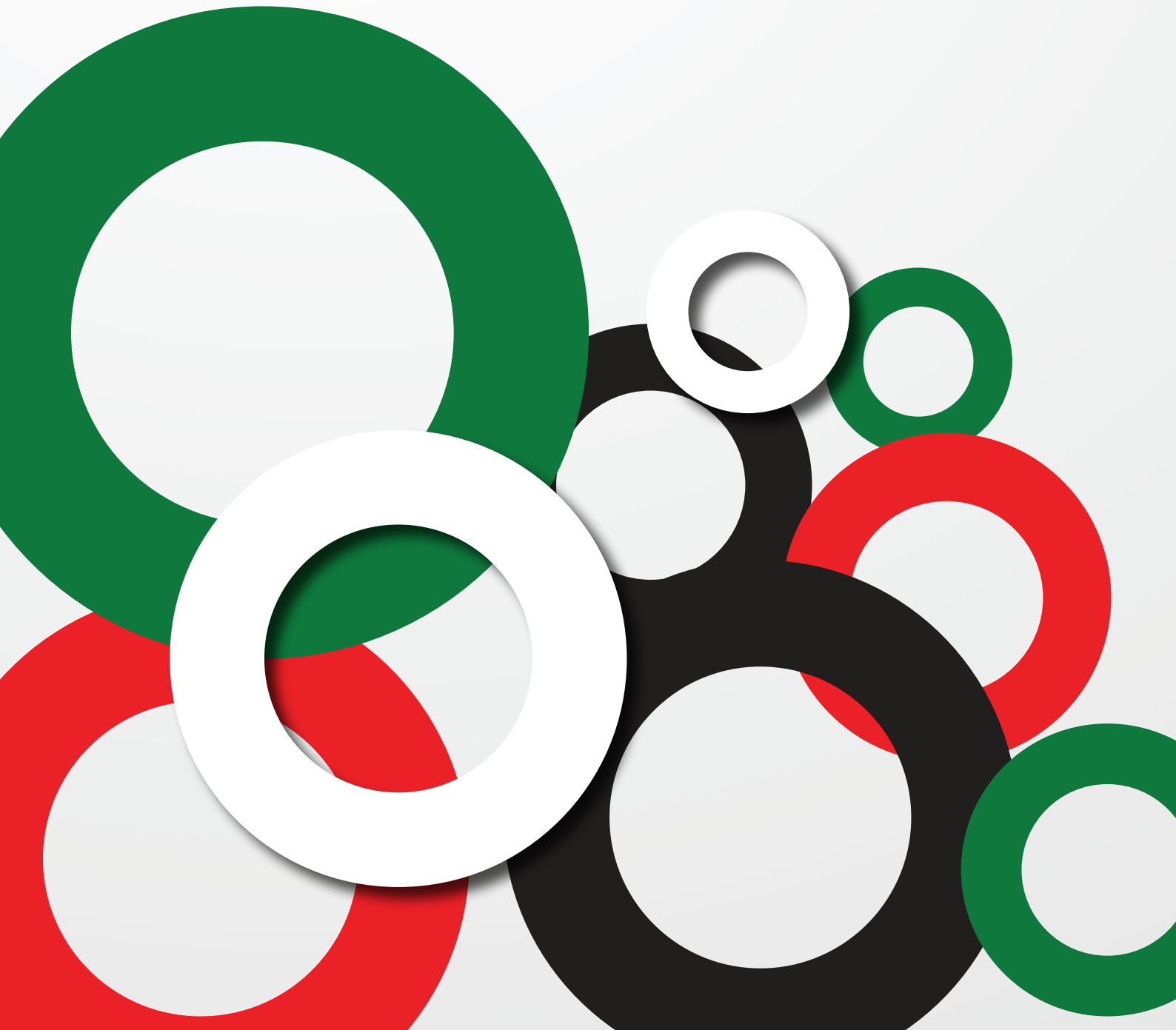


# Chamber Quarterly

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**12th January, 2021**

## Vihiga traders benefit from Mastercard support

Mastercard Foundation has channelled Sh10 million to small businesses in Vihiga County to help them recover from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) Vihiga Branch chairman Billy Nyonje said more than 600 traders have already benefited from the grant. He said more traders will be funded in the second phase.

