

Chamber Quarterly

1ST QUARTER

JANUARY - MARCH 2024



**THURSDAY 11TH JANUARY, 2024**

Kakamega to Host an International Business Conference

Kakamega County will host the first ever International Business Conference from 19th to 22nd March this year. The Theme of the Conference is ‘opening up counties as the new frontiers for investment and development among 14 Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB) Counties’.

Governor Fernandes Barasa announced that the conference will bring together over 3,000 participants from across the globe. Speaking during the Kakamega business awards and gala dinner, Governor Barasa said the Conference will be a major opportunity for the LREB counties, to partner and showcase the potential of the region as a business destination. “As you are aware counties are at the bottom of the pyramid, so there is a lot of investments happening at the counties, but we have never had a proper investment Conference that will attract and showcase to the general public, the opportunities that are available,” he noted. The Governor explained that the International Conference will culminate with the formation of Kakamega Investment Hub for western region, where investment opportunities will be showcased through the Kakamega County Investment Development Agency (KCIDA). The National Director of Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ken Onditi, who was present during the Gala Awards, said the Chamber will advertise to more than 177 Chamber members worldwide, to increase participation in the Conference. [Read more](#)

**FRIDAY 12TH JANUARY, 2024**

KNCCI calls for speedy probe into killing of Narok surveyor

The Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry has called on the government to expedite investigations and bring to book those behind the killing of a land surveyor in Narok county. Lawrence Nkamasiai, 29, was murdered near his home in Narok town by unknown people on Wednesday night. While condemning the incident, KNCCI South Rift region director David Mpatiany issued a seven-day ultimatum to the security forces to conclude the probe and arrest the perpetrators. “We will not allow small gangs of criminals to terrorise our people by baying for their blood,” Mpatiany said. Speaking to the Star on the phone on Friday, Mpatiany called for justice for the family of the young man saying fairness will only be



realised if the suspects are nabbed. He asked residents and the business community to allow the police to conduct their investigations to ascertain the motive behind the death of the surveyor. The director called on the traders not to value their businesses at the expense of their lives by exercising caution during their working hours. "It is now time to value your safety by not engaging in activities that may compromise your security. When boarding a boda boda, the clients should know their rider well to avoid such incidents," he said. [Read more](#)



FRIDAY 19TH JANUARY, 2024

KNCCI Partners With Alex Chamwada's Chams Media To Market Kenya Abroad

The Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) has entered into an agreement with Chams Media Limited, a media company, to promote Kenya as a trading destination as well as market the country globally. The pact seeks to promote entrepreneurship, trade, and investment, as the two announced. KNCCI will leverage Chams Media's content creation and distribution expertise to tell Kenyan stories. "This partnership reflects our dedication to enhancing the business environment in Kenya," Erick Rutto, KNCCI President, said. "By joining forces with Chams Media Limited, we aim to leverage our collective strengths to create opportunities, enhance exports, market linkages, drive innovation, and support the business community," Rutto added. On his part, Chams Media owner Alex Chamwada said they will use the power of media to amplify KNCCI stories, contributing to the growth of the country's economy. "Chams Media Limited is honored to collaborate with KNCCI, an institution that has been at the forefront of advocating for business interests in Kenya," he said. [Read more](#)



WEDNESDAY 24TH JANUARY, 2024

Coltan discovered in Kenya - Mining Minister Salim Mvurya

Kenya has discovered its first deposits of the valuable mineral coltan, the mining minister has said. The rare mineral is used to manufacture electric car batteries, mobile phones and other electronic devices. The Democratic Republic of Congo holds more than 70% of the world's coltan reserves, which have for decades fuelled violent conflict in the east of the country. It is not clear how large the coltan deposits found in Kenya are. Mining officials have previously hinted



that Kenya could have traces of the highly valuable ore, but Kenya's Minister for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs Salim Mvurya on Wednesday said that his announcement means "it is now official" that Kenya has coltan reserves. Deposits of the mineral have been found in six counties across the country, but their value is yet to be determined. "We will leave our teams behind to do ground truthing so that we can now begin to assess the economic value of that particular mineral," Mr Mvurya said. Residents of Embu County in eastern Kenya, one of the six counties with reserves of the mineral, have been advised to hold onto their land." [Read more](#)



