

Chamber Quarterly

2nd QUARTER

APRIL - JUNE 2022



**FRIDAY 1ST APRIL, 2022**

Mombasa raises licence fee for private hospitals in revenue bid



The cost of healthcare in Mombasa is expected to go up after the county government increased licence fees for private hospitals by Sh200,000. The hospitals had been paying Sh300,000 before a new Finance Act came into force, introducing the 67 per cent increase. The Finance Bill recently passed into law by the county assembly also saw the local government introduce a cargo offloading fee. MS Mbaruk said their decision to increase the licence fee followed a scientific study that also showed the effect of such a move on residents and the local healthcare sector. She said the county has also invested in public hospitals to ensure locals do not suffer because of the expected increase in the cost of health services. She said the increment was necessary owing to mushrooming of private health facilities across the county. “We have already started levying the new fee. But it should be noted that before we raised the fee, we equipped public hospitals so that the common man is not affected,” Ms Mbaruk said. [Read more](#)

**THURSDAY 14TH APRIL, 2022**

KNCCI Roots For Partnerships To Revive The SMEs



Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) Busia Chapter is partnering with LREB for the historic event that will culminate in the second edition of the Business of the Year (BOYA) awards gala dinner. Council of Governors (CoG) Chairman Martin Wambora will lead 14 Governors for the Lake Region Economic Block (LREB) inaugural private sector forum at the Busia Vocational Training Centre today. Addressing the press outside the Chamber offices after a multi-sectoral meeting, Busia Chapter chairman Sylvanus Abungu said the main objective of the event is to bring together business stakeholders, the National and County Governments as well as key investment partners including key players in various sectors. “The intention is to provide a one-day exhibition, panel discussion, engagement and networking that will position Busia and the entire Lake Region as a hub for transport, logistics, trade and commerce, as well as a destination for investment in East and Central Africa,” he said.

[Read more](#)



FRIDAY 15TH APRIL, 2022



Busia Trader Wins Businessman Of The Year Award

Stephen Berenge from Nambale Sub- County has scooped Busia Businessman of the Year Award during the second ceremony held at Hotel Itoya on Thursday evening. The ceremony that was graced by Siaya Deputy Governor, Dr James Okumbe, saw a total of 21 entrepreneurs honored in various categories. It was organized by the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Busia Chapter. The winner in his acceptance speech, said he was humbled for the honour bestowed on him and thanked God for bringing him that far. “When I first opened a pork butchery, my friends teased me that my business is not self-sustaining, unless I started rearing my own pigs. That motivated me as the number of pigs I was rearing hit 113 mark in less than a year, Mr Berenge said. “With KNCCI as my guarantor, Equity Bank offered me a loan that enabled me purchase the first matatu, second, third and fourth. I also own a pork butchery in Malaba, Tanga Kona and other markets,” he added. The Partnership Governorship Award went to Kisumu Governor, Prof Anyang’ Nyong’o, that was received on his behalf by Lake Region Economic Block (LREB) Chief of Staff and Deputy CEO, Dr Hudson Ogubi. KNCCI Busia Chapter was voted the best Chamber Chapter of the Year for its resilience in organising the 2015 Busia International Investment Conference (BIICO) that saw the influx of many investors into the country. [Read more](#)



FRIDAY 15TH APRIL, 2022



Kenya, Uganda traders sign deal to end barriers

Kenyan and Ugandan traders have signed a memorandum of understanding to help end continual tiffs on non-tariff regulations. In a joint communique, the two sides pledged to harmonize policies on agriculture to reduce delays and cut down on bureaucracies in doing business. “The signing of this memorandum today will enhance agricultural trade between Uganda and Kenya, improve interdependence of agro-based industries in the two countries. The document will advance and actualise the resolutions arrived during September 2021 at a trade symposium in Mombasa,” read the joint communique. The business associations, seen as the most affected by the non-tariff barriers (NTBs), say having common standards of safety, sanitation and the list of documentations would help reduce unnecessary delays.



The traders intend to file their proposals with respective export departments for agreeable standards. During a trade symposium in Mombasa last year, Ugandan High Commissioner to Kenya Wasswa Galiwango and Consulate General to Mombasa Paul Mukumbya promised to actualise the issues discussed to help build linkages that increase export volumes to Kenya. [Read more](#)



MONDAY 18TH APRIL, 2022



Stanbic Bank And KNCCI In Deal To Support MSMEs

Stanbic Bank Kenya and the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) have signed a partnership to provide financial and non-financial support to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) that are members of the chamber. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two entities was signed at the Busia Youth Polytechnic Ground on the sidelines of the Lake Region Economic Block Private Sector Forum. Stanbic Bank Kenya, Head of Business and Commercial Clients, Florence Wanja noted that the partnership agreement plays an important role in reinforcing the bank's commitment to empowering MSMEs in the region and across the country. "Stanbic Bank Kenya has continued to play a major role in our country's economic development, and this is in line with our purpose which is to drive Kenya's growth. As an institution, we remain committed to solving holistic needs of our SME client segment and partnering for sustainable growth," she added. On his part, Silvanus Mbogo Abungu, Chairman Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Busia, said the partnership with the bank is an endorsement to fruitful collaboration over the years which will be of great support to MSMEs in the region. "As a chamber, our focus is on building a vibrant and prosperous business community in the region and across the country. We remain committed to empowering our members in all possible ways," he said. [Read more](#)



WEDNESDAY 20TH APRIL, 2022



KCD to support growth of Kisumu small businesses

Small and medium enterprises in Kisumu have received a boost after engagement with Kenya Development Corporation, a state finance institution. This is in partnership with the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the county government.



