

AHK EASTERN AFRICA NOTICE BOARD

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Kenya



Delegation der Deutschen
Wirtschaft für Ostafrika
Delegation of German Industry
and Commerce for Eastern Africa

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KNCCI and Equity Bank Deepen Partnership to Boost MSME Capacity and Access to Finance

National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) and Equity Bank Group have reaffirmed their commitment to empowering Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through enhanced training and access to finance.

In an evaluation meeting on Friday 27th June 2025, the two institutions reviewed the progress of their existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which has already delivered significant impact.

To date, over 48,000 SMEs—including those in agriculture, mining, and the extractive sectors—have received tailored training. In addition, Equity Bank has disbursed over KES 8.7 billion in financing to more than 8,500 KNCCI members, with a strong focus on youth- and women-led enterprises.

For more information, please click here:

<http://bit.ly/44SHuBd>

Highlights

- KNCCI and Equity Bank Deepen Partnership to Boost MSME Capacity and Access to Finance
- Central Bank of Kenya Survey on Cross-Border Movement of Cash
- PS Urges Kenyans To Embrace The Manufacturing Industry
- Reform Of The International Financial Architecture Is Not A North Verses South Affair - President William Ruto
- Kenya Secures Markets Representing 46 percent of the Global GDP
- Survey on Artificial Intelligence in the Banking Sector- CBK
- 2024 FinAccess Business Supply-Side Survey on Bank Financing of MSME - CBK





Survey on Cross-Border Movement of Cash



Central Bank of Kenya Survey on Cross-Border Movement of Cash

In April 2025, as part of efforts to further strengthen the national Anti-Money Laundering, Combating the Financing of Terrorism, and Countering Proliferation Financing (AML/CFT/CPF) framework, CBK conducted a comprehensive survey on the cross-border movement of physical cash within the banking sector. The survey sought to better understand cash transportation patterns, preventive measures, and related challenges. Insights from the survey will inform policy decisions and enhance regulatory oversight of cross-border cash movements. For more information, please click here:

<https://bit.ly/4kzz7zf>

PS Urges Kenyans To Embrace The Manufacturing Industry

Principal Secretary (PS) for Industry, Dr Juma Mukhwana, has urged Kenyans to embrace manufacturing as a way of growing the economy and bringing down the cost of living. Dr Mukhwana, who presided over the opening of the Next Frontier Africa 2025 Summit, noted that Africa's industrialization was only possible if Kenyans took advantage of the vast market opportunities to produce for export.

Citing trade agreements that Kenya had recently signed with the European Union, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the African Free Trade Area, among others, the PS said that Kenya had half of the world's market to trade in quotas and duty-free. He emphasized that local industries must now focus on value addition, innovation, and meeting international quality standards to fully tap into these global opportunities. The government, he added, remains committed to supporting manufacturers through policy, infrastructure, and access to finance. For more information, please click here: <https://bit.ly/4kE8fyg>





Reform Of The International Financial Architecture Is Not A North Verses South Affair - President William Ruto

The global agreement on efforts to make the world prosperous and save the planet from the effects of climate change is not a contest between the developed and developing nations, President William Ruto has said. Instead, the President explained, the Pact for Prosperity, People and Planet, commonly known as the 4P, is meant to address unfairness of the international financial system. He said the deal seeks to find financing solutions for developing countries whose progress has been hindered by the current global financial system. For more information, click here: <https://bit.ly/44ta5eY>

Kenya Secures Markets Representing 46 percent of the Global GDP

Kenya has secured market access representing 46 percent of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) through various trade agreements, Acting Director of External Trade Joseah Rotich has said. Rotich said the Kenya–EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), the Kenya–UK EPA, the Kenya–UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and the East African Community (EAC) have opened up vast markets across several regions globally and emphasized the need for Kenyan producers and manufacturers to leverage on these trade pacts to boost exports and drive economic growth. He also called for enhanced product competitiveness, adherence to international standards, and increased investment in production capacity to ensure Kenya remains a strong player in global value chains.

