisor quits over NRM deal
Erias Nalukoola, the longest-serving legal advisor to the Democratic Party (DP), has resigned from his position. He based his resignation on the controversial cooperation agreement between the DP and the National Resistance Movement. He claims that the agreement was done without the consent or knowledge of the party's governing organs, raising concerns as to the ethics and procedure of the agreement. In his resignation letter, he further states that the failure of the Party's Secretary-General to convene a National Council Meeting as demanded by the members of the Party, has severely undermined the party's democratic processes and the voices of our constitution. Nalukoola's resignation comes amidst ongoing internal disputes within DP following the July 2022 cooperation agreement with the ruling NRM. The agreement included provisions for DP's support of the NRM government in Parliament on various matters, including procedural motions and governance agendas.

(Source: The Independent)

Ethiopia

Ethiopian foreign minister Taye Atske Selassie appointed as new president
The two houses of the Ethiopian Parliament on Monday appointed Foreign Minister Taye Atske Selassie as the new President. The appointment followed the end-of-term of the current President, Zahle-Work Zewde, after six years of service as the country's Head of State. Selassie is the fifth President of Ethiopia since the country adopted its current constitution in 1995, and he is eligible to serve a maximum of two six-year terms.

(Source: The New Times)

Rwanda

10 officials resign over misappropriated health insurance funds
Ten officials from Musebeya Sector in Nyamagabe District on Tuesday submitted their letters of resignation amidst allegations of misappropriation of about RWF 3,000,000 allocated for Community-Based Health Insurance, commonly known as Mutuelle de Santé. The resignation seems to have been prompted by a meeting on September 3, 2024, where the officials were questioned on the shortcomings of the misappropriation of the funds. The Mayor of Nyamagabe stated that they could not confirm the resignation of eight of the officials, as they requested the suspension of duties for an unspecified period, while two officials formally resigned. They have further stated that measures have been taken to look into replacing the two officials who have resigned to ensure minimal interruption of service delivery. The public is, however, encouraged to remain engaged in the payment of Mutuelle funds and is assured that the government is committed to ensuring effective service delivery and intolerant of such interruptions.

(Source: The New Times)

Trade & Financial

Services Round-Up

Friday, 11th October 2024 | **Vellum Weekly**

Kenya

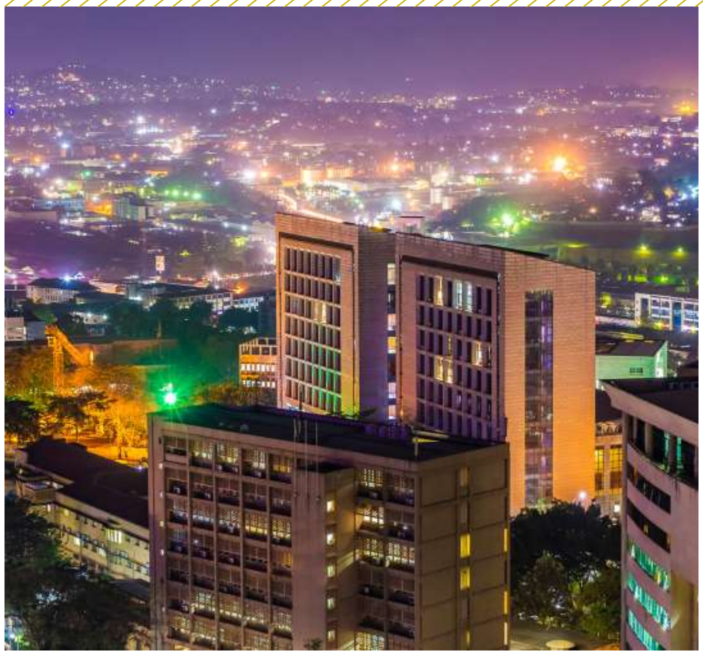
The Treasury Turns Up Heat on KRA Over Leaky Revenue Systems
The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) has come under scrutiny over its ability to plug tax leaks while failing to improve its systems and curb corruption. The Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury, John Mbadi, stated that he would only support a 30% increase of revenue to KRA in the next budgetary allocation. The additional monies would be tailored towards the payment of staff salaries to discourage them from engaging in corruption. The CS also called into question the two KRA systems, I-Tax and Integrated Customs Management, with the former being outdated and the latter not working. Speaking at the KRA Summit 2024, Mbadi called for KRA and its officers to embrace technology-driven solutions that facilitate trade and enhance domestic resource mobilisation. Issues of corruption have plagued the KRA, and their impact on the economy would lead to loss of revenue, hinder development efforts and erode public trust in government institutions. Mbadi acknowledged that there is poor tax visibility in the collection of VAT. Through the eTIMS, KRA will be able to enhance revenue collection of VAT, especially from professionals who have been making large amounts of money while evading tax systems.

