

Chamber Quarterly

4TH QUARTER

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2023





WEDNESDAY 4TH OCTOBER, 2023



Ghana-made herbal beer to cater for health-conscious customers

Beer lovers in Kenya can now enjoy Alomo Bitters, one of Ghana's popular beer brands without having to travel to the Western African nation. Alomo Bitters, a herbal-based alcoholic drink made with purified water, plant extracts and a neutral spirit is produced by Kasapreko Company Ltd in Ghana. The brand, popular not only in Ghana but also in Nigeria, Togo, Ivory Coast, South Africa and Burkina Faso is set to spark a competition in the alcohol industry. Francis Holly-Adzah, Director, International Business Development, describes the brand as an authentic herbal drink exquisitely crafted by nature's hands, and distributed across 12 West African countries, three South African countries, the European Union region, United States of America and Canada. He explains, as Kasapreko enters Kenya, it anticipates a warm reception from consumers who seek top-tier beverages that deliver quality and affordability. According to him, there are similarities in cultures, lifestyle and socioeconomic statuses of many citizens of both Ghana and Kenya. [Read more](#)



WEDNESDAY 4TH OCTOBER, 2023



Kenya banks on international marketer to narrow trade deficit

The state has reiterated its plan to link more local tea, coffee and flower farmers in the country with global marketing firm, Fairtrade to up returns and boost revenue growth. This will be crucial in narrowing the country's trade gap that keeps widening despite increase in export earnings in recent past, said Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) president Erick Rutto. Speaking during the launch of the three day global Fairtrade business summit in Nairobi, Rutto said partnerships with such an organisation that has global market reach will propel the country's key exports. "This, while ensuring the plight of local farmers on price, premiums and principles such as traceability and transparency is well addressed," Rutto said. Data by Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) shows despite the 17.4 per cent growth in export earnings for the year ending 2022 to Sh873.1 billion, trade deficit still widened to Sh1.62 trillion. This was up from Sh1.41 trillion in 2021, when the value of imports was at Sh2.15 trillion,



which was a 30.9 per cent increase from Sh1.64 trillion in 2020. The Economic Survey report read that the growth was not sufficient to offset the growth in imports, resulting to the widening of the balance of trade. [Read more](#)



MONDAY 9TH OCTOBER, 2023

China-Africa economic cooperation on the rise

The Sino-African economic and trade cooperation has experienced sustained growth, unleashing benefits to the continent, including the growth of local manufacturing, skills transfer and jobs for the youth, said a Kenyan trade lobby executive. Fredrick Mukilya, the chief representative of Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry to China, said that Africa could secure a prosperous and inclusive future once it increases the volume of goods exported to the Asian country. Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry is a membership-based trade support organization. "If you look at how Africa has been trading with China, there is a progressive growth for the last fourteen years because of acceptance of African products within the Chinese community," Mukilya told Xinhua during a recent interview in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital. According to Mukilya, Africa's exports of agricultural commodities to China have been increasing 11.4 percent annually. He suggested that for African countries to increase the volume of agricultural commodities exported to China, governments must invest in value addition and enhance the capacity of producers to meet phytosanitary requirements. [Read more](#)



TUESDAY 10TH OCTOBER, 2023



1,500 Kenyans set for jobs in Lebanon

An initial group of 1,500 Kenyans is set to leave the country to take up jobs in Lebanon as part of a deal between the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) and various agencies. KNCCI has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Kenya Association of Private Employment Agencies (Kapea) and the Association of Skilled Migrant Agencies of Kenya (Asmak) to facilitate jobs for Kenyans in Lebanon. In the deal, Asmak and KAPEA, in partnership with KNCCI have negotiated for jobs in the Middle East nation through the Syndicate of the Owners of Recruitment Agencies in Lebanon—the agency that represents Lebanese companies. The work visas of the 1,500 Kenyans are expected within 21 days. "This partnership not only



addresses the pressing issue of unemployment in Kenya but also strengthens diplomatic ties and economic co-operation between the two nations,” KNCCI President Erick Rutto said. He said the agreement will facilitate the recruitment of about 10,000 semi-skilled and skilled professionals from Kenya for employment in Lebanon by the end of the year. [Read more](#)



TUESDAY 10TH OCTOBER, 2023



Kenya, Lebanon Sign Deal to Recruit About 10,000 Workers, First 1,500 Kenyans to Be Deployed



Kenyans seeking employment will have a chance to secure more than 10,000 opportunities in Lebanon. This followed an agreement between the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) and recruitment agencies in Kenya and the Middle East country. KNCCI president Eric Rutto revealed that the partnership between the chamber, Kenya Association of Private Employment Agencies (KAPEA) and the Association of Skilled Migrant Agencies of Kenya (ASMAK) and Syndicate of the Owners of Recruitment Agencies in Lebanon (SORAL) will spur economic growth. Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) data showed the number of jobless Kenyans grew to 2.97 million in quarter four of 2022. According to the deal, the first group of 1,500 semi-skilled Kenyans is set to leave for Lebanon to fill current job openings. KAPEA chairman Juma Omar Mwangala called for employee rights protection, asking SORAL to ensure that no Kenyan complains about the terms of work. Kenyan recruitment agencies are expected to offer pre-departure training in line with Lebanon's special training requirements. [Read more](#)