TUESDAY 30TH JANUARY, 2024



State announces overhaul of online mineral register



The government is undertaking a comprehensive overhaul of the online mineral cadaster in a significant move aimed at streamlining the industry. Mining Principal Secretary Elijah Mwangi said Tuesday that the move is aimed at capturing the details of all those in the mining business while enhancing efficiency and transparency. Speaking at the inaugural mining forum organized by the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI), Mwangi said the licensing process was reopened in October and is currently ongoing. Categories of licenses issued include that of trading, processing and mining. In a bid to tame illegal mining activities, the government according to PS has hired 357 additional technical officers to help in enforcement and compliance across the counties. Additionally, they have gazetted an additional 22 licensing committees at the counties to help in the licensing process. KNCCI President Erick Rutto, CEO Patrick Nyangweso, Governors Cecily Mbarire (Embu) and his Baringo counterpart Benjamin Cheboi and KenInvest CEO June Chepkemei among other leaders were present during the event. [Read more](#)



THURSDAY 1ST FEBRUARY, 2024



Waiguru affirms governors commitment to harmonization of levies



Council of Governors (COG) has affirmed committed to harmonization of levies affecting the ease and cost of doing business in the counties. COG Chair Anne Waiguru say counties will partner with the national government and the private sector to come up with standard charges,

levies, fees and taxes so as to encourage inter-county trade. Speaking in Nairobi during a courtesy call by Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) President Dr. Erick Rutto, the chair called on the private sector to partner with counties in developing policies that will help remove trade barriers. She emphasized that Governors are committed to creating a conducive environment for businesses to thrive adding that some of the barriers can be well addressed through policy interventions. Waiguru said counties are developing a database of all Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to promote linkages between the investors and the MSMEs, this being one of the Devolution Conference 2023 key resolutions “The Council of Governors is also collating the calendar dates for County Investment forums to be shared with KNCCI for joint planning,” she said. [Read more](#)



FRIDAY 2ND FEBRUARY, 2024



Council of Governors and Private Sector In Plan To Boost Inter-County Trade Efficiencies



The Council of Governors (COG) has affirmed its commitment to harmonization of levies affecting the ease and cost of doing business in the counties. COG Chair Anne Waiguru says counties will partner with the national government and the private sector to come up with standard charges, levies, fees and taxes to encourage inter-county trade. Speaking in Nairobi during a courtesy call by Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) President Dr. Erick Rutto, the chair called on the private sector to partner with counties in developing policies that will help remove trade barriers. She emphasized that Governors are committed to creating a conducive environment for businesses to thrive adding that some of the barriers can be well addressed through policy interventions. Waiguru said counties are developing a database of all Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to promote linkages between the investors and the MSMEs, this being one of the key resolutions of Devolution Conference 2023 key resolutions “The Council of Governors is also collating the calendar dates for County Investment forums to be shared with KNCCI for joint planning,” she said. The Kirinyaga Governor said the devolved units are in the process of establishing the County Aggregation Centers and Industrial Parks and asked the private sector to take advantage of the opportunities available. [Read more](#)

**TUESDAY 6TH FEBRUARY, 2024**

CPF Financial Services And KNCCI Sign MoU To Boost Kenyan Business Growth



CPF Financial Services Limited (CPF FS) and the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) marking a significant step towards fostering economic growth and prosperity in Kenya. The signing ceremony took place Monday at CPF Financial Services Limited Offices in Nairobi, Kenya, with Dr. Erick Rutto, President of KNCCI, and CPA, FA Joseph Rono, Group Executive Director, ACSI, representing CPF FS. Officials said the primary objective of this MoU is to establish a collaborative framework between CPF FS and KNCCI. It aims to co-develop solutions for KNCCI's members and explore various products within CPF Group's portfolio.