For more information, click here: <https://bit.ly/4ljmPMs>





Survey on Artificial Intelligence in the Banking Sector- CBK

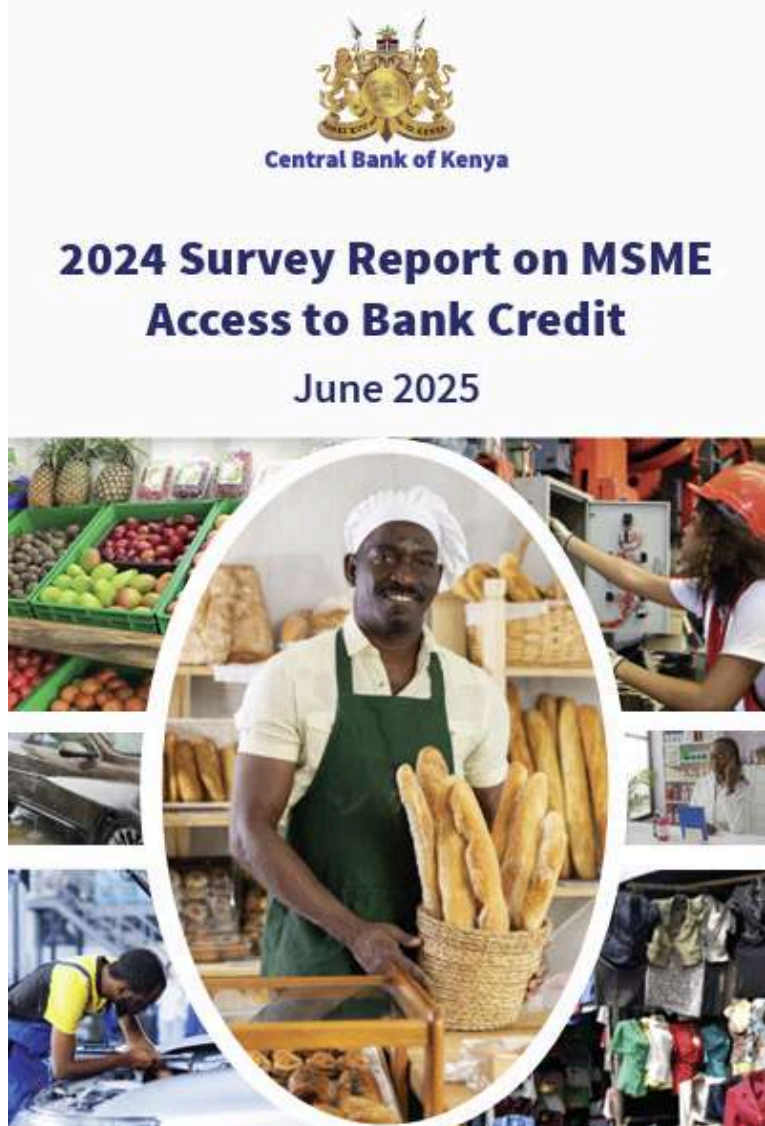
The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) has issued a report on the Survey on Artificial Intelligence in the Banking Sector. The aim of the survey was to gather insights on AI developments in the banking sector, assess the extent of AI adoption, and identify emerging trends and risks to inform policy developments. The findings revealed that while AI adoption is still in its early stages, several banks are piloting AI-driven solutions in customer service, credit scoring, and fraud detection. CBK noted that there is a growing need for regulatory clarity and capacity building to ensure responsible and secure deployment of AI technologies in the financial sector. <https://bit.ly/4eF3C5i>

2024 FinAccess Business Supply-Side Survey on Bank Financing of MSME - CBK

The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) has released the 2024 Survey Report on Bank Financing of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The survey sought to establish the status of banking sector funding to MSMEs in Kenya as at December 31, 2024, highlighting the critical role this sector plays in employment creation and economic development.

The report provides key insights into the level of credit access, the nature of financial products available to MSMEs, and the banking industry's perception of the MSME risk profile. It further outlines existing barriers—including limited collateral, high default risks, and lack of financial records—that hinder credit access for MSMEs.

Additionally, the survey explores innovative financing solutions, such as alternative credit scoring models, and recommends targeted policy reforms to bridge financing gaps. For more information, please click here:



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Uganda



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Uganda Launches \$14M Smart Meter Factory to Boost Local Manufacturing

Uganda has inaugurated a UGX 54 billion (~USD 14 million) smart electricity meter factory in Kawempe, Kampala — a landmark investment by Henley Energy Uganda aimed at strengthening local production capacity and reducing import dependency in the energy sector.