WEDNESDAY 11TH OCTOBER, 2023



Boost for Kenyan exporters as KNCCI opens office in China

The Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry has announced the operationalization of its first office in China as part of its strategies to penetrate the Asian market. The office located in Changsha will serve as a major hub in promoting trade and investment between the two countries and increase the visibility of Kenyan products. Speaking during a flag-off breakfast ceremony in Nairobi, KNCCI CEO Patrick Nyan-



gweso further highlighted its significance in promoting collaboration and facilitating business partnerships with other Chinese business firms. “The office will play a pivotal role in displaying Kenyan products and services in the vibrant Chinese market,” he said. KNCCI President Eric Rutto said the opening of the office marks a significant milestone in their history. This, he noted, underscores their commitment to fostering stronger trade and investment ties between Kenya and China. “We are confident that our presence in China will open up new opportunities for Kenyan businesses and entrepreneurs and contribute to the growth of our nation's economy,” he stated. Rutto further stated that they intend to open more offices even as he committed to having Kenyan exporters sensitised to gain more insights. [Read more](#)

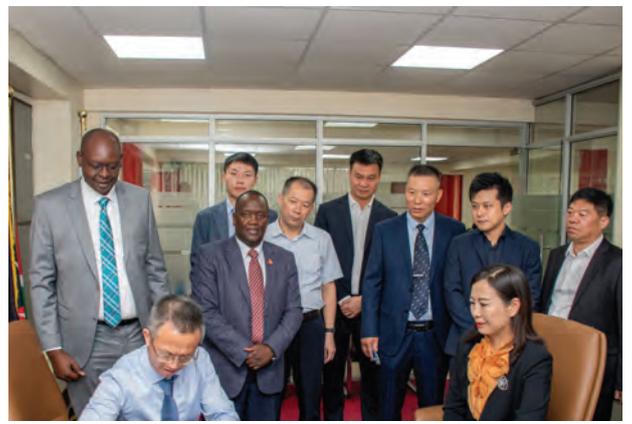


WEDNESDAY 11TH OCTOBER, 2023



Chamber eyes more SMEs to bridge China trade

Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry hoped the inclusion of small-scale traders in international trade would bridge the trade imbalance between Kenya and China. The trade between the countries has been hugely in favour of China and the Chamber is now planning to open up the Chinese market for more Kenyan SMEs. The deficit rose to \$3.62 billion (Sh544.07 billion under the prevailing exchange rate) in 2022 from \$3.51 billion (Sh523.2 billion) in the prior year, according to data collated by the Central Bank of Kenya. KNCCI has opened an office, in Changsha, China, to promote collaboration, facilitate business partnerships, and display Kenyan products and services. “KNCCI's expansion into China is a strategic move aimed at advancing economic cooperation between Kenya and one of the world's largest economies,” said KNCCI president Erick Rutto. He said since signing the agreement 100 days ago KNCCI has managed to support members and through the network exported goods worth \$166,000 (sh25 million). Rutto added that the new office would also enable KNCCI to identify business opportunities, particularly in the export of meat and meat products, a sector that remains largely untapped. The Chamber said through the office, it would strive to grow Kenya's market share for fruits, tea, coffee, cut flowers and vegetables in China. [Read more](#)



**SATURDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2023**

Looking East, West: Samia perfects Ruto's game to attract trade, investment



Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu this week returned from a state visit to India with pledges to improve economic ties, completing a cycle of tours to her country's biggest trading partners since she took over power in 2021. President Samia's diplomatic strategy of keeping and engaging friends in both the West and the East is mirroring William Ruto's. For Dodoma, Samia's trip to New Delhi, her first as head of state, delivered an elevation: The two countries' relations are now a "strategic partnership," a diplomatic status where countries consider each other crucial for their foreign policies. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, after hosting the Tanzanian leader on Tuesday, said they had discussed "trade, commerce and people-to-people linkages." "Our nations have decided to work together to form a five-year roadmap in the defence sector. This will be beneficial for military training, maritime cooperation, capacity building and the defence industry," Modi said. President Samia took the trip aiming to raise foreign direct investment into her country. In the end, she signed MoUs on easing trade transactions, industrial development, maritime security and defence. "We have moved from registering \$2 billion of FDI in 2020 to \$5 billion in the year ending June 2023. We target \$15 billion per year by the end of 2025," she said at an India-Tanzania business forum. [Read more](#)

**SUNDAY 15TH OCTOBER, 2023**

Kenya Chamber of Commerce opens China office



The Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) has made a significant stride in its mission to boost trade and investment ties between Kenya and China. The chamber recently announced the opening of a new branch in Changsha, China, marking a momentous milestone in its history. This expansion reflects the commitment to fostering stronger economic relationships between the two nations. According to Patrick Nyangweso, the CEO of KNCCI, the newly established China Branch Office will serve as a crucial hub for promoting collaboration, facilitating business partnerships, and showcasing Kenyan products and services in the dynamic Chinese market. The move highlights the chamber's dedication to making the trade between Kenya and China more accessible and efficient. This strategic expansion plan is not limited to China alone.