This strategic collaboration will leverage the strengths and resources of both organizations to create a conducive business environment and drive economic growth in Kenya. It will enhance cooperation in areas such as financial planning, real estate planning, investment/fund management, and pension solutions. The partnership will also help contributing to the growth and prosperity of Kenyan businesses by fostering an enabling environment for entrepreneurship and investment, aligning with KNCCI's mission. Chams Media, a recognized communications entity, also acknowledges the significance of this partnership. [Read more](#)

**TUESDAY 20TH FEBRUARY, 2024**

County, KNCCI, To Empower Youth Through Mushroom Farming



Uasin Gishu County Administration in collaboration with the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) and the Mushroom Growers Association of Kenya (MGAK) have come up with deliberate plans to empower farmers particularly the youth in Uasin Gishu to diversify and venture into mushroom farming as a way of creating employment to boost their livelihoods standards. Speaking during a stakeholder engagement with the KNCCI Uasin Gishu chapter team together with a delegation of experts from the MGAK in Eldoret, Governor Dr. Jonathan Chelilim commended the initiative by the stakeholders on exploring the potential of mushroom farming as a sustainable and lucrative venture for the farmers. He

noted that the county, as a vital agricultural hub, has long relied on single crops like maize and wheat for sustenance yet there is a recognized need for diversification. “The experts highlighted mushrooms as a high-value crop, medicinal, requiring minimal space and boasting a short one-month growth cycle. This quick turnover will allow for speedy harvests, presenting our farmers with the opportunity for a consistent and more resilient income stream, thus a good initiative we need to adopt,” he said. [Read more](#)



WEDNESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY, 2024



Kenyan, Brazilian businesses sign trade pacts

The Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the São Paulo Chamber of Commerce (SPCC) in a move aimed at boosting trade between Kenya and the Latin American country. During the launch of an ongoing business-to-business forum at the Villa Rosa Kempinski Hotel in Nairobi on Monday 26th February 2024, KNCCI also signed an MoU with the Brazilian Council of Importing and Exporting Commercial Companies (CECIEEx) in a bid to boost exports from Kenya to Brazil. The agreements are expected to facilitate exchange of market insights, promote trade and pave way for a delegation of Kenyan traders to visit Brazil as part of Kenya’s efforts to bridge the trade imbalance between the two countries. According to Nelson Omwalo, Technical Trade Advisor at the Embassy of Brazil in Nairobi, “an average of 60 to 70 million US dollars worth of goods from Brazil are imported into Kenya annually. On the other hand, Kenya’s annual exports to Brazil amount to 3 to 7 million US dollars.” Kenya’s main exports to Brazil include agricultural produce such as tea, coffee, flowers and garments while Brazil’s exports to Kenya include agricultural equipment, machinery, sugar and chocolates. [Read more](#)



WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH, 2024



Kericho KNCCI Branch To Assist Youths And Women Secure Loan

The Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI), Kericho Branch, has pledged to assist women and youths in the County access low interest loans, to support or start small scale businesses. Addressing the media, KNCCI Kericho Branch Chairman, Mr. Robinson Bett, said women and youths will also be assisted with trainings and orientations on securing their loans for their intended businesses. “Kericho



KNCCI Branch has secured some funds to facilitate women and youths, to start small scale businesses. The secured funds being dispersed through an initiative dubbed Jiinue Programme, targeting youths and women. The loan being offered has a low interest rate of 0.8 per cent, which range from Sh 3,000 to Sh 200,000,” said Bett. He revealed that KNCCI is geared to assist youths and women, conduct their businesses in a conducive business environment. The Kericho KNCCI Chair, urged the youths and women as well as traders to apply for the loans, where they will undergo vetting, before dispersal of the loans, while urging those who become successful in securing the loan, to utilise the monies well and repay back on time.

