

STARTUP NEWS

Unicorn group launches fourth incubation programme for entrepreneurs



AI NEWS

South Africa's case: how AI is fueling a digital apartheid



POLICY WATCH

Kenya Revenue Authority wants parliament to amend Huduma Bill



Newsletter

ISSUE 29 | APRIL 28 | 2022

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HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT THE LAWYERS HUB

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

Data Protection Training

The Lawyers Hub and the Africa Digital Policy Institute invite you to 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

Africa's Startup Policy Priority Survey

moz://a LAWYERS HUB ON OMIIDYAR NETWORK™

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.typeform.com/startups>

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 UN Women, European Investment Bank, and Adam Smith International are visible at the bottom.

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 Workshop** 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 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](#)

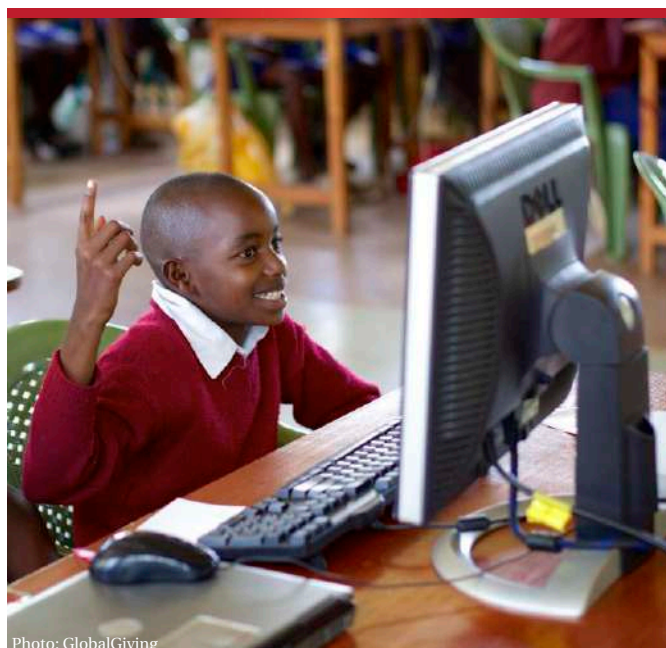


Photo: GlobalGiving

Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development approves new coding syllabus for expected implementation in primary and secondary schools

■ The Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development has approved a new coding syllabus proposed by the government that is set to be implemented by Kodris Africa. Kodris Africa is a software company that offers an interactive coding curriculum. This recent development makes Kenya the first African country to approve such a curriculum. CEO of KICD, Prof Charles Ong'ondo noted the importance to promote creativity and problem solving, he further added- "In the past, coding was conceived as a high-level activity yet children can start engaging in early learning levels, the program will involve practical lessons."

“ In the past, coding was conceived as a high-level activity yet children can start engaging in early learning levels, the program will involve practical lessons.

STARTUP NEWS



Google opens product development centre in Nairobi; the company's first of its kind in Africa

■ After setting up an AI and research centre in Ghana, Google has now opened a development centre in Nairobi whose mission includes building 'transformative' products and services for the African market, and in turn global markets. "We have 300 million people on the internet in the region [Africa] today. We also know that in the course of the rest of this decade, we're going to have another half a billion people who will experience internet for the very first time, which is why it is incredibly important that we build products and experiences that are helpful to these people that are going to be experiencing the internet just in Africa," highlighted Nitin Gajria, Google's Africa managing director. Google joins the growing list of other big tech companies such as Microsoft, Visa and Amazon who recently established innovation hubs in the country.



NALA Money Goes Live in the US

■ Tanzanian fintech NALA Money, that provides fast, convenient and affordable payments to Africa has completed its first ever transaction today marking the start of instant transfers between the US and Tanzania - all with no hidden fees.