KNCCI has broader ambitions, eyeing the establishment of more branches in key regions such as Guangdong, Sharjah, and Ghana. These planned offices will further enhance the chamber's reach and impact, facilitating trade, investment, and economic growth. Fredrick Mukilya, Chief Representative for KNCCI China Branch, emphasized the pivotal role that the new office will play.

It is expected to boost trade and investment, attract more investments, increase the visibility and awareness of Kenyan products, and provide mechanisms for business protection through arbitration. Moreover, the presence of the China Branch Office aims to foster confidence among Kenyan businesses when working with Chinese counterparts. [Read More](#)



SUNDAY 22ND OCTOBER, 2023



Chamber of Commerce decries rising insecurity in Eldoret



The Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) has expressed decried rising insecurity in Eldoret especially rampant theft of cars and robberies. Region's KNCCI chairman Willy Kenei said unless security teams act on the problem, it may undermine investor confidence in the town that is about to be elevated to city status in the next few month. Kenei's concern comes just days after a taxi driver Patrick Muiruri, was abducted and went missing for several days before his body was recovered in a tea plantation. His stolen car was found in a compound within Kapsoya estate in Eldoret. Uasin Gishu police commander Benjamin Mwanthi said six people who were found dismantling stolen vehicles in the town had been arrested and taken to court. Kenei who spoke during the Mashujaa Day celebrations in Eldoret, said the business community in the town was worried and urged police to move with speed to stop gangs perpetrating insecurity in the region. "We are soon becoming a city, and we are all interested in peace and security because without peace, then we cannot do anything else." Kenei at the same time said although they had been working closely with the Uasin Gishu county government, the chamber and the business community was displeased by a recent decision by the county to demolish business signages and advertising boards from premises in the CBD. [Read more](#)

**SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER, 2023**

7th Agro-Food Pack Attracts Global Over 1000 Exhibitors



The 7th Agro-Food Pack expo has attracted over 1,500 exhibitors from 11 countries globally. The event which is being held in Nairobi seeks to link farmers to skills in technology, boosting inter-trade and enhancing the opening of business opportunities between Kenya and other 20 countries from Europe and Asian nations. Dubai-based MXM Exhibitors and Kenya National Chambers of Commerce & Industry-KNCCI Kajiado Chapter are the organizers of the 3day event at Sarit Centre in Nairobi. “The exhibition has attracted exhibitors from 11 to 12 countries, and we are expecting visitors not only from Kenya but also from the surrounding countries, said Mudasir Mohammad, Director MXM Exhibition Limited. The Agro-Foodpack has attracted various exhibitor from agriculture, poultry, food processing, and plastics packaging and is seeking to unleash investment opportunities to all exhibitors both locally and internationally as a way to boost local agricultural production. Joseph Ntele, Chairman of Kenya National Chamber of Commerce & Industry-Kajiado Chapter however, termed the collaboration (KNCC & Industry-Kajiado Chapter Partners & MXM) as an opportunity for Kajiado to reap big in the agricultural sector. “Through investment and the collaboration, we have with MXM, we’re pretty sure that we will get things right in terms of agriculture, and more important, we are still looking forward to accommodating more partners, and signing more MOUs in both locally and internationally”, he said during the official launch of the 7th edition of Agro-Food Pack Expo at Sarit centre -Nairobi. [Read more](#)

**MONDAY 30TH OCTOBER, 2023**

Mining ministry, KNCCI to jointly host International Mining Conference



Preparations have kicked off in earnest for the upcoming International Mining and Investments Conference to be held in Nairobi in February 2024. Planning is being spearheaded by the Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs alongside Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) amongst other line ministries and State Departments. “KNCCI leadership is committed to ensuring the success of the International Mining and Investments Conference. The private sector plays a key role in spurring development in the mining sector for a meaningful contribution to the GDP of this country.

