

January 15th

The Business Daily | Gitonga Marete | 15th January 2016

16,000 TITLE DEEDS TO BE ISSUED AS UHURU EXTENDS COAST STAY

President Uhuru Kenyatta will continue working from Mombasa State House for at least a fortnight, issuing more than 15,000 title deeds in three counties. He will also launch a water project.

On Friday, the President is expected to launch the Sh1.2 billion national street lighting project at the Makadara grounds near Mombasa's Old Town, spokesperson Manoah Esipisu said Wednesday at Mombasa State House. [Read More](#)

The Business Daily | Xinhua | 15th January 2016

ALARM RAISED AS KENYA'S REAL ESTATE SECTOR GRAPPLES WITH FAKE PRODUCTS

The fast-growing real estate sector in Kenya is grappling with a rise in fake products mainly imported from Asia (mainly China) by dealers out to make quick money at the expense of house developers, buyers and tenants.

They mainly include house fittings like taps, window panes, hinges, water heaters, electricity cables, locks, bulb holders, doors and sinks. [Read More](#)

January 14th

The Daily Nation | Immaculate Wairimu | 14th January 2016

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY OF THIKA ROAD

For many years the road from Nairobi to Thika Town, which lies about 40 kilometres north-east of the capital, was notorious for traffic snarl ups. People avoided living anywhere along the route, and the economy in the adjacent areas was sluggish since few investors wanted to set up shop there.

However, since the road was widened and dubbed the Thika Superhighway, the whole route has undergone a radical facelift. [Read More](#)

The Daily Nation | Francis Mureithi | 14th January 2016

DEVELOPERS CASH IN ON YOUNG HOME SEEKERS' LOVE FOR LUXURY APARTMENTS

The changing taste of young and enterprising home owners in Nairobi has fuelled the increasing luxury housing boom that has seen investors splash billions of shillings to woo the expanding middle- and upper-middle class in the city.

Luxury apartments are fast becoming a hit for young people looking for houses to buy that are not too far from social amenities. [Read More](#)

The Daily Nation | Immaculate Wairimu | 14th January 2016

ESTATE AGENT UNVEILS KENYA'S FIRST INTERACTIVE TOUCH SCREEN WINDOW DISPLAY

There is a new technology in town, one that transforms a window's glass surface into a touch screen, the latest technology in touch sensitive display.

According to the American estate agency firm that has invested in this technology, this interactive window is making property searches and market information easier and more accessible, since clients can get the information they need even after office hours.

The firm, Coldwel Banker, recently launched the technology in Kenya as its first entry point into Africa. [Read More](#)

The Daily Nation | Elizabeth Merab | 14th January 2016

SO MANY FLOORS TO CHOOSE FROM!

There is no doubt, the middle class loves the good life, and many in this bracket are willing to pay whatever it takes to surround themselves with beautiful things.

One of the things this class has heavily invested in are homes, stylish homes. The constantly evolving factor in the real estate sector is finishing. For instance, gone is the era when homeowners were satisfied with a concrete red oxide floor. [Read More](#)

The Daily Nation | Dennis Lubanga | 14th January 2016

WIDOWS ACCUSE CHIEF OF STRIKING OFF NAMES FROM LAND COMPENSATION LIST

Three widows, currently living in deplorable conditions in Nandi County, are seeking justice after their names were struck off a land compensation list.

The women were left out of an exercise in which the government last year started compensating members of the Ogiek community evicted from Serenonik Forest.

The trio claim the area chief colluded with provincial administrators to remove them from the list. [Read More](#)

The Standard | Peter Muiruri | 14th January 2016

IS THE REAL ESTATE MARKET IN KENYA IN FOR A STORM IN 2016?

According to Mucai Kunyiha, a developer with Mashiara Park Limited, the real estate industry in Kenya has generally shown resilience for a long period, absorbing a number of tremors that have come its way in recent times. “True, we expect a lot of political noise this year as we approach the General-Election next year. As we head deeper into that period, there may be a slowdown in mortgage uptake. However, real estate thrives on its long-term nature as shown by its weathering the numerous storms in the past,” he says. However, despite the positive outlook by local industry players, economic downturns in America and China – the two leading world economies – could throw a spanner in the works. [Read More](#)

The Standard | Mkala Mwaghesha | 14th January 2016

EXPERTS: WHY UHURU’S WAITIKI LAND DEAL IS A BAD PRECEDENT

“As much as Waitiki land case is a unique one, it might set a bad precedence across the country as people might start invading private land in the hope that it would eventually be sold to them,” said Ibrahim Mwathane, the chairman of the Land Development and Governance Institute (LDGI), a land think-tank. Mwathane asked both county and central governments to firmly deal with such cases and discourage invasion of private land by squatters. Alex Muema of Ndatani Enterprises concurred: “People might start invading farms knowing that the government will buy them to settle squatters. [Read More](#)

