

STARTUP NEWS

Eatsafe Innovation Challenge invites Nigerian and Ethiopian startups passionate about food security to participate in the challenge



LEGAL TECH NEWS

The Legal Tech Tools Clients Are Actually Using – TR UK Report



Newsletter

ISSUE 28 | APRIL 20 | 2022

www.lawyershub.org @lawyershubkenya



HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT THE LAWYERS HUB

Data Protection Training

The Lawyers Hub and the Africa Digital Policy Institute invite you to attend and participate in the Data Protection Compliance Training targeting all persons handling Data, including Officers working in Legal, ICT, Human Resource, Records Management, and Finance Departments.

This 2-day in-person training will be held on 17th and 18th May 2022 at the Lawyers Hub Nairobi, Kenya.

To sign up, email hello@lawyershub.ke or call +254784840228

DATA PROTECTION TRAINING »

Data Protection, Data Security & Compliance

DATE: 17th - 18th May 2022
DURATION: 2 Days

EVENT TYPE: In-person // Nairobi, Kenya.

SIGN UP
hello@lawyershub.ke
or Call +254784840228
www.lawyershub.org

moz://a

AFRICA'S STARTUP POLICY PRIORITY SURVEY

Get Your Voice Heard
The Lawyers Hub, in partnership with Mozilla, invites you to take the Africa Innovation Mradi Survey for Startups in Africa that will provide valuable insight concerning the policy priorities for the Startup Ecosystem in Africa.

TAKE THE SURVEY <https://lawyershub.typeforms.com/startups>

Africa's Startup Policy Priority Survey

The Lawyers Hub is pleased to request your participation in the Africa Innovation Mradi Survey for Startups in Africa.

The survey is being run as part of the Powering Local Innovation in the Global South initiative by Mozilla, the Omidyar Network, and the Lawyers Hub.

It will be useful in mapping out the Start-Up Innovation Policy Ecosystem across Africa.

Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary and you may opt-out of any question in the survey. All of your responses will be kept confidential, they will only be used for statistical purposes and will be reported only in aggregated form.

This survey will take an estimated 5 minutes to complete.

TAKE THE SURVEY

Join the Boost Africa Legal Capacity Workshop for Startup Funders and Founders in Africa



BOOST AFRICA LEGAL CAPACITY VIRTUAL WORKSHOP
 'Building the legal capacity of startup funders and founders in Africa'
 Dates: 26th April - 31st May
 Registration Deadline: 25th April 2022
 Commitment Period: 6 weeks with flexibility to attend preferred sessions
 To sign up, visit: <https://lawyershub.org/startups/>
www.lawyershub.org

Logos for LAWYERS HUB, European Investment Bank, and Adam Smith Europe are displayed at the bottom.

Francophone Africa to learn about the legal aspects of setting up start-ups and first-time investment funds as well as build their legal knowledge and capacity to run legally sound ventures.

The virtual workshop will cover the following training modules:

- I. Workshop 1: Company Formation and Structuring | Intellectual Property
- II. Workshop 2: Capital Structuring, Valuation and Fundraising | Fund management
- III. Workshop 3: Taxation | Contracting | Internal Organization Policies

The workshop is a great chance to connect with other startup funders and founders from the African continent while building your legal knowledge and capacity on aspects of running a legally sound startup or fund through customized training delivered by experienced industry experts.

[Sign up](#)

Lawyers Hub is excited to invite you to participate in a free legal training workshop that we will be hosting with the European Investment Bank and Adam Smith International, for early-stage startup funders and founders in Africa titled **Boost Africa Legal Capacity Work-**

shop from 26th April to 31st May 2022. Themed 'Building the legal capacity of startup funders and founders in Africa', the **Boost Africa Legal Capacity Workshop** is a virtual workshop that brings together early-stage startup funders and startup founders from Anglophone and



Photo: Simplilearn

Amazon Web Services announces its plan to launch an AWS zone in Kenya

Amazon Web Services announced its plan to launch an AWS zone in Kenya. Kenya is among 26 other countries around the world where AWS plans to launch its local zones in. Local zones are enabling infrastructure for cloud computing that places computing, storage, database, and other related services close to the benefiting communities.

"The new AWS Local Zone in Kenya is a continuation of our investment to support customers of all kinds and our commitment to accelerate innovation by bringing cloud infrastructure to more locations in the country. We know that delivering ultra-low latency applications for a seamless user experience matters in every business and industry. Thus, we are excited to bring the edge of the cloud closer to more customers in Kenya to help meet their requirements." Noted Robin Njiru, the Regional Lead, East, West, and Central Africa at Amazon Web Services.