It is the second engagement the corporation is undertaking since the initiative was launched in Mombasa last month. KDC said it has launched a plan to engage SMEs countrywide to sensitise them on KDC's products and services and to understand their financial needs. "It is essential to expand and adapt our approach to SME financing and ensure their operations continue without any interruptions," KDC deputy director of strategy Dominic Ndewa said. He said KDC will closely work with Kisumu and investors to research, obtain information and insights that support the corporation's decisions, support national economic policy formulation and spearhead innovation. [Read more](#)

**FRIDAY 13TH MAY, 2022**

Special Economic Zones To Create Jobs In Mombasa

Mombasa business community has called on the national government to expedite Dongo Kundu Special Economic Zone (SEZ) projected to create millions of direct and indirect jobs, attract massive investors and spur economy. Kenya Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), Mombasa chairman, Mustafa Ramadhan said the government should prioritize the Sh39.1 billion project to help address the current economic challenges. Ramadhan noted that the SEZ project, would further cement Mombasa's regional strategic commercial location besides addressing social and economic challenges grappling local population. The SEZ developed on 3000 acres of land is expected to have key facilities including a free port, free trade zone, logistics zone, industrial park and mega road network. "The project is capable of creating 100,000 jobs besides attracting massive regional and international investors to set up key industries," added Ramadhan in an interview with KNA.

[Read more](#)**TUESDAY 17TH MAY, 2022**

Auctioneers accuse banks of invading their turf, deny profiting from Covid

Auctioneers are yet to recover from the impact of Covid-19 and the infiltration of the business by unlicensed operators.



At a conference in Nairobi last week, auctioneers accused banks of taking over their business by offering bids on repossessed properties. The meeting also found that some online vendors are offering bids to customers yet they are not licensed as auctioneers. Herman Kasili, a member of the Auctioneers Licensing Board where he represents the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI), said some banks are infiltrating their turf, denying them their commission. “When an auctioneer has repossessed a car or some property, they (banks) force the auctioneer to give the car to the bank and the bank makes a bid, which is illegal,” he said. Rev Kasili said auctioneers deserve a commission when they repossess property for the banks. “Auctioneers are not getting their fees because the banks are taking away the cars,” he added. [Read more](#)



SUNDAY 22ND MAY, 2022



West Pokot Women Advocate For Peaceful Poll

West Pokot women in collaboration with National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI), Red Cross and other civil society organisations took part in a five-kilometer Peace Walk from Kapenguria to Makutano town preaching peace messages ahead of the forthcoming August General Elections. The peace walk was meant to sensitize local residents on the need to keep the peace before, during and after the August General Election. The peace walk dubbed ‘Election Bila Noma’ brought together women, Amani Club staff, Chamber of Commerce members, Red Cross, NCIC, County government, women groups and students from Chewoyet High School with an aim of sensitizing residents on the importance of peaceful polls. Addressing residents at Makutano town in West Pokot County, Assistant County Commissioner Benjamin Makau said the women walked such a long distance because they are good ambassadors of peace and urged everyone to embrace peace for effective coexistence. [Read more](#)



MONDAY 30TH MAY, 2022



Here's what East Africa has to do to balance trade with the EU

Member states of the east African trade bloc will have to work on a number of requirements that they are scoring low if they are to fully benefit from European Union's 447 million market. During a workshop organized by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and the East African Science and Technology Commission, it emerged that the eight members of the East African Community are showing progress but are still unable to erase critical trade inhibitors.



A scoping report presented by SEI disclosed that the bloc is struggling with job creation, taming corruption, climate resilience, innovation, infrastructural development, attracting foreign direct investment and controlling currency volatility. “On average, east Africa is scoring low in the EU and Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) policy indicators for macro economy, environment, social protection and governance,” Dr Anderson Kehbila of SEI told attendees. [Read more](#)



TUESDAY 7TH JUNE, 2022



KPA signs Sh39b grant with Jica for Dongo Kundu economic zone

The Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) has signed a grant with the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Jica) for the development of the Dongo Kundu Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Mombasa. A SEZ master plan for the Sh39.1 billion project that sits on a 3,000-acre parcel of land has been developed with support from the Government of Japan and presents opportunities for investment in value addition in the industrial zone. The SEZ project includes the establishment of a free trade zone, free port, logistics hub and a mega industrial zone. KPA Acting General Manager John Mwangemi signed the agreement in the presence of a delegation of JICA officials led by Naota Mukai. Mr Mwangemi said with the construction of a new road under the Mombasa Port Development Project and the SGR link to the expanded port, landlocked countries within the East and Central Africa region will be efficiently served by the Port of Mombasa. The business community in Mombasa, led by the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) Mombasa Chapter Chairman, Mustafa Ramadhan, had called on the national government to expedite the Dongo Kundu Special Economic Zone project, which is projected to create millions of direct and indirect jobs, attract massive investors and spur economic growth. [Read more](#)