The Standard | Francis Ayieko | 14th January 2016

POLITICS AND REAL ESTATE IN KENYA

Of the last few years, I have heard the refrain “you can’t go wrong with real estate” more times than I can count. This expression comes up almost always whenever people talk about investment ideas. And if you go to a property consultant for advice, they are likely to explain it with another widely used industry maxim: Real estate is a hedge against inflation. This expression means that real estate is one of the few asset classes whose value never goes down when inflation hits. Usually, as inflation goes up, housing values and rents go up. Because of that, real estate is considered one of the best ways to hedge an investment portfolio against inflation. Locally, we have seen construction activity go on even during hard economic times. [Read more](#)

January 13th

The Star | Martin Mwita | 13th January 2016

WESTLANDS HAS BEST RATES FOR PROPERTY INVESTORS

Westlands has the highest real estate returns in Nairobi while Kasarani has the lowest, a new report indicates.

The Cytonn Investments' Business and Market Outlook report launched on Monday projects the country's real estate sector will grow at a robust pace this year driven by the growing middle class' desire to own homes. Real estate will be the best investment for those seeking high returns, the investment management firm said.

Return on real estate investment is higher in Westlands at 7.2 per cent according to the report, which covers 10 key residential areas.

A three-bedroom apartment in this area rakes Sh150,000 in monthly with a sale price of Sh25 million.

[Read More](#)

The Star | Kirimi Murithi | 13th January 2016

KAIMENYI ASKED TO DEPLOY MORE LAND REGISTRARS IN MERU COUNTY

Meru Governor Peter Munya and Tigania West MP David Kariithi have urged Lands Cabinet Secretary Jacob Kaimenyi to appoint more land registrars. Munya said there are many land problems, especially in Nyambene, where there is only one registrar. He said the registrar is tasked with more work than he can handle.

Munya and Kariithi were speaking at Mugae in Tigania West during the commissioning of a land demarcation programme on Monday.

The governor said President Uhuru Kenyatta seemed to know the land problems affecting the Meru people when he appointed Kaimenyi to the docket. [Read More](#)

The Star | Lola Okulo | 13th January 2016

INSURERS TO BENEFIT FROM GROWTH OF CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

EXPANSION of the construction sector in Kenya will uplift the insurance industry which is expected to benefit from higher demand for property insurance.

This is according to a report by a global online data analysis and advisory services firm Timetric.

The UK-based company said the high number of construction projects in the pipeline or ongoing will provide growth opportunities for property insurers.

"Construction output in Kenya rose from Sh289 billion in 2010 to Sh687.5 billion in 2014, supporting the growth of property insurance," the firm says in a summary of the report.

"The category is expected to grow its value to Sh48 billion (US\$464.8 million) in 2019, mainly driven by government investments to develop the Lamu Port and South Sudan-Ethiopia transport corridor, the Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Rail network and the construction of a 2,000-kilometre road."

[Read More](#)

The Star | Mercy Gakii | 13th January 2016

ESTATES TAP SOCIAL MEDIA TO ADVOCATE RESIDENTS' WELFARE

Social media groups by various estates are proving to be a force to reckon with in demanding for services and championing the welfare of residents, if recent events are anything to go by.

Loresho residents recently managed to stop the grabbing of land reserved for expansion of a water reservoir after galvanising neighbours' support via Facebook.

This is after the national government repossessed the grabbed land that contains the reservoir serving Spring Valley and Loresho. The matter which was hyped all over social media also caught the attention of Nairobi Senator Mike Sonko who took it up causing intervention from President Uhuru Kenyatta.

Other than Whatsapp Groups, residents of part of Loresho have a closed Facebook page called Loresho North Residents Company whose group type is listed as neighbours [Read More](#)

January 12th

The Business Daily | Rufus Mwanyasi | 12th January 2016

HOW INVESTORS CAN PROTECT PORTFOLIOS AGAINST INFLATION

Recent data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics shows that annual inflation rate accelerated to eight per cent in December, up from 7.3 per cent in the previous month. Now, rising inflation is going to present special challenges to investors. Although not as dramatic as a market crash, high inflation is well known to steadily erode portfolio values. [Read More](#)

January 11th

The Daily Nation | James Kariuki | 11th January 2016

REAL ESTATE IS WHERE WEALTH WILL GROW IN 2016, SAYS FIRM IN REPORT

Real estate is the best investment option this year even though politics will play a major role in determining returns from other key sectors.

Cytonn Investments 2016 Outlook Report released in Nairobi on Monday says local and foreign investors will continue reaping handsome returns since growth of the middle class and continued urbanization create a growing demand for both residential and commercial developments across the country [Read More](#)