

January 8th

The Daily Nation | Nation Team | 8th January 2016

COUNTY FAULTS STATE OVER EXCLUSION IN DECISION MAKING OF LAND ALLOCATION

President Uhuru Kenyatta is expected to give out 5,000 titles deeds to occupiers of the land in the first phase of the project, on Saturday. The Governor said the only time government officials spoke to him was on Tuesday evening when Land, Housing and Urban Development Cabinet Secretary Jacob Kaimenyi and National Land Commission Chairman Muhammad Swazuri visited his office after they got “a public backlash” at Likoni, when they announced that occupiers of the land will have to pay Sh184,000 in rates to the national government. [Read More](#)

January 7th

The Daily Nation | Gitonga Marete | 7th January 2016

NEGOTIATIONS TO WAIVE SH400M IN WAITIKI LAND ARE ON

High level negotiations are on to persuade the Mombasa County Government to waive Sh400 million in land rates for the controversial Waitiki farm. The coordinator of the Waitiki Farm squatter settlement programme, Mr Joseph Kanyiri, said that the owner of the 930-acre land, Mr Evanson Waitiki, had written to the Mombasa County Government seeking the waiver of the accrued land rates over a period of 18 years. [Read More](#)

The Standard | Harold Ayodo | 7th January 2016

ROGUE CONTRACTORS: GIVE NCA TEETH TO BITE

Recently, NCA executive director Daniel Manduku threatened to deregister contractors who violate the code of ethics. According to the authority, there are slightly over 9,000 gazetted contractors countrywide that have subscribed to a code of ethics, which calls for adherence to the highest construction standards. Manduku says the industry’s regulations and code of ethics mirror international best practices and Kenyans should consult NCA before engaging contractors. Recent NCA data shows that a paltry 20 per cent of the estimated 12,000 contractors countrywide are certified, meaning the multi-billion-shilling industry is largely run by quacks. [Read More](#)

The Standard | Peter Muiruri | 7th January 2016

GREEN DESIGNS SHOULD APPLY TO SLUM-DWELLINGS

While Kenya has led the way in real estate investment in the region, developers are yet to fully embrace green architecture in new buildings. Over the years, there has not been a shortage of high sounding statements, extolling the virtues of green designs. Global bodies such as the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and UN-Habitat have been in the forefront in urging developers to consider incorporating as much of the green aspects as possible during the design phase of projects. [Read More](#)

The Standard | Daniel Wesangula | 7th January 2016

WHEN BUYING LAND, AVOID VERBAL DEALS

Everyone seems to be getting into real estate business. Don’t you think the market is getting saturated? Not really. Kenyans’ appetite for land continues to grow, with different areas of the city striving to attract that extra customer in a highly-competitive market. And as Kenyans continue to look for a place to call home, developers continue to innovate. [Read more](#)

The Standard | Francis Ayieko | 7th January 2016

WILL THE GOOD NEWS IN KENYA’S CONSTRUCTION SECTOR LAST?

The year 2016 has started with the good news that the construction sector defied high interest rates in 2015 to post impressive growth in the last months of the year. According to data released by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) last week, the sector grew by 14.1 per cent in the third quarter of 2015 compared to 8.8 per cent over a similar period in 2015. Construction loans to the sector grew by Sh22 billion (or 28 per cent) from Sh79 billion to Sh101 billion during the year. [Read More](#)

The Standard | Peter Muiruri | 7th January 2016
A LOOK AT WHAT LIES IN STORE FOR REAL ESTATE THIS YEAR

How will the real estate sector perform in 2016? After registering mixed fortune in 2015, players are hoping that the New Year will bring good tidings to the property industry. Already, pundits are saying that all indications are that the sector will continue on an upwards trajectory owing to the huge demand for housing by the rising middle class in the country. The government's plan to reduce the country's annual housing deficit that stands at about 300,000 continues to face financial and policy challenges. The continued presence of multinationals in Kenya will also see a need for more Grade A offices. [Read More](#)

The People daily | The People Daily Reporter | 7th January 2016
DEMAND FOR PROPERTY EXPECTED TO INCREASE IN 2016