Photo: Techish Kenya

US Embassy in Kenya partners with inABLE to get youth with disabilities ready for employment

The US Embassy in Kenya, in partnership with inABLE, has commenced one-week entrepreneurship and soft skills boot camp for 40 blind and visually impaired youth —aged between 18 to 29 years— at Thika Primary School for the Blind in Kiambu County. The program seeks to better integrate blind youth into society by creating self-sustaining skills for income generation.

"The program is designed to incorporate business activities, such as product development and commercializing artistic abilities, principles of marketing, advertising, social media tools, financing, budgeting, price setting, and digital management assets". Said Benard Chiira, Director, Innovate Now Assistive Tech Accelerator.

Hisa Inc. Selected to Participate in the Inaugural Hindsight Ventures Accelerator Program

■ Launched in December 2021, Hisa Inc. introduced Hisa App, a mobile app that allows anyone in Kenya to invest in US stocks and ETFs directly from their phones using mobile money.

The accelerator program prides itself in having an initiative that allows participants to work closely with exceptional founders, build scalable solutions for addressable problems and make them investable ventures.

Selected start-ups will get mentorship and validation, technology support (over 500,000 in technology credits), industry connects, investor access, market development opportunities, conferences, and access to partner events as part of the program.

SemaBox podcasters earnings to Sh5.5m in the first year

■ Podcast incubation studio SemaBOX has announced earnings totaling Kshs. 5.5 million in 18 months.

“SemaBOX was built by creators and for creators. And so a large part of the work we do at SemaBOX (after production) is the work we do to help creators earn revenue. We help to structure business models and revenue plans and de-risk our creators (through incubation) so we can put them on the path to reliable revenue,” said CEO and Founder, Dan Aceda.



Eatsafe Innovation Challenge invites Nigerian and Ethiopian startups passionate about food security to participate in the challenge

■ The programme is run by SUN Business Network and the innovative food system portal. It is a US government project to combat world hunger and enhance food security. The Eatsafe Innovation Challenge is open to innovators who want to deploy food safety technologies in Ethiopia and Nigeria's traditional markets. The innovation challenge will be held in Denmark, and the winning team will get \$10,000 in addition to other benefits for participants such as expert training. Applications close on the 30th April.

Egyptian infrastructure solutions startup Pylon raises \$19million in a seed funding round

■ The YC-backed startup that has proven to be very profitable offers sustainable solutions to water and electricity companies in emerging markets. The infrastructure management startup provides software that is responsive to both old and new metering technologies, being able to eliminate pain points, manage resources and drive efficiency. The seed funding round included global investors such as US-based accelerator Y-Combinator and UK's Endure Capital. Tarek Fahim, GP and founder of Endure Capital expressed his enthusiasm for partnering with Pylon, “We are excited to support the strong team at Pylon, who are building a unique software-centric solution to support more sustainable and smart infrastructure for utility companies in emerging markets. As one of the highest-ever valuations for a seed-stage company in the Middle East and Africa, we are delighted to be at the forefront of positive change in the region.”



Photo: NMG

Kenya to double digital service tax on foreign big tech corporations

■ Kenyan Treasury announced plans to increase digital service tax paid by foreign companies from 1.5% to 3% of the gross value of income made from selling movies, games, and other digital products in the virtual economy. This development aligns with Kenya's resistance to accepting the US-backed global minimum corporate tax rate under the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development which will consequently require the elimination of the digital service tax. Suffice to say, the Kenya Revenue Authority has identified the digital economy as yet another tax collection spot that is predicted to earn the country huge revenue.

DATA PROTECTION NEWS

Lawyers from all around Africa weigh in on the continent's essential need for data privacy and security laws

■ With the rise of data processing in the increasingly digitized era, more citizens being aware of the value of their data, and unavoidable cross-border data transfers to facilitate businesses, data protection rules are urgently needed across the continent. Africa Business drew comments from lawyers all around Africa, including South Africa, Togo, Kenya, Uganda, and Madagascar, taking into consideration Baker McKenzie's New Data Security and Privacy Guide. Some of the lawyers had the following to say;

"With the implementation of data protection laws, the resultant effect is that there will be more protections to data subject rights. Additionally, Africa will have more control over those who process the personal data of data subjects present in Africa, limiting what they can do with personal data once collected, and throughout the life cycle of processing personal data. Furthermore, African countries will be able to exert more influence over the transfer of personal data from African countries, both intra-Africa, and inter-Africa. This will ensure that measures are in place to secure personal data during personal data transfers," noted Sonal Sejpal from ALN, Anjarwalla & Khanna Kenya

"Strong data privacy regulation should be seen by African countries and businesses as a competitive advantage in a globalized world, where local and international data processing is key to gaining profitability," added Saad Khaldi, Nasrollah & Associates Baker Mckenzie Morocco.