Commissioned by Energy Minister Ruth Nankabirwa, the facility marks a major step forward in Uganda's industrialization agenda and will contribute significantly to the country's transition toward smarter and more efficient energy infrastructure. The factory is expected to employ over 500 Ugandans, creating both direct and indirect jobs, and has the capacity to manufacture up to 700,000 single-phase and 350,000 three-phase meters annually. Designed with future scalability in mind, the plant will also be able to produce gas meters, positioning Uganda to meet the growing demands of its oil and gas sector. For more information, please click here:

<https://bit.ly/44EuNZK>

Highlights

- Uganda Rolls Out National Biofuels Blending Programme with E5 Launch
- Uganda Launches \$14M Smart Meter Factory to Boost Local Manufacturing



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Uganda Rolls Out National Biofuels Blending Programme with E5 Launch

Uganda's Minister of Energy and Mineral Development, Hon. Ruth Nankabirwa, has officially launched the National Biofuels Blending Programme, marking a significant milestone in the country's transition toward cleaner and more sustainable energy solutions. The programme kickstarts with the introduction of E5—a petrol blend containing 5% ethanol—aimed at reducing carbon emissions, lowering environmental pollution, and decreasing the country's dependence on imported fossil fuels. This initiative aligns with the Biofuels Act of 2020 and is firmly rooted in Uganda's long-term development framework, Vision 2040, which prioritizes green growth, energy efficiency, and industrialization.

Ethanol for the E5 blend will be sourced from reputable local producers such as Kakira Sugar, Hoima Sugar, and Bukona Agro, reinforcing the Buy Uganda, Build Uganda (BUBU) agenda. By leveraging domestic agricultural by-products and waste materials to produce ethanol, the programme not only supports the local manufacturing ecosystem but also creates a reliable market for sugarcane farmers and agro-processors, thereby strengthening rural livelihoods and value chains. The establishment of four regional blending centers—located in Busia, Malaba, Mutukula, and Entebbe—will enable the distribution and blending of over 110 million litres of petrol during the incubation phase, which runs through December 2025. In addition to supporting Uganda's energy security, the programme is designed to make cleaner fuel more accessible and affordable to consumers. Blended petrol will benefit from tax exemptions and fall under the regulatory oversight of the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS), ensuring safety, quality, and fair pricing. For more information, click here: <https://bit.ly/4nKglrU>



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Ethiopia



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Highlights

Wilo Celebrates 10 Years of Sustainable Water Solutions in Ethiopia

Wilo East Africa celebrated its 10th anniversary in Ethiopia, marking a decade of innovation and impact in sustainable water solutions. The milestone was commemorated with a cocktail reception in Addis Ababa, attended by clients, partners, and regional team members.

Wilo Ethiopia has delivered over 100 projects across water management, building services, and industrial applications providing energy-efficient pumping systems that support clean water access and infrastructure sustainability.

The event also featured a recognition ceremony honoring long-standing clients for their trust and collaboration. As Wilo looks ahead, the company reaffirmed its commitment to combining technology and sustainability to drive progress in Ethiopia and beyond.

For more information, click here: <https://bit.ly/4kx9nU6>

- Wilo Celebrates 10 Years of Sustainable Water Solutions in Ethiopia
- HPR Approves Key Proclamations on Foreign Property Ownership





HPR Approves Key Proclamations on Foreign Property Ownership

In a historic move set to reshape Ethiopia's investment climate, the House of Peoples' Representatives (HPR) has passed a landmark proclamation granting foreign nationals the right to own residential property in the country. Approved during the HPR's 41st regular session, the new law is a strategic policy shift designed to attract greater foreign direct investment (FDI), stimulate the real estate sector, and generate broader economic benefits, including increased employment and technology transfer.

The proclamation was developed through a rigorous legislative process, with in-depth analysis and consultations led by the Urban Infrastructure and Transport Affairs Standing Committee, in collaboration with the Justice and Legal Affairs Standing Committee. These reviews incorporated insights from a range of stakeholders, including legal experts, urban planners, private sector representatives, and government institutions, to ensure that the new law aligns with Ethiopia's national development priorities while remaining attractive to international investors.

The legislation introduces a carefully structured legal framework that outlines clear conditions, procedures, and limitations governing foreign ownership of residential property. It places a strong emphasis on safeguarding national interests, promoting transparency, and maintaining urban planning integrity. The law also draws from international best practices to strike a balance between openness to foreign capital and the protection of local communities and resources. For more information, please click here: <https://bit.ly/3GASV7k>



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Tanzania



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Tanzania Investment and Special Economic Zones Authority (TISEZA) Set to Streamline Investment Processes in Tanzania

After a press release in Dar es Salaam, a new entity, the Tanzania Investment and Special Economic Zones Authority (TISEZA), has been established to streamline investment processes in Tanzania.