With demand for real estate in Nairobi sending property prices soaring on the back of rapid urbanisation, nearby counties are also seeing an uptake in activity as developers look to channel funds into satellite cities and commuter towns. Advertised land prices in Nairobi's nine fastest-growing suburbs have increased five-fold since 2007, and according to analysts the trend is set to continue in 2016. [Read More](#)

January 6th

The Daily Nation | Pscu | 6th January 2016
TITLES OF 350,000 ACRES OF ILLEGALLY ACQUIRED LAND IN LAMU REVOKED

Land Cabinet Secretary Jacob Kaimenyi told the Presidential Strategic Communications Unit (PSCU) on Tuesday evening that among the revoked documents were title deeds for 12 parcels whose notice of revocation had expired. Prof Kaimenyi disclosed that more title deeds for land acquired irregularly will be revoked and returned to the public for "farming and other development" [Read More](#)

The Daily Nation | Martin Mwaura | 6th January 2016
MURANG'A COUNTY CHIEFS THREATENED OVER KIHU MWIRI KILLINGS

County Commissioner Kula Hache has received a death threat over the killings of Kihui Mwiri land-buying company directors. The Christmas card with the death threat also mentioned Kangema Deputy County Commissioner Joel Cherop, District officer Lydia Munyi and Nanga Chief. This comes only weeks after President Uhuru Kenyatta ordered the processing and issuing of title deeds at the controversial settlement scheme. [Read More](#)

The Star | Constant Munda | 6th January 2016
CONSTRUCTION SECTOR GROWS, PROPS ECONOMY

The construction sector shrugged off high interest rates in 2015 as building activities increased towards the end of the year driven by rise in borrowing. The construction sector posted the highest growth between July and September among the key sectors of the economy, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics said last week, but key indicators point to a slow year-on-year growth in 10 months through October. [Read More.](#)

The Star | Martin Mwita | 6th January 2016
KENYANS IN DIASPORA BOOST COAST HOUSE MARKET

Developers in the region say renewed diaspora interest on property is due to improved security. The region had suffered a market slump following a wave of terror related incidences causing house prices to decrease by an average of 20 per cent in 2014. The sector however made a slight improvement last year and prices are projected to increase by between 25 and 30 per cent this year. [Read More.](#)

Kenya's private sector expansion gathered momentum in December, having stalled somewhat just two months earlier in 2015, according to the latest CfC Stanbic Bank Purchasing Managers' Index™ released on Wednesday. According to the index, detailing business activity, growth rates in output, new work and employment all accelerated towards the tail end of 2015, as did that for input buying. [Read more](#)

January 5th

Daily Nation | Wachira Mwangi | 5th January 2016
COMMISSION PROBES LAND GRABBING ALLEGATIONS

National Land Commission (NLC) has launched an investigation into the ownership and allocation of a nine acre piece of land in Nyali alleged to have been grabbed by unscrupulous individuals in government. NLC Chairperson Muhammad Swazuri while visiting the school to get the facts said they had received complaint from Muslims for Human Rights (MUHURI) and Nyali Primary School management. [Read More.](#)

January 4th

Daily Nation | Brian Ngugi | 4th January 2016
HOME AFRIKA ISSUES PROFIT WARNING FOR 2015 RETURNS

Property developer Home Afrika Ltd has said its 2015 profit would be at least 25 per cent lower than the previous year, hurt by an increase in financing costs for its ongoing infrastructure projects. [Read More.](#)

The Business Daily | George Ngigi | 4th January 2016
ANALYSTS SPLIT ON HOUSING FINANCE, NATIONAL BANK CORRECT SHARE VALUATION

Cytonn rated [Kenya Commercial Bank](#) (KCB) and [Diamond Trust Bank](#) (DTB) as having the best opportunity in price growth. KCB and DTB have the highest upsides at 49.2 per cent and 23.7 per cent, respectively," said Cytonn. KCB was assigned a target price of Sh58.30 (Monday Sh43.75) while DTB was priced at Sh246. In contrast, AIB valued DTB at Sh183.7, lower than the current price of Sh187 per unit. There are 11 listed banks in the country with all of them trading at prices lower than a year ago. Investors buying stocks now are banking on a reversal to help them reap from capital gains as well as dividend expected to be declared by end of March. [Read More](#)