(Source: Business Daily)

Tanzania

CRDB to empower farmers with Digital Financial Solutions
The CRDB Bank is taking steps to digitise farmers' activities to enhance their access to financial services and empower them to manage their agricultural operations more effectively. CRDB joined the Mobilising Access to Digital Economy (MADE) Alliance, an initiative that Master Card and the African Development Bank have spearheaded. CRDB Bank's CEO, Abdulmajid Nsekela, stated that the lender's participation in this initiative would expand Tanzania's farmers' access to financial services through digital platforms.

(Source: The Citizen)



Uganda

Ugandans to feel the brunt of High Sugar Prices as Kenya Allows regional imports
The Uganda National Sugarcane Growers Association has called for increased sugarcane prices from Kshs 120,000 per tonne to Kshs 200,000 per tonne. This is following Kenya's lifting of its ban on importation from Uganda. The sudden lift has led to a surge in sugar market prices influenced by Kenya. The Chairperson for the Uganda National Sugarcane Growers Association, Isa Budhugo, alleged that in August, 50 kilogrammes cost Kshs 120,000 compared to its current price for the same weight being Kshs 200,000. He further stated that the price surge is due to increased demand for sugar. Kenya issued a ban because they indicated that there was capacity for local production. Despite the Kenyan government denying this position, stating that the ban was not against Uganda but was to allow exclusive trade between EAC member states. The National Growers Association believes that the ban violated the EAC Market Protocol in which party states' markets are integrated into one. To allow for free movement of capital, labour, goods and services. The Greater Mukono Sugarcane Outgrowers Cooperative Society Limited has called for value addition of sugarcane to get a wide range of products and increase income for farmers.

(Source: Monitor)

Ethiopia

Ministry opens logistics sector to full foreign ownership

The Ministry of Transport and Logistics has fully opened the transport industry to foreign investors. This has been made possible by a major shift in the policy that has allowed foreign investment to boost development in the sector. The policy shift allows for the 100% foreign ownership of logistic companies operating in Ethiopia. This move follows macroeconomic reforms made two months prior and is a departure from the previous legislation that limited foreign ownership to about 49% stake in joint ventures with domestic firms. According to the ministry, opening up the sector to external competition can help address inefficiencies among freight operators, leading to reduced costs and improved service times.

(Source: Addis Fortune)

Rwanda

Rwanda initiates a bill to ease insolvency for MSMEs

The Rwandan government has submitted to its Parliament a draft bill on simplified insolvency for micro and small enterprises (MSEs). The bill allows MSEs to have other options to recover from financial difficulties. MSEs are key players in Rwanda's economy, contributing to about 55% of the country's GDP and employing about 41% of the Rwandan population. The expected scope of application of this law is the financial distress of a debtor, insolvency proceedings for a debtor and cross-border insolvency for a debtor. If passed, it aims to create user-friendly and cost-effective insolvency tailored to Rwandan MSEs. It has been observed that the draft bill meets the recommendations set out by the World Bank Group and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law. The Rwanda Development Board, in its justification of the bill before Parliamentarians, stated that the main issue is that many traders are unable to go to court to be assisted with their insolvency matters. They further claim that once the law is passed, they will move in to help MSEs by providing small and medium investors to provide financial assistance.

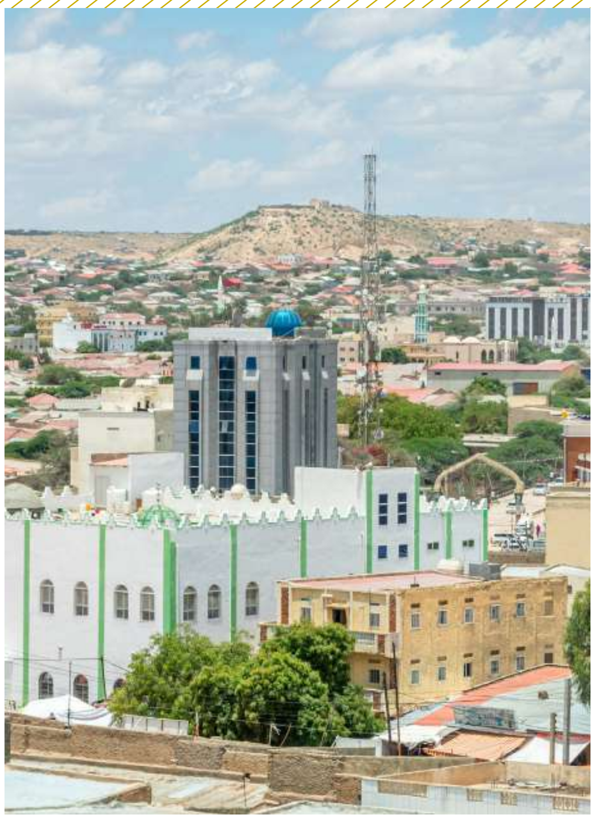
(Source: The New Times)

Somalia

Premier Bank launches 'Tap2Pay NFC wearables' in Somalia, a first in the country

Premier Bank has launched Tap2Pay NFC wearables payment solutions as a first in Somalia. The new technology brings a promise of secure, contactless payment to the region, providing users with an effortless way of making payments. Near Field Communication (NFC) technology is being incorporated into everyday accessories such as glasses, rings, smartwatch straps, and phone cases. These wearables enable customers to make swift payments by tapping the NFCs with other compatible point-of-sale terminals. The Tap2Pay solutions are groundbreaking in Somalia's financial sector and aligned with global advancements in technology and how payments are made.