KNCCI with membership in the 47 counties aligned to grow this sector,” KNCCI president Erick Rutto said. Rutto made the remarks after holding a meeting with Mining Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya at his office in Nairobi. The CS expressed commitment to support the private sector to spur development in the country. KNCCI is also pushing for the inclusion of the International Commission on Great Lakes (ICGLR) Private Sector Forum (PSF) in the convention comprising of 12 countries. [Read more](#)



TUESDAY 7TH NOVEMBER, 2023



SCCI mission showcases opportunities in Nairobi



A trade mission to Uganda and Kenya led by the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), represented by the Sharjah Exports Development Centre (SEDC), participated in the Sharjah-Kenya Business Forum during its first stop in Nairobi. The forum aimed to review the two nations’ investment opportunities and encourage their business communities to invest in sectors and fields aligned with the national visions of the UAE and Kenya, supporting the two countries’ future trajectories towards achieving sustainable economic development. The forum was attended by His Excellency Abdullah Sultan Al Owais, Chairman of the SCCI and head of the mission. Other notable attendees included His Excellency Dr Salem Ibrahim Al Naqbi, UAE Ambassador to Kenya, His Excellency Ronald Meru, Chair of Economic Diplomacy for the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, several SCCI board members, Abdulaziz Mohammed Shattaf, Assistant Director-General of the Communication and Business Sector at the Sharjah Chamber, Ibrahim Rashid Al Jarwan, Director of Economic Relations and Marketing at SCCI, Jamal Saeed Buzangal, Director of the Media Department at the Chamber, a slew of officials from the SCCI and the SEDC, and numerous businessmen, investors, and representatives of the UAE and Kenya business communities. [Read More](#)



WEDNESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER, 2023



Kenya woos UAE investors into agribusiness

The Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI), the country’s trade lobby, has said that it is seeking to attract investors from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) into the country’s agribusiness and real estate sectors. Ronald Meru, the chairperson of the Economic Diplomacy Committee at the KNCCI, told a trade forum in



Nairobi that the country is a large producer of cash crops such as tea, coffee, and flowers that are often exported as unprocessed or semi-processed commodities. “We welcome UAE investors to add value to our agricultural products so that Kenya can benefit from more foreign exchange earnings,” Meru said during the UAE-East Africa Trade Forum 2023. The event brought together 30 businesses from Sharjah in the UAE to explore opportunities in the East African region through linking with local traders and investors. Meru added that Kenya is also keen to attract UAE investors into the real estate and infrastructure sector because the country’s expanding cities provide lucrative returns and are also key to the nation’s growth strategy. Data from Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) indicate that Kenya exported goods worth Sh44 billion (about \$291 million) to the UAE in 2022 while it imported goods worth \$2.69 billion dollars in the same period from the Gulf nation. [Read More](#)



WEDNESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER, 2023



Kenya, Dubai strike trade deal for more investments

Kenya’s trade ties with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) went a notch higher Tuesday following the signing of a deal with the Dubai International Chamber. The bilateral agreement between the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) and the Dubai International Chamber will see 18 Dubai-based companies invest in the country. With the trade value between the two countries currently standing at USD 2.1 billion (Sh315 billion), it is expected that this will significantly increase following the deal. Kenya’s leading imports from Dubai were electronics, machinery, vehicles, spare parts and plastic. On the other hand, minerals which include gold, coffee and other perishable products were exported to the UAE. Dubai Chambers President and CEO Mohammad Ali Rashed Lootah emphasized during the forum in Nairobi the pivotal role of bilateral meetings in fostering economic alliances between the business communities of the two countries. Lootah highlighted Kenya’s potential as a lucrative market for Dubai-based companies seeking expansion opportunities on the African continent. The event, he noted, marked a significant step toward forging mutually beneficial partnerships and exploring new opportunities in the thriving East African market. [Read more](#)



**THURSDAY 9TH NOVEMBER, 2023**

Dubai Chambers Launches Its Plan To Collaborate With Kenya In Business

The Dubai Chambers International in Partnership with Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) has launched the Doing Business with Kenya

Forum, to bring together industry leaders, entrepreneurs, and international business experts to explore the burgeoning business prospects in Kenya and the broader East Africa region. Speaking in Nairobi on Wednesday during the business meeting, the President CEO of Dubai Chamber Mohammed Ali Rashed Lootah, said that the Dubai Chamber had witnessed growth in terms of bilateral trade between Dubai and Kenya last year. "Last year's trade value was US\$2.1 billion, whereby the majority of exports from Dubai specifically to Kenya were electronics, machinery, vehicles, spare parts, and plastics, while Dubai imported a lot of products from Kenya in terms of minerals, mostly gold, coffee, fruits among others," Lootah added. The Dubai Chamber International went ahead to sign an MOU with the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, to boost bilateral trade and investment, mentioning Kenya as an East African gateway. Lootah said that the chamber would love to take Kenya to the next level by encouraging more Dubai entrepreneurs to not only trade with Kenya but also invest in the country. Moreover, Mohammed stated that the MOU will also concentrate on information exchange and help to facilitate the inquiries and clarification raised by the private sector to make even more arrangements with Kenya being their partner. [Read More](#)