Ride hailing platforms in Tanzania challenged by tough regulatory environment



Photo: Google

■ A “guide fare” by the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) is proving a challenge for ride hailing platforms operating in Tanzania. The Authority sets and approves fares for ride-hailing operators in the country, taking away the ability of companies like Uber and Bolt to set prices. LATRA recently doubled the per-kilometer rate for ride-hailing companies due to increasing fuel prices. “Bolt has requested a meeting with the relevant stakeholders to further discuss this particular matter with the hope of reaching favorable tariff and commission regulations, even as we continue to seek and explore alternative lobbying options provided within the legal framework including Latra regulatory framework,” said Bolt East Africa regional manager, Kenneth Micah.

dealroom.co × Microsoft for Startups



Microsoft for Startups launches new open-access Startup Database in partnership with Dealroom.co

■ Microsoft for Startups has launched an Africa focused open-access Startup Database in partnership with Dealroom.co. The platform will provide the MEAPT ecosystem with data and intelligence on startups that are part of the Microsoft for Startups community and features data points on:

- a. 400+ tech/innovative startups
- b. Fintech startups in region, which comprise one of the top sectors by investments
- c. Startups including the likes of FifthEdge - Recruitment Intelligence, NymCard, and Spotii, A ZipPay Company



Photo: Umaizi

Unicorn group launches fourth incubation programme for entrepreneurs

■ The Pan African investment company is best suited for early stage startups with innovative ideas that are likely to emerge as unicorns. Participants will benefit from mentorship, training and access to capital. The program is open to startups from Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, Egypt, Nigeria and Ghana. Applications close May 1st, 2022.

DATA PROTECTION NEWS



Photo: AP Photo/John Raoux

Implications of probable privatisation of Twitter by Elon Musk

■ Following Elon Musk's publicized plans to take over Twitter, industry experts have expressed their concerns on the threat this poses to democracy and data privacy. The overwhelming data collection and monitoring of user behaviour by big tech results in Social Media platforms having a real influence on real life events through shaping public opinion and behavioural modification. Bestowing such power on one person, coupled up with Musk's controversial nature magnifies these concerns. Shoshana Zuboff, author of 'The Age of Surveillance Capitalism' voiced the same, in her words, "This is a disaster, and it's not only about Elon Musk, but he kind of puts it on steroids."

Hungarian Data Protection Authority sues bank a record HUF 250 million for analysing emotional data from client's recorded voice calls under the guise of legitimate interest

■ In the case published in the Hungarian Data Protection Authority's annual report, a bank acting as a data controller, employed AI analysis tools to determine suitable customers to call back from pre recorded client service calls. The AI speech signal processing software analysed customers' emotional states and keywords to draw such conclusions. The bank claimed this activity was part of quality control aimed at managing customer support efficiency, It also cited legitimate interest to retain customers. However, the authorities' inquiry into the bank's privacy policy such data processing activities are only highlighted in general terms, omitting the nuances. Further, the inquiry revealed that the bank conducted a data processing impact assessment that disclosed the activity as being high risk to data subjects yet it failed to take necessary steps to mitigate such impact. The authority finally concluded by imposing the record fine and ordering the bank to cease the analysis of emotions in the prevention activity. It was stated that, only with freely given, informed consent of data subjects can such analysis be permissible. Moreover, the authority emphasised that legitimate interest cannot bypass any other legal justification to collect and use sensitive data, thus it cannot be used as a last resort.

DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Googles announces plan to launch new internet cable dubbed Equiano

Google has announced plans to launch an impressive submarine internet cable in partnership with the West Indian Ocean Cable company in Lagos, Nigeria. It is set to land on April 29th, 2022. The internet cable has a capacity of 144 terabits, it will introduce 20 times more power and higher levels of durability than the last serving cable in West Africa. The completion of this project will change the internet experience in the region by enhancing meaningful connectivity through low data costs and high speeds.

DIGITAL
IDENTITY NEWS

Review of Ethiopia's proposed Digital ID legal framework

■ A webinar was held as part of the public participation series to discuss and review Ethiopia's digital ID legislative framework. Stakeholders made policy suggestions and discussed related issues. In attendance was Ethiopia National ID program. "Discussions during the webinar explained how the Digital ID Program is working to enable a trusted, secure, and robust digital identity ecosystem in Ethiopia. The main objective of the gathering was to collect inputs from stakeholders so as to further develop the legislation and overall program details," shared Mina Awol, an engagement analyst at National ID program.

WEF and WTO push for global digital identity for people and objects

■ As the effects of the fourth industrial revolution manifest day by day while digitization continues to diversify, WTO and WEF are taking steps to promote digital identity. On April 12th, 2022, WTO and WEF published a report titled 'The promise of TradeTech: policy approaches to harness trade digitalization' encouraging the development of a global certification framework.