“The grant came at the right time when most of the traders were struggling to revive their businesses after Covid-19 pandemic,” he said. “In this second phase, I urge Luanda traders to come out in large numbers to apply,” he said. He said in the first phase Emuhaya, Hamisi and Sabatia sub-counties topped the list of applicants “I didn’t expect Luanda town to trail in the list and yet that’s where we have so many traders, Luanda is the main engine of business in this county,” said Nyonje. He said apart from Mastercard, other financial institutions supporting traders to get back on their feet include Vihiga Traders Sacco, Step and Fly Micro Finance and Equity Bank. Nyonje decried the harassment of traders in the county by the Finance and trade department saying it should review its licensing fee because of the impact of Covid-19 on businesses. “We know the county survives on this revenue collected but the situation at hand must be understood,” said the official. He said county reinforcement officers confiscate traders goods noting that some items once seized lose their market value. “We need an MOU with the county on how the licensing will be done to avoid wrangles within our markets with county enforcers,” Nyonje said.

**13th January, 2021**

## Covid-19 tax reliefs reversal by government opposed

and economist John Mukundi said the move was ill-advised. Nginyi, who is also in charge of the Redeemed Gospel Church Mt Kenya South, said he was shocked to see the government increasing the tax it had relaxed owing to the pandemic. He said the move by Parliament, which President Uhuru Kenya has already assented to, will make Kenyans speculate things that they should not, asking the government to come out clearly on the issue. He urged the government to recover money stolen in the Kenya Medical Supplies Agency scandal among other scandals and use it to finance its operations rather than increase tax. Economist John Mukundi who is the managing director Achievers College of Professional Studies in Embu said the move by Parliament was untimely as the pandemic is not yet over, noting that Kenyans are already overtaxed and that the problem the country faces can be attributed to overspending by the government.

An Embu clergy, traders and an economist have condemned Parliament for reversing Covid-19 tax reliefs in an attempt to save the struggling economy. Interfaith Council of Kenya Embu chapter chairman Samuel Nginyi, Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Embu branch chairman Mugo Mate

He said instead of increasing taxes, Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani should regulate the spending of the government to avoid wastage so that there can be adequate money for services and recovery of the economy. [Read more](#)



**22nd January, 2021**



## Operationalization of ACFTA to boost Trade in the Continent



Kenya is set to benefit from the expected increase of trade following the operationalization and implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) treaty. The event dubbed “Lighting the Africa Trade Torch” to launch the treaty took place simultaneously in five African countries on Wednesday. In Kenya, the ceremony to operationalize the agreement took place in Mombasa while similar events were held in Dakar (Senegal), Cape Town (South Africa), Lagos (Nigeria) and Dar es Salaam (Tanzania). Kenya National Chambers of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) is spearheading the initiative in Kenya in collaboration with county and national governments. “AfCFTA is a private sector initiative to boost trade among African countries and her people,” said KNCCI Mombasa chair Mustafa Ramadhan during the event that took place at the famous Mombasa tusks along Moi Avenue. Ramadhan said Africa countries are currently doing less than 17 per cent intra-trade adding: “We are hopeful that this initiative will open the African market and Kenya will be free to trade with close to one billion people in the African market.” Vice Chairman of International Chamber of Commerce Kiprono Kittony said African governments should make it possible for goods, services and labour to transcend all border barriers. Kittony said the initiative offers a huge market and provides the best opportunity to African countries to increase trade in the continent and improve their economies. [Read more](#)



**27th January, 2021**



## Iran VP Pledges Support for Kenyan Knowledge-Based Firms



Iranian Vice President for Science and Technology Sorena Sattari has offered to share the experience of the domestic knowledge-based and innovative companies with their peers in Kenya. Iranian Vice President Sattari, who is leading a scientific and technological delegation in a visit to Kenya.