TUESDAY 7TH JUNE, 2022



I won't ban mitumba clothes, says Raila Odinga

Azimio la Umoja One Kenya Coalition Party presidential candidate Raila Odinga has denied claims that he will ban the importation of second-hand clothes, popularly known as mitumba, if elected on August 9. Seeking to fight back criticism from opponents who accused him of insensitivity over remarks he made on Monday night dismissing mitumba as “clothes from dead people”,



Mr Odinga said he will protect the traders by ensuring that they get the first opportunity to market locally made clothes. His statement followed a sustained backlash from his opponents in Deputy President William Ruto's camp over the comments he made during the launch of his manifesto, which champions revival of the local textile industry. We are going to go into primary production as we also promote other products. We are going to grow cotton, we do the ginning, the spinning, the weaving until we end up with fabrics. Then we can embark on secondary manufacturing of dresses, suits and so on," he told members of the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) at the Hilton Hotel in Nairobi Odinga explained that, through promotion of local textile manufacturing, traders would access a local version of mitumba — factory rejects. "Trade in factory rejects is big business in Europe. This is done everywhere; factory rejects are not useless," he said. [Read more](#)

**THURSDAY 9TH JUNE, 2022**

KDC, KNCCI Partner To Accelerate Credit Flow To SMEs

The Kenya Development Corporation (KDC) and the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) have teamed up to accelerate the provision of credit to small businesses. The partnership opens up an avenue for KNCCI members to have access to relevant and tailored products and services to grow their business-

es; whilst for KDC the MoU gives the Corporation access to potential customers for uptake of its products. While speaking during the signing of the MOU between the two agencies, KDC Director-General Christopher Huka noted that this partnership will help them reach more entrepreneurs who need financial muscles to boost their businesses. Apart from financial help, Huka also noted that the businesses will benefit from other non-financial services like advisory and networking. On the other hand, KNCCI president, Richard Ngatia noted that this partnership will help bring forth different opportunities across the country in far as alternative financing options are concerned. He added that since KNCCI acts as the voice of its members, there is a need to advocate for lawmakers to formulate policies that provide a conducive environment for businesses in the country such as SMEs and exporters as well. On exporters, Ngatia noted that they are in engagement with the DRC as they have taken around 300 companies there in partnership with other financial institutions.

[Read more](#)



FRIDAY 10TH JUNE, 2022



KDC, Chamber team up to support small businesses

Kenya Development Corporation (KDC) and Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) have entered a deal to help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) absorb the shocks of the Covid-19 pandemic. They have agreed to provide financial support as well as relevant products and services to small businesses. The partnership will see the over 3,000 KNCCI members access vital needs and financial solutions to boost their business even as the corporation gets customers to uptake and use its products. Speaking during the signing ceremony, KDC director general Christopher Huka said the partnership will focus on scaling up financing for over 300 SMEs and startups countrywide. "We are excited about this partnership as the SMEs and large enterprises will be able to access financial support and reach more entrepreneurs even as our financial boost and business advisory addresses the needs of Kenyan businesses," he said. Richard Ngatia, KNCCI president said the body is keen on working with KDC to provide financial support to its over 50,000 members directly and over two million SMEs indirectly. [Read more](#)



WEDNESDAY 15TH JUNE, 2022



Kenyan traders seek extra pie of Chinese market

Traders in Nairobi want China to further open its market for Kenyan goods and services to bridge the huge trade deficit. Speaking at the second Nairobi-China Trade and Investment Forum, the traders said business is currently largely in favour of China, with Kenya's export only valued at Sh10 billion. Kenya's is a net importer from China placing the trade deficit at \$3.4 billion (Sh398.71 billion) in 2019. "I call upon enhanced continuous engagement and collaboration between the various stakeholders as a critical tool for enhancing bilateral trade between Kenya and China," CEO of the Chamber, James Odongo said. In the past five years imports have contracted while exports have grown by 9.3 per cent and 43.5 per cent in 2018 and 2019, respectively. On average between 2015 and 2019, Kenyan products accounted for a 0.006 per cent share of China's world imports. The Economic Survey 2022, puts the value of imports at Sh2.151 trillion in 2021 up from Sh1.643 trillion in 2020, a 30.9 per cent growth. While Kenya's exports of goods and services have grown by 28 per cent from \$8.9 billion (Sh1.04 trillion) in 2010 to \$11.5 billion (Sh1.348 trillion) in 2019, the amount of exports as a percentage of GDP has been gradually falling, from 24 per cent in 2011 to 10 per cent in 2020. [Read more](#)



**FRIDAY 17TH JUNE, 2022**

Kenyan Traders Eye Chinese Market To Boost Revenues

Kenyan traders are keen to enhance their exports to China in order to boost their revenues, the industry lobby said on Wednesday. James Odongo, CEO of the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) for Nairobi County told journalists that some of the major Kenyan products that can be supported for further exporting to meet growing international demand include vegetables, tea, flower and coffee. “The Kenya-China trade linkages also offer an opportunity, for the transfer of skills and technology from China to the local market even as Kenya seeks to rebuild from the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic,” Odongo said during a trade and investment forum premised on the theme of expanding opportunities for Kenyan companies. The event which was held in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, was aimed at promoting discussions on ways to tap into the Chinese market. In January, Kenya signed a total of six memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with China touching on trade, digital innovations, green development, and investments aimed at increasing export and import opportunities for small and medium enterprises.