"Trade agreements could encourage the development of a global certification framework whereby accredited digital identity operators would issue globally recognized digital identities. Traceability can also help to monitor the lifecycle of a product with a view to reducing fraud and theft or to assessing its contribution to a global circular economy" excerpt from the Promise of TradeTech report.

While the report was compiled with the digitalization of global trade systems in mind, hence painting traceability in a positive light, an earlier report by WEF rightly acknowledges the apparent dangers of traceability. "Authoritarianism is easier in a world of total visibility and traceability" from WEF Global Risks Report, 2019.

LEGAL TECH NEWS



Photo: iStock

Africa Legal and East Africa Law Society (EALS) announce partnership to produce affordable and accessible self paced online courses

■ Africa Legal and East Africa Law Society (EALS) have partnered to produce affordable and accessible self paced online courses for members. The agreement to work together follows a survey of EALS members, to truly understand their needs and how they would like learning delivered. The initial partnership agreement will concentrate on capacity building in project management, legal writing and business skills for lawyers, focusing on how to build a law firm in a global context. “At the core of the partnership is the need to give members access to an online learning platform which in turn enables EALS to meet one of its mandates — building capacity,” said Bernard Oundo, EALS President. “We have been working towards working with Africa Legal for some time now, following feedback from our members, and we are delighted to be able to bring this to life.”

AI NEWS

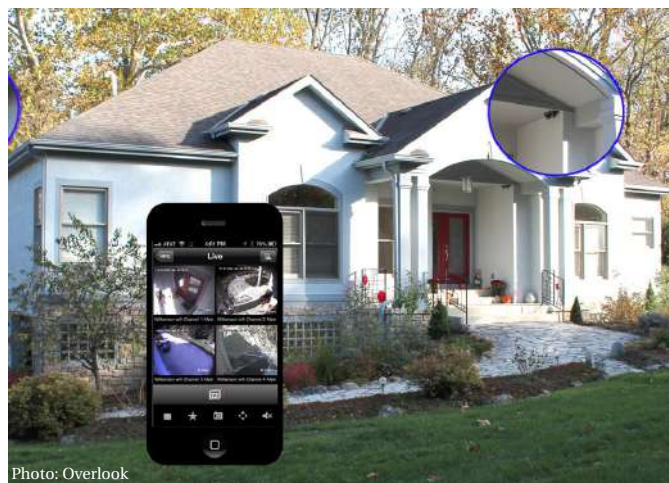


Photo: Overlook

South Africa’s case: how AI is fueling a digital apartheid

■ An MIT technology review on AI colonialism by Karen Hao and Heidi Swart took a deep dive into SA’s landscape exploring how private surveillance can contribute to a digital apartheid. The review noted Vumacam, a private surveillance company that has set up over 6600 cameras this far across South Africa. Statistics report high rates of inequality in the country. Majorly, able white people are able to afford the cost of surveillance, usually employed for security reasons, leaving black people without the economic means and often stereotyped as criminals being the subject of surveillance. This induced fear replicates the past apartheid narrative where white people could move freely, while black people’s movement was restricted.

BLOCKCHAIN AND CRYPTOCURRENCY NEWS

DRC, Cameroon and the Republic of Congo announce plans to adopt crypto and block chain solutions

■ Cameroon, DRC and the Republic of Congo announced plans to partner with The Open Network to provide crypto and block chain solutions aimed at promoting financial inclusion and new payment solutions.

“The Republic of the Congo has been on this path for a number of years, having encouraged and witnessed the widespread adoption of mobile payments across the country. This is the next step in that journey and we believe that TON is the right partner to facilitate this. This will be an invaluable, practical instrument for the growth and creation of wealth, both for the government and our people alike.” noted Léon Juste Ibombo, the Republic of Congo’s Minister for Posts, Telecommunications and the Digital Economy.



Nigerian Fintech, Syarpa, raises \$500,000 in pre seed round

■ The startup which offers payment solutions for cross-border payments and crypto transfers managed to raise \$500,000 in a pre seed funding round. Investors in the round included Cross fund, Firstfounders and Yolo Investments. The funds will go towards scaling Its operations across Africa.