made the remarks in a meeting with Kenyan Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Communications. Joseph Wakaba Mucheru, on Wednesday. In the meeting, which revolved around the promotion of cooperation between the two countries, Sattari said Iran will provide the successful experience of its knowledge-based and innovative companies with their Kenyan peers. The meeting, held on the second day of the Iranian delegation's visit to Kenya, was also attended by Richard Ngatia, president of Kenya's National Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Highlighting Iran's remarkable advances in the nanotechnology field, Sattari said, "Iran has been grappling with the US' cruel sanctions for 40 years. However, not only did the sanctions fail to prevent Iran's progress, but turned into the best driving force for the (Iranian) scientists and scientific elites that made us gain self-sufficiency in various scientific fields." The fact that Iran has had to design and manufacture the whole equipment and products to supply its demands steered the country towards self-sufficiency and homegrown industries, he added. [Read more](#)



6th February, 2021

## SMEs to benefit from Sh110b Africa free trade area facility

they were working with commercial banks across the continent to pool funds which would be guaranteed by governments. "This trade facility will help SMEs overcome the challenge of access to new markets. [Read more](#)

Small businesses in Kenya are set to benefit from a Sh110 billion trade facility to boost their market expansion under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). This is ahead of a planned roll out of a payment facility to ease currency convertibility across the continent. AfCFTA Secretary-General Wamkele Mene said



7th February, 2021

## Open letter to CS James Macharia over state of infrastructure in Busia county

neighbours. That Busia still remains a one street town, even with increased traffic, population growth and impact of trans-border movement, the sight of tracks queues stretching miles as they wait clearance at the border point and the dust in the town as vehicles try making their way using any possible space away from the congested road is killing that town. The story of preparation by Kenha to commission expansion works have been in the pipeline for long, and emergency intervention is required. I am sure, you have a lot of correspondents on the same including from the Governor HE Sospeter Ojaamong. The latest was by the President of the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Richard Ngatia and Dr Paul Otuoma, the chair of the Privatization Commission during the recently business open day in the town. They promised to remind of the state of that road and the adverse effects its having on private businesses who are struggling with the negative impact of the COVID-19. Without rehabilitating and expanding that main transnational road.

[Read more](#)



I am a resident of Busia County, a Kenyan and strong proponent for regional trading blocks. I know your docket is very heavy and such county related matters easily get forgotten. The state of the transnational road that links Mombasa to the great lake's region through Busia town is an eyesore, an embarrassment to the country and has made us a laughing stock by the rest of our



**11th February, 2021**

## SMEs call for fund to boost exports in horticulture sector

SMEs in the agribusiness sector have called on the government to help them establish external business links and set up a revolving fund to assist those looking to export produce. Participants at an exporters forum held in Nairobi Wednesday said that helping the small scale sellers could triple Kenya's export earnings from horticulture. Local SMEs lack a seamless and well-funded platform to source produce and ship the same to foreign markets, putting them at a disadvantage compared to well-oiled multinational producers. "Our partner businesspeople pledge payments upon receiving the shipment but we lack funds to source, package and ship the consignments. Our buyers pay upon arrival and many are unwilling to take the risk of upfront payments," said Nancy Wakaba, chief executive of Modest Exporters. Data from the Agriculture and Food authority shows that higher prices helped Kenya's horticulture exports to hit Sh151.2 billion from a volume of 306.6 million kilogrammes, up from Sh144.58 billion in 2019, even though volumes then were higher at 328.34 million kilogrammes. The forum, convened by the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI), supported calls for joint foreign marketing missions saying Kenya should focus more on value addition for agro-based products for creation of more jobs and investments. [Read more](#)

**2nd March, 2021**

## Govt defends iCMS cargo clearance system as importers decry delays

The government has defended the Integrated Customs Management System (iCMS) being implemented at the port of Mombasa by the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) in efforts to seal tax cheats and make trade processes seamless. EAC Principal Secretary in the Ministry of East African Community and regional development Kevit Desai said the iCMS system at the port will bring transformational change hence benefiting both importers and the government. Desai however, acknowledged the inconveniences brought about by the new system saying there is need for cooperation among key sector players. "Indeed there is considerable frustration and bitterness, we as government do realize that changes and transformation hugely disrupts existing operations."