(Source: Nation)



Parliamentary Round-Up

Friday, 11th October 2024 | **Vellum Weekly**

National Assembly

Tuesday, October 8, 2024 (Morning Sitting)

Special Motion

Proposed Removal By Impeachment of H.E. Rigathi Gachagua, EGH, Deputy President of The Republic Of Kenya

Tuesday, October 8, 2024 (Afternoon Sitting)

Special Motion

Proposed Removal By Impeachment of H.E. Rigathi Gachagua, Egh, Deputy President of The Republic of Kenya

Wednesday, October 9, 2024 (Morning Sitting)

Motions

Establishment of A Science Museum

Supporting and Promoting Local Fertiliser Manufacturing Industries

National Sensitization And Support For Combating Sickle Cell And Haemophilia Diseases

Provision Of Appropriate Access To Markets In The Country

Government-To-Government (G2G) Model To Acquire And Supply Fertilisers To Farmers At Subsidised Cost

Development Of Measures To Mitigate Digital Exclusion

Establishment Of A National Policy To Combat Disrespectful Childbirth Practices In Kenya

Formulation Of A Land Use Policy On Zoning Of Land For Agriculture And Built Development

Formulation Of A Regulatory Framework On Artificial Intelligence In The Country

Review Of The Eligibility Age For Enrolment Of Older Members Of Society To The Inua Jamii Cash Transfer Programme

Formulation Of A Reward Scheme For Accomplishments By Sports Persons In International Competitions

Expansion Of Major Roads In The Country To Dual Carriageways

Uundaji Wa Sera Za Kushughulikia Matukio Ya Ubaguzi Dhidi Ya Wanafunzi Wa Dini Mbalimbali Katika Taasisi Za Elimu Nchini

Introduction Of Mandatory Community Service To All Learners Upon Completion Of Secondary School Education

Bills

The Kenya Information And Communications (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 52 Of 2022)

The Community Health Workers Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 53 Of 2022)

The Higher Education Loans Board (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 58 Of 2022)

The Parliamentary Powers And Privileges (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bill No. 37 Of 2023)

Comprehensive Reform Of Education Bursary Schemes To Ensure Free Basic Education In Kenya

Wednesday, October 9, 2024 (Afternoon Sitting)

Motions

Consideration Of Senate Amendments To The Food And Feed Safety Control Co-Ordination Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 21 Of 2023)

Consideration Of Senate Amendments To The Statutory Instruments (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 2 Of 2023)

First Report On The Implementation Status Of House Resolutions On Committee Reports And Public Petitions

Alleged Unfair Trade Practices By Foreign Investors In Kenya

Second Report On Employment Diversity Audit In Public Institutions

Report Of The Extraordinary Session Of The Sixth Pan-African Parliament (Pap)

Consideration Of Reports On Financial Statements Of State Corporations (Nyanza Region)

The Public Finance Management (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 38 Of 2022)

Third Report On Consideration Of The Audited Accounts Of Specified State Corporations

Bills

The Ethics And Anti-Corruption Commission (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 11 Of 2024)

The Kenya National Library Service Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 20 Of 2023)

The Equalisation Fund (Administration) Bill (Senate Bill No. 14 Of 2023)

Senate

Tuesday, October 08, 2024 (Afternoon Sitting)

Special Motion

Proposed Removal By Impeachment Of H.E. Rigathi Gachagua, EGH, Deputy President Of The Republic Of Kenya

Motions

Establishment Of A Special Committee To Investigate The Proposed Removal From Office, By Impeachment, Of Dr. Erick Kipkoech Mutai, The Governor Of Kericho County

Report Of The Select Committee On County Public Investments And Special Funds On Its Consideration Of The Audit Reports Of The Water Service Providers For The Year Ended 30th June, 2019, 30th June, 2020 And 30th June, 2021

Report Of The Select Committee On County Public Accounts On Its Consideration Of The Reports Of The Auditor General On The Financial Statements Of Tharaka Nithi, Homa Bay, Kakamega, Kirinyaga, Makueni, Meru, Bomet, Murang'a, Nandi, Nyamira, Nyeri, Siaya, Vihiga, Wajir And Samburu County Executives For The Financial Year 2019/2020

Reports Of The Select Committee On County Public Investments And Special Funds On Its Consideration Of The Audit Reports Of Various Water Service Companies For The Financial Years 2018/2019, 2019/2020 And 2020/2021

Addressing The Challenge Of Power Purchase Agreement Renewals And Electricity Supply In Kenya

Bills

The Sports (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill (Senate Bills No. 45 Of 2024)

***The Gambling Control Bill (National Assembly Bills No. 70 Of 2023)

*The Tea (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bills No. 1 Of 2023)

*The Maternal, Newborn And Child Health Bill (Senate Bills No. 17 Of 2023)