With the implementation of data protection laws, the resultant effect is that there will be more protections to data subject rights

Sonal Sejpal
ALN, Anjarwalla & Khanna Kenya



Photo: Times of India

India's Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology comments on the progression of policymaking in India's cyber and data laws

■ Rajeev Chandrasekhar, India's Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, made some remarks on the progression of policymaking in India's cyber and data laws while speaking at Bennett University Centre for Law and Computing Technology on 9th March. "We have just unveiled the national data governance framework and policy that is undergoing public consultation. We will shortly be rolling out cybersecurity policies and guidelines, and shortly down the road we'll be working on a new digital India Act which will be a renewed policy for the ecosystem and cyberspace in India" said the Minister. The country's Cyberspace sector is governed by the IT Act which has been around for 22 years. The Personal Data Protection Bill, which was first introduced in 2018, has yet to be passed by Parliament. New developments in the sector are long-awaited.

DIGITAL ID NEWS



Photo: Google

Kenya's Communications Authority Extends SIM registration deadline

■ The Communications Authority of Kenya has extended its SIM registration mandate deadline by 6 months. The Authority announced the extension following a meeting held with Mobile Network Operators (MNO).

"During this period, the Authority will undertake monthly reviews to assess progress. At the expiry of the six months, the Authority will further conduct a detailed compliance audit on each of the operators," the Director-General said on Friday.

LEGAL TECH NEWS

The Legal Tech Tools Clients Are Actually Using – TR UK Report

■ In the latest ‘State of the UK Legal Market’ report released on 14th April 2022, Thomson Reuters has found legal tech adoption among many clients in the UK remains at the very early stages. For example, only 18% were using a contract management solution. The flip side of this is that there is a massive opportunity for growth as e-signatures, legal research and e-billing featured at the top of the most used technology solutions by UK legal buyers at 82%, 71%, and 50% respectively according to the report.

Clients reported that a deep understanding of their business is the most important skill for their law firms to have. A close second factor driving favourability is the desire for firms to have competency in legal technologies, including artificial intelligence. Less than one-quarter of corporations surveyed that use UK firms are currently using technologies such as legal analytics, AI-driven smart contracts, or legal project management, making it important for their law firms to possess such expertise.



BLOCKCHAIN, DIGITAL CURRENCIES, AND AI NEWS



Photo: BitLipa

Kenya’s Bitlipa partners with Evai, an AI powered crypto analysis platform

■ Bitlipa is a fintech startup that enables the conversion of Kenyan fiat currency into cryptocurrency and stable coins like Tether(USDT). It utilizes MPESA to on-ramp and off-ramp clients between the two currency spaces. A 2021 report by Chainalysis revealed that Kenya is at the forefront of peer-to-peer cryptocurrency transfers, making it a good location for Bitlipa to thrive and impact the development of the market. Through the partnership, Bitlipa’s users will be able to have free access to Evai’s cryptanalysis platform to inform better investment decisions.

World Food Programme launches WFP Innovation Accelerator for blockchain projects

■ The program is curated for blockchain projects tackling financial inclusion, credentials, supply chain, financial aid, and emergencies, that are geared toward building more sustainable food systems for food security. It’s a hands-on program in which participants will collaborate with WFP employees to design, construct, customize, and test solutions. The solutions will have an impact on WFP operations and, as a result, on people all around the world. Participants stand a chance to access up to \$100,000 in equity-free funding



Photo: WFP

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY



Photo: Cryptured

MasterCard files 15 metaverse and NFT related trademarks

■ In a bid to stay competitive in the virtual economy Mastercard joins two other global credit card companies; Visa and American Express, in filing 15 NFT and Metaverse related trademark applications with the United States Patent and Trademark office. This comes after the payment firm launched its 'Start Path Crypto' programme to empower blockchain and crypto startups. The applications filed at the USPTO include the use of its red and yellow circles to process virtual payment cards and incorporating MasterCard's name to virtual events.

POLICY WATCH

Kenya's Huduma Bill on digital ID goes to Second Reading

■ Kenya's National Assembly approved the second reading of the Huduma Bill. The Bill proposes the largest changes to Kenya's ID system since independence.

The Bill was met with resistance from some of the Members. "Mr. Speaker from the onset I want to oppose this Huduma Bill because there are inherent dangers and risks in this Bill, the first one is the risk of exclusion." Said Hon. Garane Mohamed.