[Read more](#)

**TUESDAY 28TH JUNE, 2022**

Nakuru Says 1,000 Liquor, Food Permits Issued Signaling Boom During Safari Rally

Nakuru county Government says it issued more than 1,000 new licenses to liquor and food vendors during the World Rally Championship (WRC) Safari Rally fete pointing to a boom in local businesses within Nakuru, Naivasha region. The WRC Safari Rally took place in Naivasha between June 23- 26 attracting fans within and beyond the country who spent more than three days in Naivasha environs. Organizers said at least 10,000 people attended the event with many hotels confirming full bookings days before the event started. Absolom Mukhusi, the Secretary-General of the Naivasha Professionals Association told Capital FM Business that besides the food and accommodation sector, there was increased uptake of domestic tourism which was a big boost to local tour guides and taxi operators.



Mukhusi, who also sits on the Nakuru municipality board said more than Sh7.5 million in revenues were collected with Sh10,000 and Sh5,000 charged for liquor and food vendors. The local government issued 500 permits to liquor and food vendors each. [Read more](#)



WEDNESDAY 29TH JUNE, 2022



SMEs Urged To Embrace Bank Loans To Boost Their Growth



Small businesses have been urged to take advantage of the available financial solutions offered by banks to boost their businesses and drive growth. This was during the opening ceremony of the 2022 Inua Biashara Day forum, hosted by the Kenya Bankers Association. It brought together the government, businesses in the private sector and entrepreneurs together in order to find a common ground to find financial solutions after the effects of Covid-19 pandemic. Speaking during the event Principal Secretary at the National Treasury and Planning Julius Muia said that the banks have enough financial product and if well utilized can revolutionize the MSME's industry. "Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises are critical drivers of economic growth yet they still struggle with access to credit, I urge all banks not to overlook the sector due to their high-risk portfolio but to support them," said Muia. Muia also urged the lenders to come up with a simplified analysis on how to work together with MSME's on the ground in order to guide them and develop suitable tailor-made financial solutions. [Read more](#)

MEDIA PICTORIALS

2nd Quarter April - June 2022

Mombasa raises licence fee for private hospitals in revenue bid

- Sh200,000 additional cost aimed at raising more income for government.
- Stakeholders fear the extra cost will be passed on to consumers and urged authorities to reconsider.

BENARD SANGA, MOMBASA

The cost of healthcare in Mombasa is expected to go up after the county government increased licence fees for private hospitals by Sh200,000.

The hospitals had been paying Sh300,000 before a new Finance Act came into force, introducing the 67 per cent increase.

Finance Executive Maryam Mbaruk said the new fee has already been effected.

The Finance bill recently passed into law by the county assembly also saw the local government introduce a cargo offloading fee.

Ms Mbaruk said their decision to increase the licence fee followed a scientific study that also showed the effect of such a move on residents and the local healthcare sector.

She said the county has also invested in public hospitals to ensure locals do not suffer because of the expected increase in the cost of health services.

She said the increment was necessary owing to mushrooming of private health facilities across the county. "We have already started levying the new fee. But it should be noted that before we raised the fee, we equipped public hospitals so that the common man is not affected," Ms Mbaruk said.

But according to county sources, local revenue has been affected by some national government policies such as those on the evacuation of cargo from Mombasa, thus the need to find means to raise additional revenue.

"Mombasa is also disadvantaged by the revenue formula. It does not get a share of the 20 per cent that goes to agriculture because it is not an agricultural county," said Ms Mbaruk.

She added, "Another criterion used is population and landmass. Mombasa is the smallest county with a population of just 1.2 million people. Yet, we serve more than three million people every day."

Mombasa is also grappling with the ballooning wage bill due to the big workforce inherited from the defunct municipal council.

"In Mombasa, the county government is the second biggest employer after Kenya Ports Authority. Among counties, we are second after Nairobi," Ms Mbaruk said.

"The county has also frozen employment of new staff due to the ballooning wage bill. This is partly because the government is unable to tap revenue from ports and harbours as it had anticipated."



Mombasa County Finance Executive Maryam Mbaruk during a consultative meeting organised by the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) in Mombasa County on Wednesday. (Nikhil Kataria/Standard)

Meanwhile, Ms Mbaruk told *The Standard* that the county government has abolished cess fees for lorries transporting goods into Mombasa. However, it introduced offloading fee.

