

January 22nd

The Standard | Nancy Agutu | 22nd January 2016

KENYATTAS GIVE 2, 000 ACRES TO SQUATTERS

The Kenyatta family has donated 2,000 of its 30,000 acres in Taita Taveta for the resettlement of squatters, State House has said. ‘The squatters will be issued with title deeds in a few months,’ spokesman Manoah Esipisu told a press conference at State House, Mombasa, on Thursday. State House said the President has promised to deliver the land answer to the land question in the Coastal region. The head of the Presidential Strategic Communications Unit said Uhuru, speaking at Mtwapa, had promised to look into cases involving 21 settlements with similar issues as the Waitiki land. [Read More](#)

January 21st

The Daily Nation | Silas Apollo | 21st January 2016

DEVELOPERS SAY LACK OF ACCURATE HOUSING DATA MAKES IT HARD FOR THEM TO PLAN PROPERLY

KENYA LACKS ACCURATE DATA on housing that can help policy-makers address problems in the sector, some property developers in Kisumu claim. They say that even with the impressive growth in the housing sector, little had been done to collect adequate data on the growth and challenges in the sector.

Mr. Nickson Opande, owner of Opande Africa Investment, says that the available data is skewed and unreliable, making it hard to tell the emerging opportunities in the industry. [Read More.](#)

The Standard | Peter Muiruri | 21st January 2016

GOING GREEN MAKES FOR GREAT SAVING

In most cases, all there would be to show may be a rainwater harvesting system and some solar panels on the roof. Construction being a business, the few installations do suffice as advertising features. Part of the problem is the continued reliance on Western designs by the local construction industry. On the streets of Nairobi, you will not fail to notice that a number of the so-called beautiful structures are tall, glass clad edifices that become furnaces during hot months like January and February. In Europe or America, such buildings are the norm and well-suited for the temperatures that can drop beyond zero degrees. They need to trap all the heat they can get during winter months. Not in Kenya, though, where daytime temperatures can rise to incredible degrees. [Read More](#)

The Standard | Peter Muiruri | 21st January 2016

WHY UPPER HILL IS EAST AFRICA’S RICHEST SQUARE MILE

Mercy Njeri has been operating a food joint on Mara Road, Upper Hill in Nairobi, for close to a decade. Every lunch hour, she is all smiles as she watches hordes of hungry workers troop to the kiosk. Business is booming. Behind the smile, however, is a worried woman. Worried that the same construction boom that brings her brisk business could also spell doom for her. The plot adjacent to her kiosk is already earmarked for the construction of yet another skyscraper. “This is not the Upper Hill I knew 15 years ago. You go to bed only to find a new building reaching the sky the following morning. I will have to look for an alternative location, if I find any,” she says, dejected. [Read More](#)

The Standard | Nanjina Wamuswa | 21st January 2016

YOUTH AND WOMEN SHOULD BE HELPED TO OWN LAND, PROPERTY'

It is a land selling process where the buyer is granted a right to buy a parcel of land at a fixed price at a defined future date. The buyer pays a deposit as a sign of commitment. The seller then holds the parcel of land for the buyer at the agreed price until the full price is paid. After the buyer pays the deposit, he or she is issued with a ceremonial certificate. He or she gets the actual title deed upon clearing the agreed payment. After paying the deposit, one can continue paying installments or wait and pay whole amount at the expiry of the agreed period. When did you launch this idea and what has been the market response? [Read More](#)

The Standard | H&A correspondent | 21st January 2016

REGULATOR CONDUCTS SKILLS GAP AUDIT IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

The National Construction Authority (NCA) is undertaking a base line survey in conjunction with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics on skills gap and locally-produced materials in the construction industry. According to NCA executive director Daniel Manduku, the regulator is also doing a mapping and assessment of existing construction training institutions in the country. National Construction Authority officials at a construction site. NCA has from last year to date done almost 2,000 sting operations in which construction sites have been suspended until they comply with building regulations. The authority, which was established through the National Construction Authority Act and came into force in 2013, is charged with overseeing and regulating the construction industry, which includes registering contractors and other players. [Read More](#)

The Standard | F.T. Odhiambo | 21st January 2016

WHY TITLES GIVEN TO WAITIKI LAND BENEFICIARIES MAY BE IRREGULAR

The validity of the title deeds issued to the beneficiaries of Waitiki land in Mombasa County recently is suspect as the procedure used is not supported by any existing land law. Maybe this is because the process was actually the formalisation of an illegality to benefit those who had invaded the land. The initial invaders claimed it was their ancestral land. They went on to demarcate the land and sold plots to unsuspecting buyers who later transformed from purchasers to squatters to benefit from the settlement programme for the landless and internally displaced persons. President Uhuru Kenyatta hands out a title deed to a Waitiki land beneficiary. Some experts are questioning the law on which the process was based. This trend is dangerous as it goes against the principle of land policy, particularly in regard to security of land rights, which is enshrined in the constitution. The principle states that any Kenyan has a right either individually or in association with others to acquire and own property of any description in any part of Kenya as long as the acquisition is lawful. [Read More](#)

January 20th

The Standard | Paul Wafula | 20th January 2016

MOST BUILDINGS COMING UP ACROSS KENYA ARE SUBSTANDARD, NCA WARNS

NCA also says many contractors are still not registering their projects with the authority, in what is adding to the mess in the construction sector, which is in dire need of proper regulation. The authority said it has so far conducted 7,835 site visits across the country. Out of these, only 4,500 were registered. This means that at least a third of the buildings coming up are not approved for quality. [Read More.](#)

The Standard | Graham Kajilwa | 20th January 2016

NAIROBI COUNTY COLLECTS SH168BN IN BUILDING PLANS AS AUDIT TARGETS 50,000 MORE

According to data released by the county's city planning Department, September posted the highest value in 2015 at Sh23.54 billion; seven percent higher than Sh22b worth of plans cleared in September, 2014. This was also only second to Sh23.71 billion, in October 2014, over the last years. The statistics further show that the value of approvals for residential property increased by 14.11 per cent to Sh104 billion in the nine-month period to September 30, from Sh100 billion last year. [Read More.](#)

January 18th

The Standard | Correspondent | 18th January 2016

PROVIDING REAL ESTATE SECTOR GAME CHANGER

As the demand for housing continues to soar, one entrepreneur is changing fortunes for Kenyans in real estate. Kui Rukwaro is no ordinary entrepreneur; she looked at the real estate landscape in Kenya and decided that with so much demand for housing in Kenya and few actual home owners, something was terribly wrong. Instead of sitting back and complaining about it as most would do, she decided to do something about it. She decided to fix it. [Read More](#)