**SATURDAY 11TH NOVEMBER, 2023**

Busia cross-border traders fear Kenya's high oil prices will hurt border trade

Cross-border traders in Busia have raised concern over the increasing tariffs on petroleum, saying it will hurt the business between Kenya and her neighbour Uganda where Kenya earns in excess of \$1 billion annually through exports. The traders who presented a memo to the two countries' East African Commu-



nity (EAC) Cabinet Secretaries Peninah Malonza (Kenya) and Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga (Uganda), said such tariffs should be revised to ease business. “Many countries in the EAC have protectionist policies that protect domestic industries and discourage regional trade integration. The current high tariffs recently introduced in Kenya, for example, will hurt border trade with Uganda and beyond,” said Sylvanus Mbongo Abungu on behalf of the traders. The traders engaged the ministers who were on a working tour at the Busia One Stop Border Point (OSBP) on Thursday. “The recent proposed change of Uganda fuel import associated with the high tariffs in Kenya will affect business in Busia and stifle integration,” said Mbongo. Uganda's Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development has proposed a bill in Parliament that seeks to cut reliance on Kenya for importation of its petroleum products. Their memo comes even as the land-locked nation, which imports 90 per cent of its petroleum through Kenya, seeks to cease its reliance on Kenya to access petroleum products citing an increase in pump prices. [Read more](#)



FRIDAY 17TH NOVEMBER, 2023



Turkana Governor Launches ILO Partnership With Chamber Of Commerce



Turkana county Governor Jeremiah Lomorukai has launched a new partnership programme between the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) Turkana Chapter. The partnership will focus on supporting business development and growth in Turkana County. The partnership will also provide training and capacity building to businesses, facilitating access to finance, promoting entrepreneurship, supporting the development of cooperatives and enhancing integration with neighbouring countries. Additionally, it will provide access to opportunities for refugees as well as boost integration with the host community on business. “Partnerships are important in supporting and equipping our business community and providing grants to our entrepreneurs,” said Lomorukai during the launch held at Ceamo Hotel “We are committed to creating a conducive environment for our business community to freely conduct their activities,” he said. The Governor appreciated the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry’s efforts in training and building the capacity of local traders. [Read more](#)

**MONDAY 20TH NOVEMBER, 2023**

KNCCI calls for stabilisation fund to cushion tea farmers



Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) is pushing for the establishment of a Stabilization Fund to cushion tea farmers against global economic inflation. They said tea is a top foreign exchange earner, and the government should consider protecting the sector against an erratic market. They noted that factors that have negatively affected the sector include external market prices and climate change impacts. Speaking during a breakfast forum in Kapsabet, Nandi county, KNCCI President Erick Ruto said they are looking forward to engage the national government and tea stakeholders to lobby for funds to boost profit margins and expansion of the tea market. He noted that for the past ten years, tea production has steadily declined and recently worsened by the Covid-19 impact and conflict in the Middle East and Russia- Ukraine wars and called for financial stimulus to regulate tea prices dictated by external factors. “Kenya exports tea worth Sh130 Billion to the international market annually, which contributes to the country’s economy. But farmers get little since the cost of production is high and shortage of dollars are among the limiting factors in the market,” Dr Ruto said. [Read more](#)

**MONDAY 20TH NOVEMBER, 2023**

KNCCI is in Support of the Bottom-Up Economic Model



The Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KNCCI) has supported the bottom-up economic model being implemented by the Kenya Kwanza administration. KNCCI president Dr. Erick Ruto said the model is a transformation agenda to empower small-scale businesses to thrive and do business in a wealthy nation. “As business people, our main agenda is to do business in a wealthy nation, hence we will support all government programs and try to bring solutions where necessary so as to grow our economy,” he said. He spoke at Naisoya area in Narok North Sub County during a thanksgiving ceremony for newly elected South Rift region KNCCI Director David Mpatiany. The prayers were led by Dominion Chapel Bishop Peter Ole Supeyo. The function was attended by Narok County Commissioner Isaac Masinde, Narok North Member of Parliament Agnes

Pareyio, Narok County Assembly Speaker Davis Dikirr, a host of KNCCI directors among others. Dr. Ruto reiterated that KNCCI will continue empowering traders in the country by linking them to international markets and support them to expand their businesses. “We want even the Maa community to do their businesses in a professional manner. We will link their bead and meat businesses to international markets so that they can get more profit,” he said. [Read more](#)



WEDNESDAY 29TH NOVEMBER, 2023



KNCCI resolves leadership impasse in Trans Nzoia

Trans Nzoia Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) chapter has a new leadership after a truce was struck between two warring camps. The branch has been dogged by leadership wrangles in the past six months after a group led by Benson Malesi moved to court to contest the outcome of the elections, which favoured Titus Kilong’i. The conflict over the eligibility of the voting register led to the halt of the elections, enforced by a court injunction initiated by Malesi’s camp that challenged Kilong’i’s camp. Before the elections were aborted, a dispute over the voter register had previously caused a postponement of the annual general meeting at the Kitale Museum. Malesi recently withdrew the suit, leading to a negotiated solution that saw the chamber’s electoral body strike a deal with the two teams agreeing to share slots. “Kilong’i assumes the position of chairman, while Malesi will be a director in charge of finance,” said Benjamin Onkoba from the electoral board. [Read more](#)