****The Meteorology Bill (Senate Bills No. 45 Of 2023)

***The National Construction Authority (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bills No. 59 Of 2022)

***The Cancer Prevention And Control (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill (National Assembly Bills No. 45 Of 2022)

*The Public Finance Management (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bills No. 40 Of 2023)

*The Fire And Rescue Services Professionals Bill (Senate Bills No. 55 Of 2023)

***The Houses Of Parliament (Bicameral Relations) Bill (National Assembly Bills No. 44 Of 2023)

****The Political Parties (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill (Senate Bills No. 26 Of 2024)

****The Election Offences (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill (Senate Bills No. 28 Of 2024)

**** The Elections (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill (Senate Bills No. 29 Of 2024)

**The Heritage And Museums Bill (Senate Bills No. 8 Of 2023)

*The County Hall Of Fame Bill (Senate Bills No. 18 Of 2023)

*The Public Holidays (Amendment) Bill, (Senate Bills No. 31 Of 2023)

*The County Assembly Services (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bills No. 34 Of 2023)

*The County Public Finance Laws (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bills No. 39 Of 2023)

*The Wildlife Conservation And Management (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bills No. 46 Of 2023)

*The Wildlife Conservation And Management (Amendment)

<u>Wednesday, October 09, 2024 (9.30 AM: Supplementary)</u>

Motions

Establishment Of A Special Committee To Investigate The Proposed Removal From Office, By Impeachment, Of H.E Rigathi Gachagua, EGH, The Deputy President Of The Republic Of Kenya

To Hold Sittings On Monday, 14th October, 2024 And Alter The Hours Of Meeting On Tuesday, 15th October, 2024

Report Of The 9th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Global Conference Of Young Parliamentarians Held In Hanoi, Vietnam From 15th To 17th September, 2023

Reports Of The Kenya Delegation To The 147th And 148th Assemblies Of The Inter-Parliamentary Union (Ipu) And Related Meetings Held In Luanda, Angola From 23rd To 27th October, 2023 And In Geneva, Switzerland From 23rd To 27th March, 2024

Report Of The Kenya Delegation To The Extraordinary Session Of The Sixth Parliament Of The Pan-African Parliament (PAP) Held At The Gallagher Convention Centre, Midrand, South Africa, From 20th To 27th March, 2024

Report Of The 14th Ordinary Session Of The Plenary Assembly And Related Meetings Of The Forum Of Parliaments Of The International Conference Of The Great Lakes Region, Held In Livingstone, Zambia, From 15th To 19th April, 2024

Report Of The Parliamentary Delegation To The 2024 Joint Nations – Inter-Parliamentary Union Parliamentary Hearing Held At The United Nations Headquarters In New York, United States Of America From 8th To 9th February, 2024

Reports Of The 63rd And 64th Sessions Of The OACPS Parliamentary Assembly And The 43rd And 1st Sessions Of The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly Meetings Held In Brussels, Belgium, And Luanda, Angola, Respectively

Establishment Of A Monthly Car Free Day And County Car Free Zones

Stoppage Of Funds To Isiolo County Due To The Failure By The Governor To Honour Senate Summonses

<u>Wednesday, October 09, 2024 (2.30 PM: Supplementary)</u>

Motions

Alteration Of The Hours Of Meeting For Wednesday, 16th October, 2024, And Thursday, 17th October, 2024

Consideration Of The National Assembly Amendments To The County Governments Additional Allocations Bill (Senate Bills No. 19 Of 2024)

Report Of The Standing Committee On Energy On Its Inquiry Into The Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Explosion In Mradi Area, Embakasi, Nairobi County

Report Of The Standing Committee On Labour And Social Welfare On An Inquiry Into The Welfare Of Workers In Export Processing Zones (EPZs) In Mombasa And Kilifi Counties

Report Of The Standing Committee On Devolution And Intergovernmental Relations On Its Inquiry Into Personal Security Concerns Raised By Hon. Philomena Kapkory, Deputy Governor, Trans Nzoia County

Reports Of The Standing Committee On Devolution And Intergovernmental Relations On Its Inquiry Into The State Of Markets In Vihiga And Bungoma Counties Arising From Statements Sought By Sen. Godfrey Osotsi, MP And Sen. David Wakoli, MP

Development Of A Policy And Law For Social Risk Management In Infrastructure Development Projects In Kenya

Consolidation Of Bursary Funds For Equitable Access To Education In Kenya

Bills

****The Political Parties (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill (Senate Bills No. 26 Of 2024)

****The Meteorology Bill (Senate Bills No. 45 Of 2023)

***The National Construction Authority (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bills No. 59 Of 2022)

***The Cancer Prevention And Control (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill (National Assembly Bills No. 45 Of 2022)

*The Public Finance Management (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bills No. 40 Of 2023)

*The Fire And Rescue Services Professionals Bill (Senate Bills No. 55 Of 2023)

***The Houses Of Parliament (Bicameral Relations) Bill (National Assembly Bills No. 44 Of 2023)

*The Public Transport (Motorcycle Regulation) Bill (Senate Bills No. 38 Of 2023)