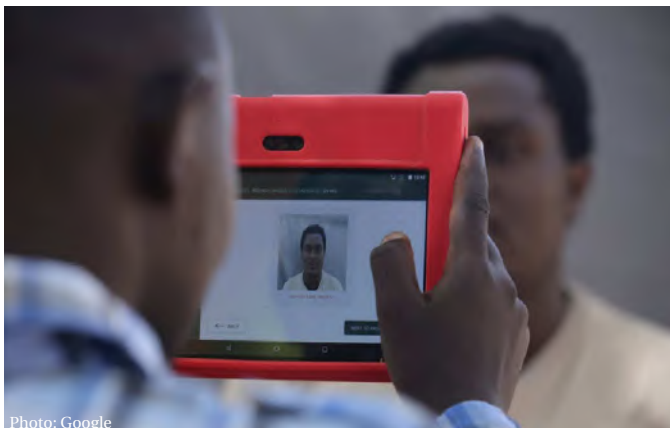


Photo: Google

Kenya's Cabinet Secretary appoints taskforce on the Review of the Kenya Information & Communications Act

■ The Taskforce on the Review of the Kenya Information & Communications Act (KICA) has been appointed by Cabinet Secretary Joseph Mucheru. This team led by Daniel Obam will develop four (4) sets of Regulations on Sim Card Registration Broadcasting, Interconnection as well as Access, and Infrastructure Sharing. The Taskforce will also make legislative proposals for a review of KICA.



Kenya's Budgetary Highlights

Digital Service Tax Up to 3%

The Treasury has proposed to increase digital tax service (DST) to three percent of the gross value of online transactions in the financial year starting July from the current 1.5 percent through the Finance Bill 2022.

Capital Gains Tax up to 15%

Capital Gains Tax set to triple to 15% as of January 2023.

Changes to the Capital Markets Act

A review of the Capital Markets Act to broaden the scope of who constitutes an investment advisor to include single directors of companies and partnerships.

Kenya publishes National Digital Master Plan 2022- 2032

The Government of Kenya published the Country National Digital Master Plan 2022-32. The Plan Master Plan has four pillars:

- a) Digital Infrastructure
- b) Digital Government Service
- c) Digital Skills
- d) Digital Innovation, Enterprise, and Digital Business

The plan builds on its successor to deepen the contribution of ICT to accelerate economic growth in the country.

PRODUCT HUNT

WhatsApp's new Communities tab creates a way for admins to message thousands

Starting this week, the concept of group messaging on WhatsApp is significantly expanding. WhatsApp has primarily been about messaging with people you know since before Facebook bought it in 2014. The experience is intentionally intimate: you need someone's phone number to add them, and group chats are capped at 256 participants. Now, a new tab, first rolling out to a small, select number of groups, will let thousands participate in a Community that hosts multiple sub-group chats. The idea is that various organizations, from a school to a business whose employees communicate on WhatsApp, can more easily organize discussions and have their admins message everyone across different groups.



WhatsApp finally introduces reaction emojis

The Meta owned company announced the application will now support five reaction emojis on both android and iOS devices. The Head of WhatsApp, Will Cathcart noted that the company intends to later roll out all reaction emojis and skin tones.



Photo: Google

EVENTS

Digital Infra Africa 2022 20th to 21st April 2022

Africa's first and only pure digital infrastructure event, where innovation meets investment, and change is inspired. Digital Infra Africa 2022 will bring together global leaders in data, cloud, content and carriers to drive digital disruption across the continent.

Africa Internet Summit 30th May - 3rd June 2022

The internet forum for Africa's digital platform

Africa Fintech Summit-21st April 2022

Supported by an advisory board of thought leaders and fintech pioneers, the AFTS is a unique space where ideas are explored, investments mobilized, and collaborations formed across sectors and geographies. Twice a year, we bring the issues, entrepreneurs, and opportunities revolutionizing finance in Africa to the world's stage. The AFTS takes place in Washington, D.C., every April during the spring meetings of the World Bank Group and every November in a different African city. For the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic it will be back in Washington, D.C.

African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2022- 23rd June 2022

The ADIS22 symposium will be a fully virtual symposium, offering the most inclusive platform for our global audience. It is dedicated to Celebrating Builders of Africa's Future 2022 Entrepreneurs.

Global Digital Marketplace for SMEs. 20th to 22nd April 2022

SMElink international will be hosting a hybrid conference on the 20th to 22nd April 2022 at the Movenpick Hotel Nairobi and have invited prolific global speakers to lend their voice to a pertinent SME growth agenda.