it is for this reason that the ability for government and private sector partner to cooperate and ensure that policies made are beneficial to all," said Desai defending the system saying it will double investments for both government and private sector. Desai added that Kenya will capitalize on President Uhuru Kenyatta's role as the Chairman of the East African Community (EAC) to ensure Kenyans can do business with ease within the region. President Uhuru took over from his Rwandan outgoing counterpart Paul Kagame who took over the leadership in February 2019. [Read more](#)



9th March, 2021



## KNCCI opens office in UAE to promote Kenyan trade in region

United Arab Emirates (UAE) has agreed to open a representative office for the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) in the region to enhance bilateral relations and support business communities in the two countries. This came during a meeting between the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) and the Kenyan delegation led by KNCCI president Richard Nagatia. The delegation was received by Abdullah Sultan Al Owais, Chairman, SCCI, in the presence of a number of officials. Speaking during the event, SCCI chairman Abdullah Sultan Al Owais said that Sharjah Chamber is keen to provide all the support for opening the Kenyan office, noting that this step would help underpin the strong relations between the two countries. He said that the companies operating in Sharjah could play a pivotal role in enhancing the bilateral economic cooperation by making use of the enormous opportunities for investment in Kenya, especially in the agriculture, infrastructure, and energy sectors. "We maintain Sharjah's position as a gateway to Africa for regional and global markets and enhance the emirate's presence in the emerging markets in Africa," Al Owais said. Nagatia stressed Kenya's willingness to ramp up economic cooperation and sign various business partnerships. [Read more](#)



10th March, 2021



## Exporters to get Dubai cover for defaulted pay

Kenyan fresh produce exporters and traders will gain access to Dubai's export insurance provider to cover for losses where buyers default on already exported goods. Etihad Credit Insurance (ECI) UAE Federal export credit company will offer local exporters up to \$200,000 (Sh21 million) insurance for up to five months.



Fresh produce traders have been raising concerns and even blacklisted buyers over nonpayment for orders prompting a Kenyan trade lobby to look for a way of unlocking the impasse. The Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNNCI) President Richard Ngatia said the deal was brokered during a benchmark visit hosted by Etihad Credit Insurance chief executive Massimo Falcioniand. An MoU will soon be signed to formalize the commitment of both parties. “We launched secure credit insurance against non-payment for exports or international sales transacted on open credit terms. Through ECI project financing investors will now be able to secure their foreign assets against non-commercial risks. As an underwriter, ECI has also undertaken to provide guarantee of payment for export goods in case of damage or loss,” Mr Ngatia said on Tuesday. The most affected traders are those exporting avocado, which is a high-value crop with a container netting close to Sh4 million. At the beginning of last year, Kenyan avocado exporters said they had lost about Sh200 million in already shipped consignments over non-payment. [Read more](#)



**20th March, 2021**



## Kenya, UK Launch Business Regulatory Guide

Kenya has launched a Business Regulatory Toolkit which is aimed at helping local Small and Medium Sized (SMEs) and foreign businesses navigate the regulatory environment, to improve their overall performance and efficiency. The Toolkit is a free online resource that aims to improve business access to legal and regulatory information, simplify their knowledge of the changing regulatory requirement and advise on key regulators applicable to them within their business at different stages of development – Planning, Launching, Managing and Growing a business. The resource has been jointly developed jointly by The Ministry of East African Community and Regional Development’s Department of Business Reforms and Transformation, with support from the British High Commission’s UK Kenya Tech Hub. Other technical partners include UK Aid, Kenya National Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KNCC&I) and Kenya National Innovations Agency (KENIA). It builds on the government’s six-year long effort to create a conducive legal and regulatory environment through the Ease of Doing Business Reforms Agenda for small businesses, and responds to businesses need to enter the formal economy, improve operations, and grow their businesses in a bureaucracy-free environment. [Read more](#)