****The Election Offences (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill (Senate Bills No. 28 Of 2024)

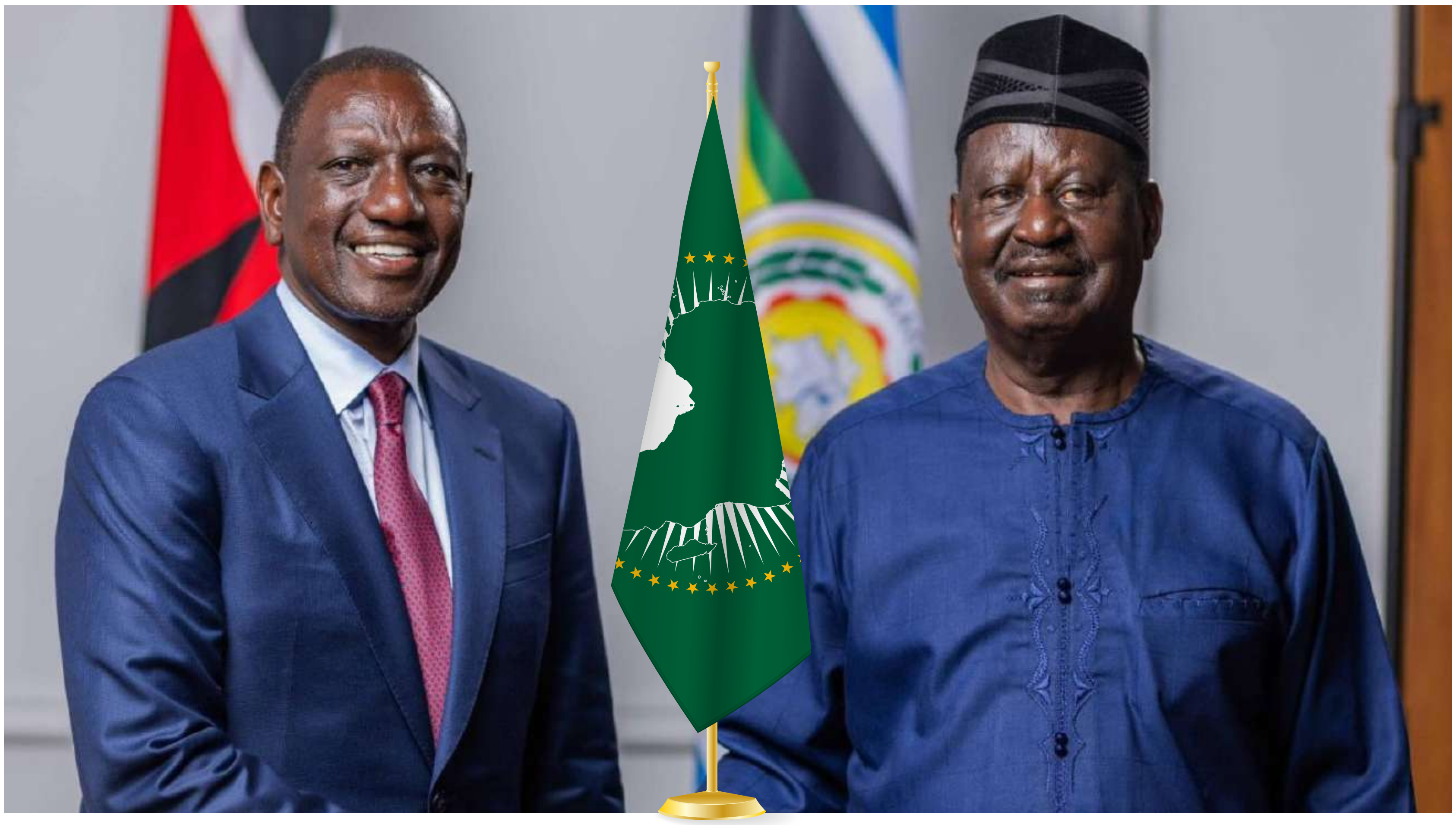
**** The Elections (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill (Senate Bills No. 29 Of 2024)

*The Narcotic Drugs And Psychotropic Substances (Control) (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bills No. 1 Of 2024)

* The County Governments Election Laws (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bills No. 2 Of 2024)

*Any other Bill   ** A Committee Bill   *** A National Assembly Bill   **** A Majority /Minority Party Bill

Significant Political Events of the Week



President Ruto writes to African leaders on Raila AUC bid

President William Ruto has written to all Heads of State on Raila Odinga's bid for the chairmanship of the African Union Commission (AUC). In an exclusive interview, the Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary, Dr. Korir Sing'Oei, disclosed that the President had reached out to his colleagues on the continent as part of the campaigns for Odinga. In his letters, the President also thanked the Heads of State who have shown support for Kenya's candidate. Odinga is set to face Djibouti's Foreign Affairs Minister Mahmoud Youssuf, former Mauritius Foreign Affairs Minister Anil Gayan and his former Madagascar counterpart Richard James Randriamandrato. Dr. Sing'Oei has also disclosed that, of the EAC member states, Kenya has received the support of all its members save for Somalia. However, that is not their main worry, and the Kenyan delegation is directing all its energies towards the Mjadala Africa Debates, whose date is yet to be communicated by the AUC.