[Read more](#)



FRIDAY 15TH MARCH, 2024



KNCCI Challenge Pastoralists' Communities to Exploit Leather Industry



The Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KNCCI) directors have urged pastoralists to exploit the potential of leather industry to generate wealth for pastoralist communities. During a tour of the Ewaso Nyiro leather industry in Narok South Sub County, the North Eastern Region Director of KNCCI Abdillahi Abdi Hersi said the leather industry in Africa generates up to USD 100 billion per year, which Kenya should tap into so as to raise the economy of the pastoralists. Hersi said KNCCI is ready to partner with the facility so as to increase production of leather products to meet the increasing market demand. He regretted Kenya's leather is undervalued in the global market, prompting calls for sensitization and capacity building among herding community to achieve the target.

The North Rift NCCI director Stanley Baskwony pointed out a need for public-private partnership in boosting the production at the leather factory so as to increase production. “The leather industry's success hinges on the collaboration of all stakeholders, including the business community and the government,” he said. Ewaso Nyiro South Development Agency (ENSDA) Chief Executive Officer Ngala Oloitipitip asked farmers to form groups and register with the organization so that they can easily sell their leather products in the factory. “The farmers' groups should register with us to facilitate easy purchase and payment of their products. Thus, we encourage the farmers not to throw away skins and hides when they slaughter their animals,” he continued. [Read more](#)

**MONDAY 18TH MARCH, 2024**

Hits and misses in building a competitive manufacturing sector

The manufacturing sector is the cornerstone of Kenya's industrial sector. This sector is not only the economy's engine of growth but also a means of diversifying it. However, after decades of existence; the sector is still grappling with problems that continue to slow down its growth and competitiveness. These problems have contributed to the poor performance of the sector especially in the last ten years with Gross Domestic Product GDP contribution declining from an average of 9% in 2017 to a low of 7.2% in 2023 and this has to be reversed quickly to align with the government's vision of 20% of GDP by 2030. Industrial policies and foreign investments in manufacturing are modest predictors of manufacturing output growth. To promote faster growth of the sector, there is a need for basic low-cost automation to enhance productivity and quality which increases the per capita income levels. To this end, access to best practices is required in the agricultural and cottage industrial sectors which are major sources of employment and income. The future of manufacturing will also depend heavily on the growth of its exports and the adoption of more import substitution strategies. More importantly, the growth of the sector will depend on what extent industry-specific policies are adopted to rationalize and re-structure the whole manufacturing sector. [Read More](#)



MEDIA PICTORIALS

1ST QUARTER JAN - MAR 2024

Friday 1st March, 2024

**KA 20
KA 24
MEGA**
INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION:
www.kaico.com

1ST KAKAMEGA INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT CONFERENCE - KAIICO | 2024

THEME: OPENING UP COUNTIES AS THE NEW FRONTIERS FOR INVESTMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT

19TH - 22ND MARCH 2024 | Venue: Masinde Muliro University of Science & Technology (MMUST) KAKAMEGA | For more information & bookings Benjamin 0704534029 or Mercy 0701447977

Logos: CPF, KenInvest, KCB BANK, Safaricom, USAID, NETFUND, Ustadi, KNCCI, Nation Media Group, PRACTICAL ACTION, KAN 60.

Monday 26th February, 2024

IN BRIEF

Calls for private sector to join in ongoing efforts to mitigate climate change effects

By Evans Yegon
healthscience@standardmedia.co.ke

The private sector has been urged to collaborate with government in implementing policies and programmes aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change.

Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) Kericho branch chairman Robinson Bett said the implementation of programmes aimed at capping effects of climate change should not be left to the government alone.

Speaking at Kericho during a workshop organised by KNCCI, Bett called on the youths to play a major role in mitigating the effects caused by climate change.