The new law provides that exports offloaded inside the port will not be levied but those offloaded at the warehouses will be charged even if they will be exported later.

Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mombasa branch CEO James Kitavi fears the extra cost will be passed on to consumers.

Mr Kitavi said the chamber had proposed harmonisation of rates with counties that are major suppliers of Mombasa.

newsdesk@standardmedia.co.ke

New levies

SH200

THOUSAND

THE county government has increased licence fees for private hospitals by Sh200,000, up from the current Sh300,000 they have been paying.

The EastAfrican
APRIL 16 / APRIL 22, 2022
www.theeastafrican.co.ke

Kenya, Uganda traders sign deal to end barriers

ANTHONY KITIMO
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Kenyan and Ugandan traders have signed a memorandum of understanding to help end continual tiffs on non-tariff regulations.

In a joint communique, the two sides pledged to harmonise policies on agriculture to reduce delays and cut down on bureaucracies in doing business.

"The signing of this memorandum today will enhance agricultural trade between Uganda and Kenya, improve interdependence of agro-based industries in the two countries. The document will advance and actualise the resolutions arrived during September 2021 at a trade symposium in Mombasa," read the joint communique.

The business associations, seen as the most affected by the non-tariff barriers (NTBs), say having common standards of safety, sanitation and the list of documentations would help reduce unnecessary delays.

The traders intend to file their proposals with respective export departments for agreeable standards.

Building linkages

During a trade symposium in Mombasa last year, Ugandan High Commissioner to Kenya Waswa Galwangi and Consul-General to Mombasa Paul Mukumbya promised to actualise the issues discussed to help build linkages that increase export volumes to Kenya.

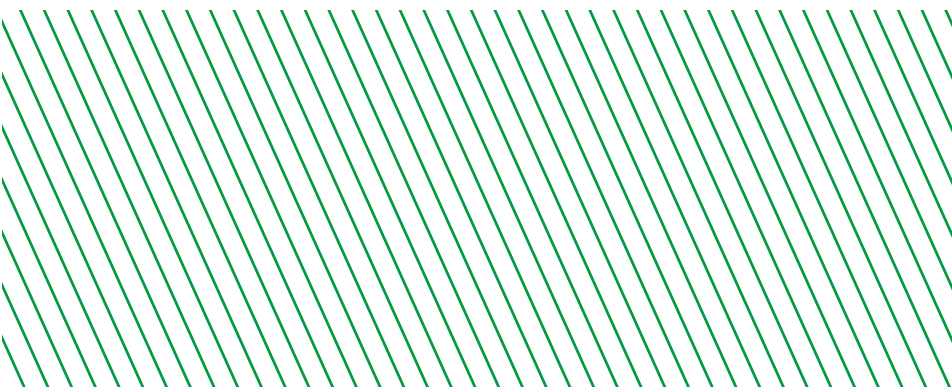
During the signing of the MoU on Wednesday, Mr Mukumbya said Uganda will benefit considering it has a surplus of agricultural produce with need for a ready market.

"The two countries have come up with recommendations for priority improvement in the management of export quality standards for agro-products and soon our milk, Lato, which was banned in Kenya, will be on your shelves. We hope the signing of this MoU will strengthen co-operation as we seek to gain a better understanding of the vital role of agriculture and trade within the region," said Mr Mukumbya.

The Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mombasa chairman Mustafa Kamadhoo urged Uganda to take advantage of streamlined transport system in Kenya such as the Standard Gauge Railway and the Inland Container Depot in Naivasha to transport their produce.



Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mombasa chairman Mustafa Kamadhoo (left) and Uganda Consul-General Paul Mukumbya after signing an agreement for co-operation in agriculture and agribusiness. Picture: Nicholas Mwangi



MEDIA PICTORIALS



PROPERTY

Auctioneers accuse banks of invading their turf, deny profiting from Covid

They claim banks have been bypassing them in auctioning repossessed properties amid infiltration of the sector by unlicensed players.

By Graham Kijana
gkijana@kenyancic.or.ke

Auctioneers are yet to recover from the impact of Covid-19 and the infiltration of the business by unlicensed operators.

At a conference in Nairobi last week, auctioneers accused banks of taking over their business by offering bids on repossessed properties. The meeting also found that some online vendors are offering bids to customers yet they are not licensed as auctioneers.

Herman Kasili, a member of the Auctioneers Licensing Board whom he represents the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI), said some banks are infringing their turf, denying them their commission.

"When an auctioneer has repossessed a car or some property, they (banks) force the auctioneer to give the car to the bank and the bank makes a bid, which is illegal," he said. Rev Kasili said auctioneers deserve a commission when they

repossess property for the banks. "Auctioneers are not getting their fees because the banks are taking away the cars," he added. "They are not supposed to sell them without involving auctioneers." Rev Kasili also noted that some unlicensed individuals have been conducting auctions online. "It is illegal and at the board, we will be tough on them," he said.

"Auctioneers are losing a lot of business because of banks and some online goons. As an auctioneering fraternity, we are going to follow it up. The board is categorical. If someone is not licensed, they are not supposed to ply the trade out there," added Rev Kasili.