Profile: Geoffrey Mosiria

Geoffrey Omatoke Mosiria is an employee of the County Government of Nairobi. Currently, Mosiria is the Chief Officer of Environment in Nairobi. He rose to prominence via his TikTok presence, which showcased his passion for a cleaner and noise-free environment. He has also been praised for his work in the health sector when he was the chief officer of health facilities. Mosiria has championed better healthcare services through partnerships with Temple Dental Welcomes International Visitors to push for improvement in student learning and better patient care.

In 2014, Mosiria graduated from the University of Nairobi with a bachelor's degree in commerce. He later pursued a Master's in Business Administration with a specialisation in Finance and Financial Service Management, which he completed in 2022. He is currently pursuing a post-doctorate degree.

With a proactive approach, Mosiria has been at the forefront of the pursuit of a clean environment, especially in Nairobi. Upon receipt of formal complaints from residents in Nairobi County, he has shown up to assist in cleaning efforts. For example, he has assisted in the collection of illegally dumped vegetable waste at Kangemi Market. Illegal dumping has caused the rotting of vegetable waste, which has resulted in a foul smell along Waiyaki Way. At times, he receives complaints from residents over noise pollution caused by clubs and churches as well. On October 8, 2024, he joined the residents of Madaraka in protests over noise pollution caused by the re-opened 1824 club. Though met with hostility, he has shown resilience in his quest for a green and clean Nairobi. He has also called out roadside restaurants that have failed to meet the health codes and licenses.

In other activities, Mosiria is a staunch practising Christian, as seen on his social media platforms. However, this has not dissuaded him from calling out churches that set up their sound systems in a manner likely to cause noise pollution. For example, on October 5, 2024, he received complaints from residents living near a church in Nairobi. The residents stated that they had tried to negotiate with church officials to lower their volume, but they were met with insults.

In 2023, due to his exemplary leadership, he was elected the Nairobi Representative for the Abagusii Community. During a ceremony that brought together church leaders from diverse denominations and county workers, Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja heaped praise on Mosiria. The praise was not only for his work pushing for better healthcare facilities for hospitals in Nairobi but also for his efforts in his environment docket.

SIB Standard Investment Bank

Regulated by the Capital Markets Authority

7TH OCTOBER 2024

KENYA WEEKLY
MARKET WRAP

The market closed the week on a mixed note with the NASI, N10, and NSE 25 gaining 1.1%w/w, 2.1%w/w, and 1.5%w/w, respectively. The NSE 20, on the other hand, shed 0.3%w/w.

EQUITY MARKET COMMENTARY

The market closed the week on a mixed note with the NASI, N10, and NSE 25 gaining 1.1%w/w, 2.1%w/w, and 1.5%w/w, respectively. The NSE 20, on the other hand, shed 0.3%w/w.

Market activity edged downwards to USD 7.82m (-3.36%w/w). Safaricom dominated market activity accounting for 55.1% of the week's turnover. The counter retreated by 0.3%w/w to close at KES 15.00 – remaining unchanged at KES 15.00 through the trading week.

Of the top traded banking stocks, Equity Group and KCB Group gained 2.4%w/w and 0.6%w/w to KES 44.50 and KES 35.20, respectively. The former closed the week at an 8-week high.

EABL, the week's best-performing top mover, rose by 5.3%w/w to KES 164.25 – touching an intra-week high of KES 164.50, the highest price since 28th July 2023. Jubilee Holdings, a surprise top mover, shed 5.2%w/w to KES 163.00 closing the week as the worst-performing top mover.

Foreign investors remained bullish, with a net inflow print of USD 0.98K. Safaricom led the buying charge while Jubilee led the selling charge. Foreign investor participation edged downwards to 45.7% from 49.1% in the prior week.

Expected in the week; CBK MPC – 8th October 2024

Weekly Summary Tables

Indices

Equity Index	Index points	% w/w	% w/w preceding	MTD	QTD	YTD
NASI	108.31	1.1%	0.7%	1.1%	-1.1%	17.6%
N10	1148.18	2.1%	1.6%	2.1%	2.8%	26.5%
NSE 20	1772.99	-0.3%	-0.7%	-0.2%	7.0%	18.1%
NSE 25	2947.93	1.5%	1.3%	1.7%	3.0%	23.9%

Top 5 Movers

Company	Price	% w/w	% YTD	Turnover (USD k)	Inflows (USD k)	Market-cap (USD m)
Safaricom	15.00	-0.3%	7.9%	4,313.4	1,007.7	4,652.2
Equity Group	44.50	2.4%	32.2%	1,199.5	-23.4	1,299.9
KCB Group	35.20	0.6%	60.7%	1,187.9	43.3	875.6
EABL	164.25	5.3%	44.1%	216.9	133.1	1,005.4
Jubilee Holdings	163.00	-5.2%	-11.9%	131.5	-123.2	91.4