MONDAY 11TH DECEMBER, 2023



Mombasa business community honours Shahbal with an award

The Mombasa business community came together to celebrate and honor the exemplary contributions of Suleiman Shahbal, a distinguished and respected businessman. Shahbal, the Chairman of GulfCap Real Estate, one of Africa's largest real estate developers, was bestowed with the prestigious award in recognition of his outstanding years of service, unwavering devotion, and steadfast support to the local business community. He was awarded during the Mombasa Business Awards Gala Dinner hosted by the Kenya



National Chambers of Commerce and Industry on Friday at Sarova Whitesands Hotel. The recognition comes at a time when his company, GulfCap Real Estate was awarded as the best real estate developer in Africa in Namibia by the African Union for Housing Finance (AUFC) last month. In the same month of November, President William Ruto launched Phase 2 of the Buxton Point project in Mombasa. The company has taken on monumental projects that have not only transformed skylines but have also addressed the critical need for affordable housing. Notable among these initiatives are the Starehe Point project in Nairobi, valued at Sh20 billion, and the Buxton Point project in Mombasa, with an investment of Sh6 billion. The projects focus on providing a lifestyle. [Read more](#)



WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER, 2023



KNCCI pushes for Kenyan produce export surge

In the face of a weakening shilling, the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KNCCI) is pushing for local businesses to explore export markets. Vice president Mustafa Ramadhan envisions this initiative as a potential remedy for a positive balance of trade, aiming for a trade surplus where exports surpass imports.



To achieve this, the KNCCI has established an operational office in China, securing export orders totaling Sh280 million within the first two months. The focal point of this collaboration is the burgeoning demand for mushrooms in the vast Chinese market, estimated at a staggering Sh90 billion annually.

“The demand for mushrooms is around Sh90 billion per year... we have agreed with them and we have carefully selected 12 people to go and train people on farming of mushrooms that can grow in all weather conditions,” Ramadhan said. “So someone from those trainers will be coming to this region to train people on how to grow mushrooms and take advantage of the Sh90 billion market,” Ramadhan said.

[Read more](#)

MEDIA PICTORIALS

4TH QUARTER OCT - DEC 2023

The Standard 7th October, 2023



Focus on SMEs

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Fresh KNCCI plan for new jobs

- ▶ ASMAK and KAPEA, in coordination with KNCCI, have embarked on an agreement with the Syndicate of the Owners of Recruitment Agencies in Lebanon (SORAL), representing Lebanese Companies.
- ▶ This agreement is aimed at facilitating the recruitment of semi-skilled and skilled professionals from Kenya for employment opportunities in Lebanon, all while adhering to their respective national laws and regulations.

BY GERARD NYELE, NAIROBI

Kenya, like many nations, grapples with the significant challenge of unemployment. Recognizing the urgent need to address this issue, the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) has taken a significant step towards creating opportunities for both skilled and unskilled unemployed Kenyans. On September, 22 2023, KNCCI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with The Kenya Association of Private Employment Agencies (KAPEA) and The Association of Skilled Migrant Agencies of Kenya (ASMAK).

The primary objective of the partnership was to foster growth,



Stakeholders sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

improve service delivery, and generate employment prospects for Kenyans. KNCCI is committed to establishing robust collaborations with labor-importing countries, including the Kenyan government, embassies, Council of Governors, and other chambers.

To effectively implement the MoU, ASMAK and KAPEA, in coordination with KNCCI, have embarked on an agreement with the Syndicate of the Owners of Recruitment Agencies in Lebanon (SORAL), representing Lebanese Companies. This

agreement is aimed at facilitating the recruitment of semi-skilled and skilled professionals from Kenya for employment opportunities in Lebanon, all while adhering to their respective national laws and regulations.

As part of this initiative, Kenyan Agencies Representatives will provide pre-departure training to the employees, ensuring that they are well-prepared to excel in their respective roles in Lebanon. Additionally, the Lebanese Agent Representatives will communicate any special training

requirements for employees destined to work in Lebanon to their Kenyan counterparts.

The Chamber President, Dr. Erick Rutto in his remarks noted that the signing of this transformative agreement, emphasized the significance of this collaboration in enhancing trade relations between Kenya and Lebanon. This partnership not only addresses the pressing issue of unemployment in Kenya but also strengthens diplomatic ties and economic cooperation between the two nations.

The clearing office responsible for the effective execution of this partnership comprises three current officials from ASMAK: Francis Nduhiu Wahome, Monica Mwendu Mwema, and Mercy Wairimu Warugu, alongside three current officials from KAPEA: Juma Omar Mwangala, Virginia Njoki Muriigi, and Philip Mutiso Munyao.