Friday's conference was the first in three years due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which participants lamented had impacted their business negatively.

"We have a lot of properties, but there are no takers. There is that assumption that when the economy is doing badly or when there is such an epidemic, it is the auctioneers who benefit," said Kenya National Society of Professional Auctioneers (Kensap) chairman George Mbugu.

They fear the August 9 polls could further dim hopes of recovery. According to

“There an assumption that when the economy is doing badly or when there is such an epidemic, it is the auctioneers who benefit.”

George Mbugu



the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) Credit Strategy Report for the quarter ended March 2021, the sectors with the highest non-performing loans (NPL) were personal and household, real estate, transport and communication, tourism and trade. "The increase in NPLs was mainly due to a challenging business environment as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic," says the report.

National Association of Kenya Auctioneers (Naika) chairman Dennis Kirui said when the economy is depressed, it affects all sectors, including theirs. "We do not have a booming business

when the economy is low," he said, debunking the myth that since their work revolves around the repossession of properties due to defaulting on loans, they could be thriving. Considering that the pandemic caused job cuts and closure of businesses, leading to loan defaults, the association says it is not accurate that they make more money. "When the cash flow is very low, we repossess goods on behalf of our principals who are banks and probably creditors or judgment debtors, and we have to sell to realise the judgment passed or debt not paid," said Mr Kirui.

COUNTY BUSINESS

Traders fear 'hotspot counties' tag will hurt business months to elections

Barnabas Bi
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The National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) classification of some counties as high-risk for election-related violence has raised concerns among traders over its impact on business.

The devolved units face declined revenue generation as most traders take precautionary measures including cut-



Traders in Eldoret town have feared the NCIC categorisation, fearing a decline in business.

ting down on their stocks after the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) classified them as having a high likelihood of election-related violence.

The Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) chairman Uasin Gishu Willy Keri said the counties stand to suffer investor confidence, cash flow challenges and mobility of goods

and services. "Fears of election-related chaos have proved to be counter-productive to business activities. It affects transport and logistic services of entrepreneurs and general revenue generation for counties," said Mr Keri noting that Uasin Gishu has enjoyed peace for the past 10 years. "It is our desire that the region continue to experience peace unlike in the past when chaos erupted during or after the General Election impacting business

activities," said David Kogut, a businessman in Eldoret town. The NCIC has listed Uasin Gishu, Nakuru, Kericho, Nairobi and Mombasa as hotspot counties as the August election draws nearer. Most real estate investors and businesspersons in the region have hired additional private guards to bolster security due to fears of possible election violence. "I have to put in place proper measures to avoid a repeat of the 2007/2008 post-election

violence when I lost property worth millions of shillings due to chaos," said Amos Kamau, a trader in Eldoret town. Some of the areas including Turbo, Kesses, Burnt Forest and Kerio Valley are regarded as hotspot areas and additional security personnel have been deployed. Uasin Gishu County Commissioner Stephen Kibari said security patrols have been intensified in crime-prone areas to crack down on hate mongers.

MEDIA PICTORIALS

Kenya firms to tour DRC next month after entry to trade bloc

BY PETER MBURU

Kenyan businesses will be scouting for trade opportunities in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) next month following the latter's entry into the East African Community (EAC).

This will be during of a four-day regional trade conference between July 10 and July 14 in Kinshasa, through the collaboration of the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI), the East African Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region Private Sector Forum.

Sectors to take part in the event include financial services, manufacturing, agriculture, tourism, mining, energy and textiles.

"DRC officially joined the EAC in March 2022 and it is already a key African market for Kenyan firms with the latest official annual data showing exports earnings from DRC amounted to Sh14.3 billion in 2020.

"The country's population of approximately 90 million people guarantees an extended market for goods produced by the EAC Partner States," said KNCCI in a statement yesterday.

The trade lobby said Kenyan firms stand a chance of benefiting through access to a vast army of raw materials in DRC, with the trade visit touted as one that will provide a platform for business networking, exchange of trade opportunities and market information.



DR Congo President: Felix Tshisekedi. FILE/NATION

Exports forum

NAIROBI DTB Business Banking (DN) Gopa Kumar at the 2nd Nairobi-China Trade and Investment Forum themed "Rebalancing Trade Opportunities for Kenyan Companies" at the Villa Rosa Kempinski. Traders exporting to the Asian market cited challenges such as language barrier, foreign exchange and changes in importation laws increase demerage costs. (FILE/NATION)



Nairobi hosts second Kenya-China investment forum

Canton Chamber of Commerce chairman Xian Weijian, Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Nairobi Chapter chairman Julius Opiyo and DTB Bank Business Banking General Manager Gopa Kumar during the Second Nairobi-China Trade and Investment Forum at the Villa Rosa Kempinski, Nairobi yesterday. Issues discussed by traders exporting to the Asian market included language barrier, foreign exchange and technical changes in importation. (DIANA NGILA/NATION)



Partnership deal inked

NAIROBI Kenya Development Corporation interim director general Christopher Njaka (left) with Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Richard Ngila (right) during the signing of a memorandum of understanding between these 2 organisations yesterday. The MoU will help in identifying business, partnership and investment opportunities. (FILE/NATION)



MEDIA PICTORIALS

Friday, January 16, 2020

COMMENT THIRD JOINT TRADE COMMITTEE

Kenya-Israel trade talks signal deepening economic relations

The Kenya-Israel trade talks, which are the first of their kind, signal a new era of economic relations between the two countries.