Top 5 Gainers

Company	Price	% w/w	% YTD	Turnover (USD k)	Inflows (USD k)	Market-cap (USD m)
E.A. Portland Cement	46.25	60.6%	478.1%	11.7	-0.8	32.2
Kenya Orchards	33.15	58.6%	70.0%	0.1	0.0	3.3
TPS Serena	15.00	16.7%	-8.8%	0.5	0.0	21.2
NBV	2.19	13.5%	-18.9%	0.2	0.0	22.9
Kakuzi	439.75	9.8%	14.2%	13.4	-12.7	66.7

Top 5 Losers

Company	Price	% w/w	% YTD	Turnover (USD k)	Inflows (USD k)	Market-cap (USD m)
Car & General (K)	21.00	-16.0%	-16.0%	0.7	-0.1	13.0
Kenya Power	3.01	-14.0%	112.0%	105.8	0.6	45.5
Eveready East Africa	1.04	-11.1%	-3.7%	0.6	0.0	1.7
Trans-Century	0.41	-10.9%	-21.2%	5.2	0.0	1.2
Nation Media Group	14.70	-9.0%	-26.7%	6.3	0.0	21.7

Top 5 Foreign Net Inflows

Company	Price	% w/w	% YTD	Turnover (USD k)	Inflows (USD k)	Market-cap (USD m)
Safaricom	15.00	-0.3%	7.9%	4,313.4	1,007.7	4,652.2
EABL	164.25	5.3%	44.1%	216.9	133.1	1,005.4
KCB Group	35.20	0.6%	60.7%	1,187.9	43.3	875.6
BAT Kenya	349.50	1.7%	-14.2%	27.9	1.3	270.6
Stanbic	118.50	0.0%	9.0%	12.7	0.7	362.6

Top 5 Foreign Net Outflows

Company	Price	% w/w	% YTD	Turnover (USD k)	Outflows (USD k)	Market-cap (USD m)
Jubilee Holdings	163.00	-5.2%	-11.9%	131.5	-123.2	91.4
Equity Group	44.50	2.4%	32.2%	1,199.5	-23.4	1,299.9
Kakuzi	439.75	9.8%	14.2%	13.4	-12.7	66.7
Kenya Re-Insurance	1.20	-7.0%	-36.2%	30.1	-12.3	52.0
StanChart	211.25	2.4%	30.4%	78.1	-11.0	617.9

Top 5 Gainers YTD

Company	Price	% w/w	% YTD	Turnover (USD k)	Inflows (USD k)	Market-cap (USD m)
E.A. Portland Cement	46.25	60.6%	478.1%	11.7	-0.8	32.2
Kenya Power	3.01	-14.0%	112.0%	105.8	0.6	45.5
Kenya Orchards	33.15	58.6%	70.0%	0.1	0.0	3.3
Bamburi Cement	58.25	-0.4%	62.5%	33.8	0.0	163.7
KCB Group	35.20	0.6%	60.7%	1,187.9	43.3	875.6

Top 5 Losers YTD

Company	Price	% w/w	% YTD	Turnover (USD k)	Inflows (USD k)	Market-cap (USD m)
Kenya Re-Insurance	1.20	-7.0%	-36.2%	30.1	-12.3	52.0
Nation Media Group	14.70	-9.0%	-26.7%	6.3	0.0	21.7
Standard Group	6.04	7.9%	-22.0%	0.1	0.0	3.8
Trans-Century	0.41	-10.9%	-21.2%	5.2	0.0	1.2
NBV	2.19	13.5%	-18.9%	0.2	0.0	22.9

Source: NSE, Standard Investment Bank

ECONOMY NEWS

Kenya September Inflation at 3.6%, a decrease from 4.4% in August 2024.

Kenya's consumer prices in September grew by 3.6% (the slowest since December 2012) in September 2024, a decrease from an inflation rate of 4.4% recorded in August 2024. The inflation performance was largely driven by easing pressure on food, energy, and transportation costs. The price increase was mainly driven by the rise in prices of commodities under Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages (5.1%); Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other fuels (2.6%) and Transport (0.5%) categories between September 2023 and September 2024. Notably, the Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels Index decreased by 0.1 percent between August 2024 and September 2024 attributable to lower prices in kerosene and electricity.

Kenya's real GDP grew by 4.6%y/y in 2Q24 - a slower pace compared to a growth of 5.6%y/y in the corresponding quarter of 2023.

Kenya's real GDP grew by 4.6%y/y in 2Q24 - a slower pace compared to a growth of 5.6%y/y in the corresponding quarter of 2023. The growth, albeit slower than the corresponding quarter of 2023, was to a considerable extent supported by Agriculture, forestry & fishing (4.8%), real estate (6.0%), financial & insurance activities (5.1%), and wholesale & retail (4.4%). Additionally, the economy benefitted from robust performances in other sectors of the economy, such as accommodation & food services (26.6%), information & communication (7.2%), and professional, administrative & support services (6.8%). However, the growth was somewhat hampered by contractions in the mining & quarrying and construction sectors during the quarter under review. Mining & Quarrying contracted by 2.7% during the quarter under review. Similarly, the Construction sector also contracted by 2.9%, compared to a growth of 2.7% in the second quarter of 2023.