POLICY WATCH



Photo: PD

The Elections (Amendment) Bill 2021

■ National assembly MPs have approved the Elections Bill that will require nominees for special seats in counties to be registered voters in the same region.

The Elections (Amendment) Bill 2021, sponsored by Ndaragwa MP Jeremiah Kioni, seeks to amend Section 34 (8) of the Elections Act to promote “local solutions to local issues” in counties.



Photo: Joseph Kanyo | NMG

Kenya Revenue Authority wants parliament to amend Huduma Bill

■ The Kenya Revenue Authority wants parliament to amend the Huduma Bill, 2021 on Digital Identity, to allow access to data beyond the information in Nation IDs and Passports, in a bid to curb tax fraud.

EVENTS

The CIARB-Kenya International Conference 27th-29th April 2022

The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators International Conference is a bi-annual premier event that attracts panelists & delegates from the world over. The conference provides a perfect opportunity for delegates and panelists to network, forge new relations, share ideas and gather new insights on how to navigate and manage the emerging innovations as we gain new skills in handling foreseeable and unforeseen disruptions.

The Kenya - Ghana Business Forum 25th - 27th April 2022

The Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in partnership with The Ministry of Industrialization, Trade, and Enterprise Development are inviting you to participate in the Kenya- Ghana Business forum in Accra, Ghana, from the 25th – 27th of April 2022. The summit is organized to foster business, trade, and investment between Kenya and Ghana. The event will allow participants to engage with leading business people in Ghana. The forum will focus on connecting the participants to experts and exchange knowledge and ideas. It will also create a perfect opportunity to network through Business to Business (B2B), face-to-face meetings.

African Mining Indaba 2022 - The African Development Bank 9th -12th May 2022

The African Development Bank will participate at the 2022 African Mining Indaba, in collaboration with the African Legal Support Facility. The theme of this year's conference is The Evolution of African Mining: Investing in the Energy Transition, ESG, and the Economies. The African Development Bank's engagement at the Mining Indaba will focus on building climate resilience and just energy transition in the mining sector, promote the Bank's initiative to develop the African Green Minerals Strategy and assist African countries to attract new mining investments in the energy transition. The Bank delegation will also attend the pre-conference ministerial symposium, scheduled for Sunday 8 May 2022.

The 21CCEM 27th -28th April 2022

The 21st Commonwealth Conference of Education Ministers (21CCEM) which was to take place in 2020 has been postponed to later in 2021. The conference will now take place in Nairobi, Kenya from Wednesday, 27 April to Thursday, 28 April 2022. The Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (CCEM) is the most important forum for deliberation on the Commonwealth education and learning agenda and its relationship with other sustainable development priorities. The CCEM is the second-largest meeting organized by the Commonwealth Secretariat after the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

SWEACC BUSINESS FORUM 2022 (SBF22) 27th & 28th April

The SWEACC Business Forum is a key annual business event with an aim of promoting trade and investments between Sweden and East Africa. The SBF22 will be in Nairobi, Kenya on the 27th and 28th of April 2022. SBF22 is organized by the Embassies from the East African Community (EAC) accredited to the Kingdom of Sweden in partnership with the Swedish-East Africa Chamber of Commerce (SWE-ACC) and others. Since 2012, the SBF22 aims to be the number one meeting place for companies, investors and government officials promoting and expanding trade and investment between Sweden, extended to invitations for other Nordic countries and the East African Community. The successive forums give opportunities for Business to Business (B2B), Business to Government (B2G) and Government to Business (G2B) meetings to develop new, meaningful, and sustainable technological exchange, trade, and investment partnerships.

Africa Law Tech Festival 2022

After two successful editions — the first being held in 2020 physically in Nairobi and the second being held physically and virtually last year in Nairobi, Kenya & Accra, Ghana — We are incredibly proud to announce today that the Africa Law Tech Festival 2022 will take place this year in June. The 2022 Africa Law Tech Festival dubbed “Africa-Europe Artificial Intelligence Policy Dialogue” will be held across vari-

ous cities in Africa and Europe making it the biggest Africa Law Tech Festival that we’ve ever hosted. Join us this June as we explore Artificial Intelligence in the context of Business & Democracy through Two Summits. 2nd & 3rd June 2022
Nairobi, Kenya
www.africalawtech.com

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