The talks, which took place in Nairobi on January 15, 2020, were attended by Kenya's Deputy Prime Minister, Prof. William Otunga, and Israel's Deputy Prime Minister, Prof. Naftali Bennett. The talks were held in the presence of the Kenya-Israel Joint Trade Committee, which was established in 2015 to promote trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

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Prof. Otunga said the talks were a significant step towards deepening economic relations between Kenya and Israel. He said the talks were held in the presence of the Kenya-Israel Joint Trade Committee, which was established in 2015 to promote trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

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DAILY NATION WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2020

Backlash Uproar over 'clothes from dead people' talk

Raila: I won't ban mitumba clothes

He has terms as propaganda claims that he intends to kill trade

BY PETER MBURU

Angelo Odinga (the Kenya Coalition Party presidential candidate Raila Odinga) has denied claims that he will ban the importation of second-hand clothes, popularly known as mitumba, if elected on August 9.

Seeking to fight back criticism from opponents who accused him of insensitivity over remarks he made on Monday night dismissing mitumba as "clothes from dead people", Mr Odinga said he will protect the traders by ensuring that they get the first opportunity to market locally made clothes.

His statement followed a sustained backlash from his opponents in Deputy President William Ruto's camp, after the comments he made during the launch of his manifesto, which championed revival of the local textile industry.

"Our people are only wearing clothes coming from outside the country which have been worn by people who are dead. We are going to go to primary production so that our people who are importing mitumba can have good products to sell here," Mr Odinga said during the launch at the Mungai National Stadium.

Mr Odinga had, however, indicated that his proposal would not affect mitumba traders through any job losses.

Reiterating his plans to promote Kenya's textile industry yesterday, Mr Odinga said he appreciated that the mitumba trade is popular globally and supports the livelihoods of many small-scale traders.

"We are going to go into primary production as we also promote other products. We are going to grow cotton, we do the spinning, the weaving until we end up with fabrics. Then we can embark on secondary manufacturing of dresses, mats and so on," he told members of the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) at the Jilicho Hotel in Nairobi.

Mr Odinga explained that, through promotion of local textile manufacturing, traders would access a local version of mitumba — a factory-reputed "made in Kenya" fabric.

"Outside in factory-reputed it is big business, factory-reputed are not unless," he said.

"So when I was talking about mitumba yesterday I did not say that I'm going to kill the mitumba business. No, we'll promote it because that's where production starts," he added.

Mr Odinga said he would defend thousands of traders and millions of consumers who prefer second-hand clothes for their relative affordability.

A study by the Institute for Economic Affairs (IEA) on the state of second-hand clothes and other wear trade in Kenya showed the magnitude of the business in the country, observing that for its people's low income, Kenya needs to be sensitive about the price of what they wear.

"Analysis of the household level shows the majority of households buy new clothes when they acquire such as school or when place uniforms... 91.5 per cent of households buy second-hand clothes worth \$5,100 and below and 8.5 per cent buy second-hand clothes worth \$5,000 and above," it stated, showing that even while buying new clothes, three-quarters of Kenyans go for those priced below \$10,000. Kenya last year imported \$218.9 billion worth of imported goods, \$21.2 billion worth in 2019 and \$17.7 billion worth in 2018.

"Kenya imported 183,000 tonnes of second-hand clothes in 2019, equivalent to an approximate 8,000 containers. The rate is paid imported to \$112 billion. The sector contributes to at least \$10 billion in revenue per month. Apart from revenue for the government, they offer livelihoods to almost two million people," the IEA study said.



Raila Odinga speaking at a podium during the launch of his manifesto.

Thursday, June 10, 2020

NEWS BUSINESS

Kenyan traders seek extra pie of Chinese market

With the Chinese market accounting for 20.9 per cent of Kenya's exports, the Kenya Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) is pushing for a 20 per cent increase in the value of exports to China in 2020.

The KNCCI said that the value of exports to China in 2019 was \$2.5 billion, which is a 20 per cent increase from \$2.1 billion in 2018.

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A group of people, including KNCCI members, at a meeting.

185

Amount, in tonnes, of second-hand clothes that Kenya imported in 2019, equivalent to approximately 8,000 containers.

prekenya.org

MEDIA PICTORIALS

DAILY NATION TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023

Powering SMEs

Agreement is between the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and The Kenya Development

More than 3,000 SMEs to access credit for recovery and growth

Besides access to credit, beneficiaries will also access non-financial benefits such as business advisory, market linkages and access to business-related infrastructure

BY ALBERT MWAZIGHE

Over 3,000 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are set to access tailor-made financial products under an agreement between the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) and The

Kenya Development Corporation (KDC). The funding will target SMEs in the blue economy as well as those in the manufacturing, health, construction, climate change, energy, agriculture and ICT sectors.