September 2024 PMI weakens to 49.7 from 50.6

Kenya's Purchasing Managers' Index dipped below the neutral mark in September 2024 to 49.7 from 50.6 in August 2024, indicating a slight deterioration in private sector activity. This decline followed a brief recovery in August after disruptions caused by protests. Businesses and households faced economic challenges that led to reduced sales and a fresh drop in activity. However, the slowdown helped cut input price inflation, resulting in only a marginal rise in output prices. Employment levels were stable, with firms reporting little need to hire new staff or replace voluntary leavers due to slowing production capacity. Lastly, business expectations for the coming year remain at their weakest levels in a decade due to ongoing economic headwinds.

MARKET SUMMARY

	Price KES	Mkt Cap $mn	YTD %	52 Wk High	52 Wk Low	1m %	3m %	P/B	Div Yield	EPS	P/E	AVG Daily 3m USD*
AGRICULTURAL												
Eaagads	11.60	2.9	-16.8	14.5	10.4	-0.4	-12.8	0.3	0.0	0.3	40.0	42
Kakuzi	439.8	66.8	14.2	439.8	342.0	9.9	23.7	1.5	5.0	23.1	19.0	1,163
Kapchorua	228.5	13.9	6.3	280.0	193.0	2.0	-13.8	1.0	10.9	40.2	5.7	335
Limuru	365.0	6.8	-3.9	380.0	365.0	0.0	-3.9	4.6	0.3	3.4	108.0	17
Sasini	17.0	30.1	-15.0	24.0	16.0	-0.9	-10.1	0.3	2.9	2.4	7.1	589
Williamson	217.0	29.5	4.3	290.0	193.5	-0.5	-19.6	0.55	11.5	28.4	7.6	1,361
		149.9									**17.6**	
COMMERCIAL AND SERVICES												
Longhorn	2.5	5.2	1.7	2.7	2.0	7.9	12.9	2.3	0.0	-2.1	-1.2	98
NBV	2.2	23.0	-18.9	3.1	1.9	-3.1	-3.9	4.4	0.0	0.8	2.9	353
Nation Media	14.7	23.6	-26.7	22.4	14.3	2.4	-19.0	0.4	0.0	-1.1	-13.4	660
Standard Group	6.0	3.8	-22.0	9.0	4.9	-2.6	-11.2	-0.4	0.0	-14.3	-0.4	15
TPS East Africa	15.0	32.9	-8.8	20.2	11.0	11.9	7.1	0.4	0.0	2.9	5.2	312
Uchumi	0.2	0.5	5.9	0.2	0.2	0.0	-5.3	0.1	0.0	-4.6	0.0	58
WPP Scangroup	2.3	7.8	6.9	2.8	1.9	20.1	11.5	0.2	0.0	0.3	7.5	714
		96.8									**-0.3**	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS												
Safaricom	15.0	4,660.6	7.9	21.2	11.5	2.0	-12.8	1.8	8.0	1.6	9.4	793,005
		4,660.6									**9.4**	
AUTOMOBILES & ACCESSORIES												
CarGen	21.0	13.1	-16.0	31.8	18.0	0.0	2.4	0.3		#N/A N/A		78
Sameer	2.6	5.5	12.3	2.6	1.9	14.9	15.9	1.5	0.0	0.2	15.0	338
		18.6										
BANKING												
Absa Bank Kenya	14.2	596.0	23.6	15.0	10.6	0.0	1.1	1.1	11.0	3.0	4.7	61,527
Diamond Trust	49.5	107.3	9.9	56.0	43.1	8.9	7.1	0.2	12.1	24.6	2.0	13,543
Equity Bank	44.5	1,302.3	32.2	51.0	33.6	3.5	6.5	0.8	6.7	11.1	4.0	302,377
KCB Bank	35.2	877.2	60.7	39.0	15.0	6.3	11.4	0.5	0.0	11.7	3.0	245,652
HF Group	4.0	12.0	15.8	4.9	3.0	5.8	-1.7	0.2	0.0	1.0	4.0	3,959
I&M Holdings	23.5	300.7	34.0	35.0	16.5	7.1	8.3	0.4	10.9	7.6	3.1	28,952
NCBA Bank	44.2	564.1	13.4	46.5	34.1	-0.8	7.9	0.8	10.8	13.0	3.4	31,268
Stanbic Holdings	118.5	363.3	9.0	130.0	100.0	1.7	4.4	0.7	13.0	30.8	3.9	24,027
StanChart	211.3	619.0	30.4	222.3	148.0	1.1	9.3	1.3	13.7	36.6	5.8	43,828
Co-op Bank	13.7	623.3	20.2	15.2	10.1	2.6	8.7	0.7	10.9	3.9	3.5	74,922
		5,365.3						**0.7**			**3.9**	

*Source: Bloomberg, Standard Investment Bank, *3m average traded volume*

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