"I am calling upon major players in the private sector to work hand in hand with the youths at the grass roots level in implementing programmes aimed at curbing the effects of climate change," Bett stated.

He added that he was very concerned with the current effects adding there was need for urgent intervention. He said that the business community should chip in by assisting the government so that it can achieve its goal of planting 15 billion trees.

Bett also appealed to the youths not to rely on white collar jobs saying that there was need for them to venture into businesses.

Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kericho Chapter Robinson Bett speaks during the workshop. [Evans Yegon, Standard]

MEDIA PICTORIALS

1ST QUARTER JAN - MAR 2024

STREAMLINE INDUSTRY Wednesday 31st January, 2024

State announces overhaul of online mineral register

FELIX KIPKEMOI The government is overhauling the online mineral cadastre to streamline the industry. Mining Principal Secretary Elijah Mwangi said yesterday that the move seeks to capture the details of all those in the mining business while enhancing efficiency and transparency.

Speaking at the inaugural mining forum organised by the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mwangi said the licensing process was reopened in October and is currently ongoing.

"We are encouraging responsible mining practices, attract investment, and ensure the mineral sector operates within a regulated framework," he said.

The process, Mwangi said, has been remarkable with the online cadastre having received more than a thousand applications. Out of this, some 254 have already been processed. "As part of the ongoing process, we have issued six licences and we plan to issue another batch of six next week," the PS said.

Mwangi said they have reviewed the licensing regulations to ensure adherence to the rules.

Categories of licences issued include that of trading, processing and mining.

To tame illegal mining activities, the government has hired 357 additional technical officers to help in enforcement and compliance across the counties.

Additionally, it has gazetted 22 licensing committees at the counties to help in the licensing process, the PS said.

KNCCI president Erick Ruto, CEO Patrick Nyang'oro, governors Cecily Mbarire of Embu and Benjamin Cheboi of Baringo, and KenInvest CEO Jane Chepkemei were present during the event.



KNCCI chairman Erick Ruto (second right) with Mining PS Elijah Mwangi and other participants during the inaugural KNCCI mining stakeholders forum in Nairobi yesterday
/LEAH MUKAKANGAI

Monday 22nd January, 2024





(*) ODESA OFFICE ROLLED OUT IN KENYA WITH COCKTAIL FETE

The Ukrainian city of Odesa held a cocktail event for the launch of Odesa promotion office in Kenya to celebrate a successful partnership with Kenya on numerous projects.

Odesa is an Ukrainian city internationally known for its economic strength in transport and foreign trade. During the opening ceremony, guests were introduced to the photo exhibition 'Ways to Victory'.

Guests included Honorary Consul of the Republic of Ukraine **Oleksii Sierkov** and PA **Olga Aroo**, Group 19 CEO **Yusuf Abdizak**, Indian Ocean Integrated Projects director **Bravo Hussein** and KNCCI Nairobi chairman **James Mwaura**.




1. Honorary Consul of the Republic of Ukraine **Oleksii Sierkov** displays a certificate of Odesa
2. Group 19 CEO **Yusuf Abdizak** and businessman **Najib Kip Khan**
3. KNCCI Nairobi chairman **James Mwaura** and **Holiday Cars and Tours' Maureen Mutia**
4. **Reagans Coffee GM Daisy Nyaga** and **Indian Ocean Integrated Projects director Bravo Hussein**
5. **Olga Aroo** and **Team Jasho Kenya director Desmond Mulama**


/DOUGLAS OKIDDY


Monday 22nd January, 2024



 **Contact Us**


Kenya National Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Heritan House, Ground Floor, Woodlands Road, Off
Argwings Kodhek Road, Opposite Department Of
Defence HQs, Hurlingham - Nairobi, Kenya
P.O. Box 47024-00100

 +254 111 050 600

 info@kenyachamber.or.ke

 www.kenyachamber.or.ke

 Kenya Chamber

 Kenya Chamber

 @Kenya_Chamber