Formed by merging the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) and the Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA), TISEZA began operations on July 1, 2025. This new authority aims to eliminate bureaucratic hurdles and simplify investment procedures through initiatives like a One-Stop Facilitation Centre that will digitize and centralize government investment services. The Minister of State for Planning and Investment, Prof. Kitila Mkumbo, stated that TISEZA will improve Tanzania's investment climate, attracting more local and foreign investment. Gilead Teri has been appointed as the Director General of TISEZA. For more information, please click here: <https://bit.ly/4lkcU9H>

Highlights

- Tanzania Investment and Special Economic Zones Authority (TISEZA) Set to Streamline Investment Processes in Tanzania
- President Samia to Grace Tanzania Development Vision 2050 (TDV 2050) Launch
- DITF: Mwinyi Hails 'Made in Tanzania'
- Tanzania Earns Global Recognition for Digital Health Innovation
- EAC Common External Tariff Version 2022 as Updated June 2025





President Samia to Grace Tanzania Development Vision 2050 (TDV 2050) Launch

After a press release in Dodoma, President Samia Suluhu Hassan is set to officially launch the Tanzania Development Vision (TDV) 2050 on July 17, 2025, at the Jakaya Kikwete Hall in Dodoma. The TDV 2050 is Tanzania's second National Development Vision, a comprehensive and non-partisan long-term strategic plan developed through extensive public consultations since April 2023, involving approximately 1.17 million Tanzanians. Parliament endorsed the final vision document on June 26, 2025.

For more information, please click here:

<https://bit.ly/4ICZGEy>

DITF: Mwinyi Hails 'Made in Tanzania'

After press release in Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar President Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi officially opened the 49th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF), urging Tanzanians to embrace and take pride in "Made in Tanzania" products. He emphasized the commitment of both the Union and Zanzibar governments to fostering a business-friendly environment, streamlining trade processes, investing in digital infrastructure, and ensuring investment stability.

The DITF, now a platform for innovation and digital governance, saw its registration and management fully digitized this year, as reported by TanTrade Director General Latifa Abdullah. The fair also showcased new technologies like a disaster risk mapping system and a rapid-fire alert system. Mwinyi underscored the importance of championing local products and technologies to drive socio-economic transformation showcased wildlife. For more information, please click here: <https://bit.ly/4nA2Mv3>





Tanzania Earns Global Recognition for Digital Health Innovation

After press release in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania has received global recognition for its digital health innovation, earning top honours at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20) Forum in Geneva. The country's digital transformation includes a Zanzibar-based public health initiative integrating citizen identities with medical records for seamless care, and a mainland citizen feedback platform for direct communication with government departments. The e-Government Authority (e-GA) has been crucial in establishing national ICT standards and expanding digital governance to rural areas through broadband investments. For more information, please click here:

<https://bit.ly/405nDMz>

Tanzania Government Reaffirms Commitment to Coffee Sector Development

Despite the vibrant trading activity, overall market capitalization dipped slightly from TZS 19.66 trillion in Q1 to TZS 19.63 trillion in Q2, reflecting mixed performance across various sectors. However, the banking sector stood out as a key driver of market gains. Shares of major banks recorded steady upward momentum, buoyed by strong earnings reports, solid fundamentals, and attractive dividend yields. A notable development during the quarter was the rise of NMB Bank as the largest listed company on the exchange, with a market capitalization of TZS 3.3 trillion, surpassing long-standing leader Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL). The shift highlights the growing influence of the banking sector in Tanzania's capital markets and the continued revaluation of financial institutions amid a stable macroeconomic environment. For more information, please click here: <https://bit.ly/4ezW83J>



EAC Common External Tariff Version 2022 as Updated June 2025

The updated East African Community (EAC) Common External Tariff (CET) Version 2022, as revised in June 2025, is now officially available for download. This updated document represents a major milestone in the region's ongoing efforts to deepen economic integration, harmonize trade practices, and promote industrialization across partner states. The CET outlines the unified tariff structure applied to goods imported from outside the EAC bloc, serving as a central instrument in shaping regional trade policy and protecting domestic industries from unfair external competition.



These include revised tariff bands, updated commodity codes in line with the Harmonized System (HS 2022), and refined product classifications to reflect evolving trade dynamics and industrial priorities within the region. Notably, the updated CET continues to uphold the four-band structure introduced in the 2022 version—0%, 10%, 25%, and 35%—with select strategic products attracting rates above 35% to safeguard emerging sectors deemed vital for regional growth. The review process involved extensive consultation with member states, private sector stakeholders, and development partners to ensure the revised CET remains relevant and responsive to the region's economic realities. The update also takes into consideration global trade trends, shifts in supply chains, and the need to support post-COVID economic recovery through a more resilient and self-reliant industrial base.

The CET is not only a tool for regulating external trade but also a mechanism for fostering intra-regional trade by creating a level playing field for goods produced within the EAC. For more information, please click here:

<https://bit.ly/4lgjP3t>



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