This collaboration signifies a significant milestone in Kenya's journey to combat unemployment and create opportunities for its citizens. KNCCI, ASMAK, and KAPEA are committed to working together to drive economic growth and enhance the lives of countless Kenyans by providing them with employment opportunities both locally and abroad.

Integrity, and transparency in the recruitment industry by fostering cooperation among our members and stakeholders. In this article, we will explore the key aspects of KAPEA, including our objectives, membership types, and the benefits of joining our esteemed association.



The primary objective of the partnership was to foster growth, improve service delivery, and generate employment prospects for Kenyans.

12th October, 2023

Indian engineering expo kicks off in Nairobi



High Commissioner of India to Kenya Namgya Khampa (centre), Engineering Export Promotion Council of India Chairman Arun Kumar Garodia (right) and Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Economic Diplomacy Committee Chairman Ronald Meru during the Indian Engineering Exhibition (INDEE) 2023 Expo at the KICC, Nairobi, yesterday. LUCY WANJIRU / NATION



BUSINESS TALKS: Stanbic Bank Chief Executive, Kenya and South Sudan, Joshua Oigara (right), Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Economic Diplomacy chairman, Ronald Meru (centre) and Stanbic Bank Chief Executive, Tanzania, Jackson Rwegasira Manzi during the East Africa Business Summit organised by Stanbic. PD/ALICE MBURU

People Daily 9th October, 2023

MEDIA PICTORIALS

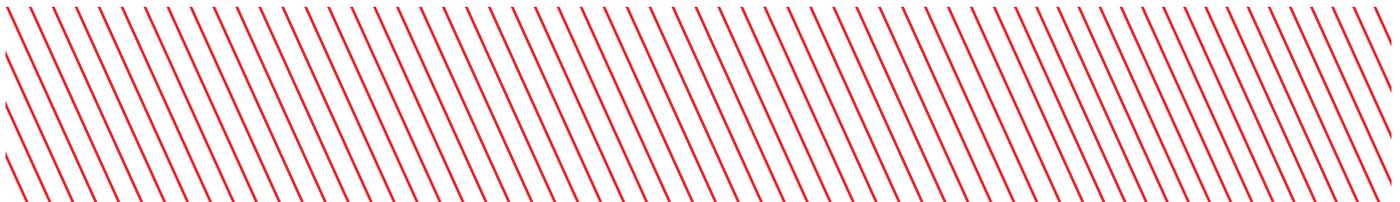
4TH QUARTER OCT - DEC 2023



VGK electric vehicle founder Gurinder Oberoi (left) shows his electric bike to High Commissioner of India to Kenya Namgya Khampa, Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Ronald Meru and EEPC India Chairman Arun Kumar Garodia during the Indian Engineering Exhibition 2023 Expo at the KICC.



Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Erick Rutto shakes hands with WFP-Kenya Country Director Lauren Landis after signing a partnership agreement with the World Food Programme to support the joint implementation of activities geared towards improving food security, empowering youth and building resilience among communities in arid and semi-arid lands.



SCARING INVESTORS
Chamber of Commerce decries rising insecurity in Eldoret, call for action

MATHEWS NDANYI The Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) has expressed decried rising insecurity in Eldoret especially rampant theft of cars and robberies.

Region's KNCCI chairman Willy Kenel said unless security teams act on the problem, it may undermine investor confidence in the town that is about to be elevated to city status in the next few months.

Kenel's concern comes just days after a taxi driver Patrick Muiruri, was abducted and went missing for several days before his body was recovered in a tea plantation. His stolen car was found in a compound within Kapsoya estate in Eldoret.

Uasin Gishu police commander Benjamin Mwanthi said six people who were found dismantling stolen vehicles in the town had been arrested and taken to court.

Kenel who spoke during the Mashujaa Day celebrations in Eldoret, said the business community in the town was worried and urged police to move with speed to stop gangs perpetrating insecurity in the region.

"We are soon becoming a city, and we are all interested in peace and security because without peace, then we cannot do anything else."

Kenel at the same time said although they had been working closely with the Uasin Gishu county government, the chamber and the business community was displeased by a recent decision by the county to demolish business signages and advertising boards from premises in the CBD.

"As the business community, we urge that such actions should not happen again because all business people had paid for the signages and they were not consulted or involved when a decision was made to demolish the signages," the chairman said.

He demanded that traders in the region be respected and consulted through the chamber before such decisions are enforced.

Kenel chairs the ad hoc committee on conferment of city status to Eldoret town. He says the administration of Governor Jonathan Bli should do everything possible to safeguard existing businesses and attract investors.

"The demolition of signages was one bad incident but overall, we are happy with the administration of Governor Bli because they have been consulting us on most issues."

He welcomed the government's plan to set up an EPZ area in the town where an investor was already planning to set up a new enterprise at a cost of more than Sh8 billion. More than 6,000 youth will be employed in the EPZ area, he said.

