

October 8th

Star Newspaper | Star Reporter | 8th October 2014

Mariott to invest \$200m to build hotels in Africa

INTERNATIONAL hotel chain Marriott and Protea has announced plans to invest \$200 million in hotel expansion in Africa. The first new hotel under the plan will be opened in Ethiopia next year while others are to be opened in Kigali, Rwanda, Ghana and South Africa in subsequent years. "The coming year is a transformational year for Marriott's partnership with Africa," Marriott president and managing director for the Middle East and Africa Alex Kyriakidis said last week at a press conference held on the sidelines of the African Hotels Investment Forum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. [Read More](#)

Star Newspaper | James Waithaka | 8th October 2014

Tatu City prices plots at Sh23m as construction resumes

Tatu City, touted as Kenya's first privately managed city, has priced serviced plots in its light industrial and logistics park at Sh23 million per acre as construction revs back to life. About 18 plots measuring five acres each are on sale in the 250-acre park, which is one of the first two phase of the project whose development has commenced. [Read More](#)

October 15

Standard Newspaper | Editorial Update | 15th October 2014

Mr President, adherence to law will solve impasse with MPs

Lands Cabinet Secretary Charity Ngilu had appeared before the House earlier and taken questions from the MPs. After the disappearing act by her Cabinet colleagues, the MPs spent the rest of the day's session disdainfully castigating the Executive. [Read More](#)

Star Newspaper | Jame Waithaka | 15th October 2014

Luxury rental market chills drastically in second quarter

Rents in Nairobi's affluent estates, patronised by high income individuals and expatriates, remained unchanged between April and June, a slowdown for the previously red-hot market. Knight Frank's Prime Global Rental Index for the second quarter, which tracks only 17 top cities worldwide, shows no change in Nairobi high-end rents from the previous quarter. [Read More](#)

Star Newspaper | Martin Mwita, Mercy Gakii | 15th October 2014

Popularity of apartments soars at the Coast

CONSTRUCTION of apartments in Mombasa has grown tremendously, raising the population of city residents living in apartments to 80 per cent, property market experts estimate. According to real estate agents and developers, apartments have become popular in the coastal city, driving demand from buyers and and tenants seeking selfcontained flats. [Read More](#)

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Star Newspaper | Lola Okulo | 15th October 2014

Insurance companies slash stakes in real estate

Insurers slightly reduced investments in property between April and June, according to latest data. The second quarter report by the Insurance Regulatory Authority shows that total investments by insurance firms in various assets amounted to Sh318.90 billion as at end June 2014, from Sh306.70 billion by end of March. [Read More](#)

Star Newspaper | Star Reporter | 15th October 2014

NLC issues notice to acquire 46 parcels of land for railway

THE National Land Commission has listed 46 parcels of land it intends to acquire for construction of the Nairobi-Mombasa standard gauge railway.

Out of the 46, the biggest chunk will be obtained from East Africa Portland Cement Company, from which NLC intends to acquire 82.2 hectares. In a gazette notice issued Friday, NLC said it plans to acquire the lands on behalf of Kenya Railways Corporation for construction of the SGR. In March the Public Investments Committee of the National Assembly warned the National Lands Commission against gazetting land for the standard gauge railway before they have the funds to pay for it. [Read More](#)

Star Newspaper | Lola Okulo | 15th October 2014

New building to cut cleaning costs using technology

DEVELOPERS continue to explore more innovative ways to create green buildings and save occupants maintenance costs, with a new business centre launching use of self-cleaning glass for windows. The new seven-floor, the Emani Business Centre located along Thika Superhighway has been constructed using a curtain wall system that uses bio-clean glass which has self-cleaning sealed units with solar control features. A curtain wall system is where the outer walls are non-structural, but control the effects of weather from getting into the building. The non-structural curtain wall can be made of a lightweight material, thus reducing construction costs. [Read More](#)

October 16

Standard Newspaper | Cyrus Ombati, Geoffrey Mosoku | 16th October 2014

Karen land development still on three days after High Court stopped it

Police are yet to evict occupants of the Sh8 billion Karen land, following a High Court directive issued on Monday. Instead, The Standard has learnt that the police have launched their own investigations into the ownership of the disputed prime land. It is not clear what prompted the police to commence the probe at a time when the High Court has issued orders stopping any development on the land. [Read More](#)

Standard Newspaper | James Wanzala | 16th October 2014

New plan to bring services closer to Nairobi residents

The City of Nairobi has not had a framework to guide its development since 2000. The 1973 Nairobi Metropolitan Growth Strategy lapsed in 2000. There have been unsuccessful attempts to come up with a new plan for the city. The Nairobi City County administration has prioritised the preparation of a new plan that will align city development with Vision 2030, the Constitution and global conventions towards sustainable development. [Read More](#)

Standard Newspaper | Ferdinand Mwongela | 16th October 2014

What drives global real estate markets?

A Cushman & Wakefield report, *Winning in Growth Cities*, quotes the World Economic Forum (WEF) as positing that the main mega-trends relevant to cities are demographics and include urbanisation, the rise of the middle class and changing lifestyles. These, according to WEF, are exemplified by the growth of Millennials or Generation Y. The forum also lists rising inequality within cities, sustainability and pressure on resources, technological changes, industrial clusters and governance, notably in the face of a fall in trust in public bodies. [Read More](#)

Standard Newspaper | H & A correspondent | 16th October 2014

Luxury rental market slows down in Nairobi

Nairobi recorded weak growth in prime rents in the second quarter of the year. This is according to Knight Frank's Prime Global Rent Index. According to the index, however, a number of the world's key financial centres rose up the annual rankings despite seeing weaker growth in this period. The index recorded annual growth of 2.2 per cent in the year to June, down from 4.7 per cent in the year to March. Of the 17 cities tracked, nine saw flat or rising prime rents in the year to June. [Read More](#)

Standard Newspaper | Antony Gitonga | 16th October 2014

Naivasha welcomes its first gated estate

Naivasha is set to welcome a gated community estate targeting the middle and upper classes. Located five kilometres from Naivasha Town and 400 metres from the Nairobi-Nakuru highway next to Karai Village, the Italian Luxury Court is expected to address the housing crisis in the town. [Read More](#)

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Standard Media | Peter Muiruri | 16th October 2014

Her dream is for you to own a home

Caroline Wangui Kariuki, the managing director of The Mortgage Company, the frightening future of technology is the least of her worries. Over the last few years, she has led a spirited campaign to lobby for lower interest rates so that more people can afford the cost of borrowing for home ownership. While it is the dream of every Kenyan to own a home, the statistics are disappointing. Current estimates show that out of 40 million Kenyans, only 20 per cent own the houses they live in. [Read More](#)

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October 17

Standard Newspaper | Roselyne Obala | 17th October 2014

House team summons Ngilu, Swazuri over Karen land

A parliamentary watchdog committee has summoned Lands Cabinet Secretary Charity Ngilu and National Lands Commission Chairman Mohammad Swazuri over the Sh8 billion controversial land in Karen, Nairobi. The Lands Committee members, who met on Wednesday in the absence of chairman Alex Mwiru and his vice, agreed that apart from Ngilu and Swazuri, editors of a media house which published the story, city tycoon Jos Konzolo and Da Gama Rose are also required to give more information on the land saga. [Read More](#)