"We will work with KDC to unlock alternative financing options for our members across the country. We believe there are compelling opportunities in the diverse financing options offered and we are keen on building long-standing relationships with the Kenya Development Corporation who share a common vision and will enable our members to achieve their business goals," noted KNCCI president Richard Njiru.

Under the agreement, KDC will facilitate businesses with access to the financing, while KDCI will facilitate the newly formed state corporation with access to pro-

We are excited about this partnership with the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, because it enables us to open a path to reach more entrepreneurs with needed financial solutions for business growth

Christopher Haka KDC director general



Kenya Development Corporation Interim Director General, Christopher Haka (left) and Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry President, Richard Njiru. PHOTO: POOL

ducts and services have been set in their respective sectors, creating a large economic benefit for businesses and their customers.

"Business owners benefit directly from their businesses, the beneficiaries will also access non-financial benefits such as business advisory, market linkages, access to business-related infrastructure including ICT and training on commercialisation of products," said Njiru.

"The partnership will facilitate small, medium-sized and large enterprises with access to much-needed financing. Our financial offering (loans, grants, equity, joint ventures, strategic partnerships and business advisory services) is an excellent match for

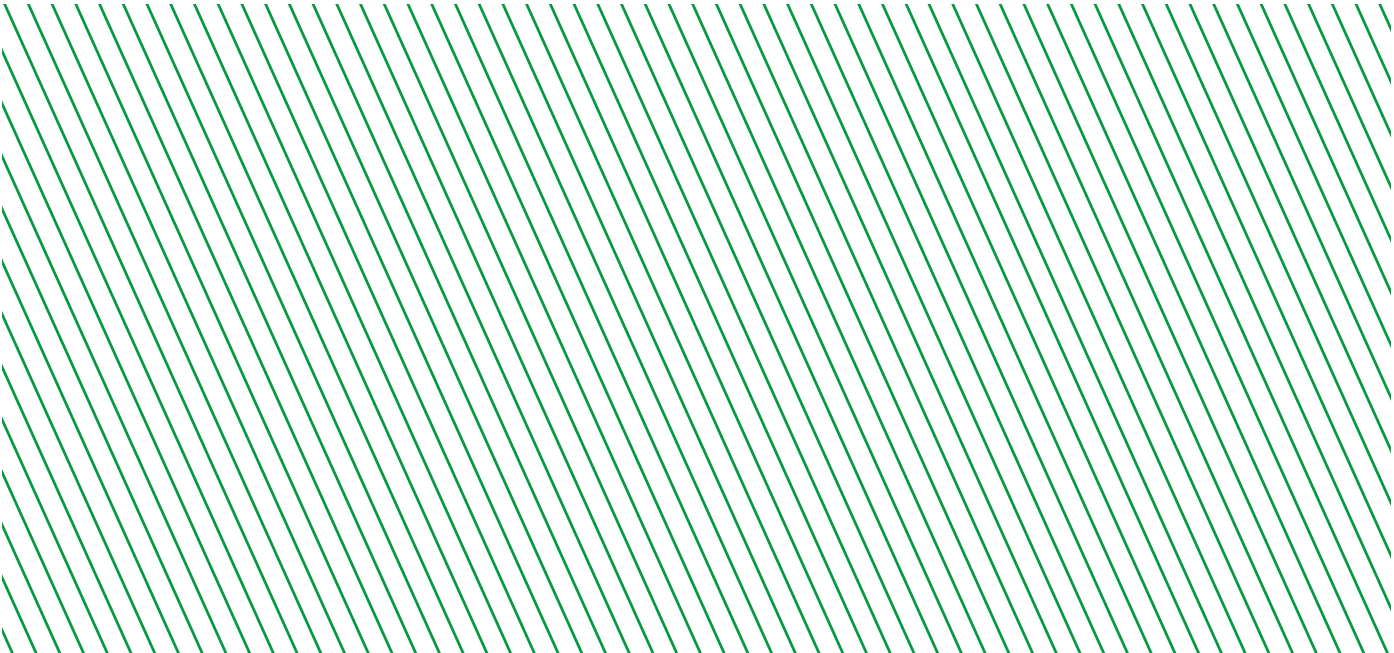
the requirements of the market as the country recovers from the pandemic," said KDC director general Christopher Haka.

The collaboration will also include information sharing between the two entities to promote capacity building in the private sector. Through information sharing, beneficiaries will be able to access networking opportunities and linkages to external markets.

"The two entities will offer trade facilitation by generating a certificate of products exportation as well as preparing for bilateral trade between Kenya and other countries."

The partnership will also create two continuous efforts to undertake research and gather insights on the needs of SMEs.

By understanding their grievances, the two entities will then be able to provide the development of financial solutions that will address the needs of Kenyan businesses and entrepreneurs. The arrangements will also empower SMEs and enable them to participate more productively in the economy. The two entities will also work together to advocate for legislation to formalize policies that provide a catalytic environment for SMEs to carry out their business operations.





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