Chamber of Commerce chairman Willy Kenel during Mashujaa Day celebrations in Eldoret. /MATHEWS NDANYI

MEDIA PICTORIALS

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BILATERAL RELATIONS

KNCCI welcomes China's decision to scrap visa appointments



Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Erick Rutto. [File]

Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) has welcomed the scrapping of visa application appointments by the Embassy of China.

The chamber's president Erick Rutto said the decision marks a significant advancement in streamlining the visa application process, demonstrating a joint commitment to enhancing economic cooperation between Kenya and China.

With the new system in place, applicants can now submit their visa applications directly to the Chinese Visa Application Service

Center in Nairobi during regular working hours.

"This change is anticipated to significantly alleviate the bureaucratic challenges commonly encountered by our business community, thereby fostering a more favourable environment for bilateral trade and investment," Dr Rutto said in a statement.

"The KNCCI recognises the positive implications of this streamlined process for our members, investors, and entrepreneurs.

"By simplifying the visa application procedure, we anticipate a more robust and fluid

interaction in trade and investment opportunities between our two nations."

He said KNCCI also sees the potential for further improvements in business relations between Kenya and China, and encouraged both governments to consider the possibility of visa exemptions for business people and investors.

Such a move, Rutto said, could greatly enhance trade activities and open avenues for mutually advantageous partnerships, contributing to the economic growth of both Kenya and China. [Standard Reporter]



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DAILY NATION FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2023

CHAMS MEDIA 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Remarks from Government officials

DR. ERICK RUTTO, PRESIDENT, KENYA NATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

"Congratulations to Chams Media on reaching this remarkable milestone of 10 years. As a valued member of the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) and a leading force in the African media landscape, we commend Chams Media for their dedication in captivating audiences with their powerful storytelling, innovation and commitment to creating social impact by showcasing the remarkable journeys of individuals who defy boundaries and excel globally. As we celebrate this milestone, we recognise the role and impact of Chams Media in fostering connections and collaborations in enhancing trade relations and attracting investment back to our country. KNCCI looks forward to continued collaboration with Chams Media in promoting trade, investment, and economic growth within Africa and beyond the region. Once again, congratulations on this significant achievement. We wish you continued success in the years to come."

DAVID OMWOYO, CEO, MEDIA COUNCIL OF KENYA

"We as the Media Council of Kenya Congratulate Chams Media on their 10 anniversary. For 10 years, the team at Chams Media has been consistent professional actors in the media field, providing employment and training opportunities, and showing the story of Kenyans across the world and Kenya to the world. You have done so through unique perspectives. For that, we congratulate you!"

Remarks from clients and partners

ALLAN KILAVUKA, GROUP MD AND CEO, KENYA AIRWAYS

"For a decade now Chams Media has been sharing the special and rewarding journeys of Kenyans living and succeeding in the diaspora. Along this journey, we have come to appreciate fresh perspectives and insights on courage, resilience, and succeeding away from home. Congratulations to Alex and Chams Media for sharing these journeys and for working closely with Kenya Airways to share and celebrate the prosperity stories of Kenyans in living abroad. We look forward to more incredible journeys and experiences of Kenyans in the diaspora as a travel partner. Happy 10th Anniversary!"

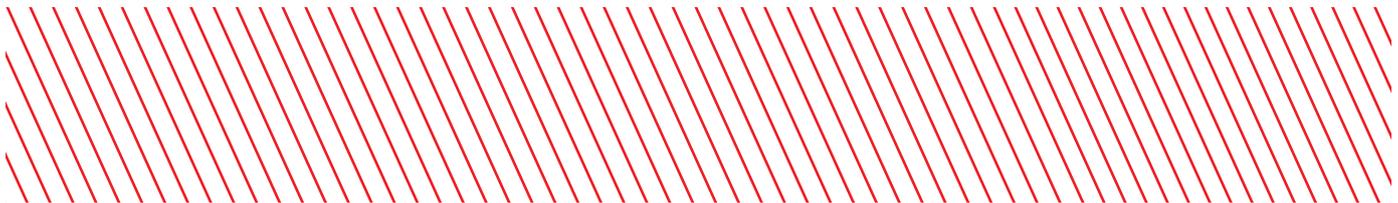
JONATHAN JACKSON, CHAIRMAN, LORDSHIP AFRICA

"As Chams Media marks a decade of inspiring and exceptional work in sharing the diaspora story through the *Daring Abroad* platform, Lordship Africa would like to commend Alex Chamwanda for initiating and leading Chams Media and his entire crew; and for highlighting the achievements of the Kenyan Diaspora. We look forward to more collaborations in celebrating the Kenyan spirit of entrepreneurship and service to the Kenyans of our great country. I and the team from Lordship Africa wish you a well-deserved and happy 10th anniversary!"

Congratulations to CHAMS MEDIA on Your 10th Anniversary. We are proud to be associated with you.

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