**23rd March, 2021**

## Trade Lobby and Mastercard give small businesses Sh400m loans

About 14,000 small enterprises impacted by Covid-19 has received Sh400 million in interest-free loans from a trade lobby and Mastercard Foundation to help rebuild their ventures. The Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) chief executive Samuel Matonda said Monday the funds earmarked for youth and women-led small businesses were disbursed between last October to March. Micro and Small Enterprises (MSMEs) in the informal sector mainly dealing in agricultures, retail, healthcare and manufacturing sectors constituted the larger share of beneficiaries of the credit facility rolled out last October. "We have disbursed up to Sh400 million to youth and women-owned businesses in partnership with MasterCard Foundation since the roll out of the fund last year," Mr Matonda told Enterprise in an interview last week. "We currently have 14,000 beneficiaries and this number is growing as we continue to process applications. We also have 1,700 beneficiaries on their second and third loans." The loans are part of the Covid-19 Recovery and Resilience Programme. It is targeting small businesses that have borne the brunt of the negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, which caused the Kenyan economy to contract by 5.7 percent in the second quarter of 2020. [Read more](#)

**27th March, 2021**

## UAE, Kosovo further increase economic and investment relations

The Sharjah Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI), represented by Abdullah Sultan Al Owais, Chairman of the Sharjah Chamber, received Avni Arifi, Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to the UAE, to discuss means of strengthening the economic, commercial, and investment relations between the UAE and the Republic of Kosovo in a way that serves the interests of the business communities in both countries.





Held in the presence of Raghda Hamad Taryam, Board Member, Mohammed Ahmed Amin Al Awadi, Director General of the SCCI, and a number of the Chamber officials, the meeting emphasized the importance of the ongoing communication between the two sides to further enhance bilateral cooperation, especially in agriculture, food, retail trade, and exhibitions. Abdullah Sultan Al Owais said: “Sharjah is a perfect investment destination for Kosovan companies, where they have huge potential opportunities for cooperation with their counterparts in Sharjah, particularly in trade, manufacture, agriculture, tourism, and logistics, in addition to exploring new avenues for building longterm partnerships that serve the interests of both sides.” Al Owais added: “The UAE-Kosovo relationship has grown into an integrated economic partnership, which resulted in ground-breaking agreements on the avoidance of double taxation, and the protection and promotion of investment and civil aviation, among others, in addition to the UAE-Kosovo Economic Forum, which was organised by the Federation of UAE Chambers of Commerce and Industry, in cooperation with the SCCI and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, at the SCCI headquarters.” [Read more](#)



**31st March, 2021**



## Beach operators turn to soap making after tourism collapse

The KAWT Coast chair said the women can be taught how to plant coconuts, make products such as shower gel from it, and get approval from the Kenya Bureau of Standards for their products to get a space in the shelves of supermarkets. She called on the Kebs to organise training for the women on standards of the

products they make to enable them to make quality products and linkages to the market. “Such innovation will ease their reliance on the beach. They will no longer see the need of going to the beach for survival, and it will reduce the pressure on the beaches,” Mwikali said. The idea is aligned with the President’s agenda of industrialisation, she said, as they only require capacity building to achieve that. Mwikali said currently, Kazi Mtaani youth in Malindi and Baharini women beach operators are making the soap products. She urged the government to begin buying the products for the groups to get good income. Catherine Muli, the treasurer of Kilifi County Association of Women in

Tourism, said they have been conducting training for the women on digital networking together with the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry. She said they stopped due to the pandemic but want to resume the training to enlighten the women on how to create a network through the digital platforms and do business from the comfort of their homes. Through the digital platform, they will be able to sell the products to people who are in other places. [Read more](#)

# MEDIA PICTORIALS

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### APPOINTMENT

Notice is hereby given of the appointment of Mr. Samuel Maranga Matonda as the Chief Executive Officer of the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) with effect from the 8th of March 2021.

Mr. Matonda brings extensive experience in trade, policy, marketing, SME and private sector development, along with tremendous global experience. He has served in top management positions at the Export Promotion Council, Micro and Small Enterprises Authority and the Kenya Youth and Employment Opportunities project among others.

I believe that under the strategic leadership, wisdom and guidance of Mr. Matonda, KNCCI will rise to greater heights.

On behalf of **KNCCI Board of Directors, National Governing Council and KNCCI Secretariat**, I congratulate Mr. Matonda for his appointment and highly welcome him in his new role.

Richard Ngatia  
President, Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI)



# MEDIA PICTORIALS





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