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COVID-19 Vaccine developed by Chinese firm Sinovac, with production expected to be 8M

# AWYERS Newsletter

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Photo:Facebook.com/Andela

# Andela becomes Africas latest Unicorn at \$1.5b Valuation

ndela, a startup that connects African software engineering talent to global companies has become Africas latest unicorn valued at \$1.5b. This comes as the company raised \$200 million from investors led by SoftBank Group Corp., a Japanese tech investor. The company joins the likes of other Nigerian startups, Flutterwave and OPay who both achieved unicorn status this year. The capital raised will help the company expand its network to at least 100 countries by the end of the year from roughly 80.

# Tanzanian fintech Nala now enables users in the UK to send money to Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda

■ Tanzanian fintech Nala now enables users in the UK to send money to Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. "I am happy to see a Tanzanian company growing internationally, I hope the support of Tanzanians Diaspora will help us grow more", said founder Benjamin Fernandes.



#### **SOUTH AFRICA**

# Chipper Cash Launches in South Africa with Free P2P

Chipper Cash, a cross-border payment app, has now launched its money transfer and cross-border payment services in South Africa. Chipper is now available across seven countries on the continent and in the UK.

#### **KENYA**

#### Lami & Sendy partner to launch per trip insurance for transporters in Kenya

■ Kenyan insurance technology company, Lami Technologies and Sendy Limited, a tech-logistics company, have partnered to enable transporters in Kenya to access simple and affordable insurance products customized on a per-trip basis.

#### **AFRICA**

## 31 African startups selected for Smart Cities Innovation Programme

The Smart Cities Innovation Programme is a 6-month accelerator from June to December 2021 supporting start-ups from Rwanda and other African countries in the fields of Fintech, Mobility, Cleantech & Smart Housing. The programme will help startups scale up their products and services to boost urban transformation.



#### **CRYPTO & DIGITAL CURRENCIES**

# Africa's Fastest Growing Crypto Exchange, Yellow Card, Raises \$15M Series A Funding

■ Pan-African cryptocurrency exchange, Yellow Card, has announced a \$15M Series A, the largest ever by an African cryptocurrency exchange. Yellow Card intends to use the capital to scale its operations across the continent. The platform launched in 2018 seeks to make cryptocurrencies accessible to more people in Africa.



# TradeMark East Africa to Launch a Blockchain-Based Digital Trade Corridor Supply Chain System

TradeMark East Africa is set to introduce blockchain technology to the UK-Kenya trade corridor for enhanced supply chain management. Once introduced, the agreement will enable fast logistics clearance and easier trading. The

UK-Kenya Trade Logistics and Information Pipeline (TLIP) digital trade route is the first digital trade corridor between the UK and a developing country since Brexit. The partnership will foster growth between the two trade partners.

# China Widens Ban on **Crypto Transactions**

■ The Peoples Bank of China this week banned all crypto-related transactions. The bank announced on its website that all crypto-related transactions are considered illicit financial activity, including services provided by off-shore exchanges.



## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE NEWS

## An Algorithm to Predict **Mental Illnesses**

A new AI algorithm can successfully predict which children with microdeletion of chromosome 22 will develop schizophrenia and other mental health disorders later in life. Developed by a team at the University of Geneva (UNIGE), the algorithm considered different factors over a period of twenty years, in order to determine which current symptoms are predictive of a psychotic illness in the child's future.





# Legal framework for artificial intelligence advances in Brazil

Brazil's Congress passed a bill that creates a legal framework that outlines rules around the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the country. The Bill is now awaiting the senate's vote. The bill outlines principles that the private sector must follow when developing AI systems.

#### **LEGAL TECH NEWS**

# AngelList launches AngelList Stack to help founders start and maintain ownership over their companies

AngelList this week announced AngelList Stack, a platform to help founders start, operate and maintain ownership over their companies. The platform features end-toend incorporation, business banking, advisor equity grants, and cap table management. It is designed to help startups figure out what it takes to start a company from incorporation, and choosing a business vehicle. The platform also incorporates bank processes to make it easier for founders to receive money from investors.





# INTELLECTUAL **PROPERTY NEWS**



# Algeria Begins Producing Own COVID-19 Vaccines

■ Algeria has started producing the Covid-19 Vaccine developed by Chinese firm Sinovac, with production expected to be 8M doses a month. Saidal, the firm making the jabs, has been ranked as so far the only African company licensed to produce the jab, with the country making plans to also export the vaccines.

# China commits to crack down on Copyright Infringement to protect Intellectual Property for Beijing Winter Games 2022

■ The China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) stated that it is working hard to crack down on Copyright infringement to protect Intellectual property rights of the Beijing Winter Olympic Games 2022. CNIPA noted that it would launch nationwide special campaigns to intensify the fight against Infringement and further that it had rejected 109 applications that attempted to maliciously snatch Chinese Olympic gold medalists as trademarks. This is in light of the high number of cases of squatting on Olympic champions names subject to trademark during the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in 2021.

### Secretary-General of AfCTA **Describes Patent Rules as** "Outdated"

■ The head of the world's biggest free trade area, Af CTA, has described the global intellectual property rights system as 'outdated' stating it constrains Africa's industrialization. Wamkele Mene argued the need to re-look the questions of compulsory licensing and having an intellectual property rights regime that enables Africa to produce vaccines without being in violation of World Trade Organization law.

# DATA PROTECTION

# DoorDash takes NYC to Court Over Data Sharing Law

Food delivery giant DoorDash is challenging a new data sharing law that recently went into effect in New York City stating that it requires revealing too sensitive and confidential in-

The new food delivery bill, if approved, would require third party platforms like DoorDash to provide restaurants with a

monthly report on customer activity at their request. The information would include customer's name, phone number, e-mail address, delivery address etc. DoorDash argues that there are virtually no restrictions on data sharing once the informa-tion is handed over though the bill limits how restaurants may sell or share the information.

# Man hounded with thousands of calls after his number exposed on Netflix show

A man from South Korea has stated how his life has turned upside down after his phone number was used in a Netflix show. The man has been harassed by thousands of people who call him at all hours of the day and night since his number featured the Netflix drama ' 'Squid Game'' He has stated that he has been using

the number for over 10 years and added that he had to delete over 4000 numbers from his phone. The show's production team removed the first three numbers representing the area code instead numbers elsewhere, and as a result anyone living within the city code could dial the number locally to get through to the man.

# Huawei Launches Ocean **Protect Solution**

Huawei has launched the Ocean Protect Data Protection Solution, which covers Disaster recovery and back up fields to offer comprehensive protection for diversified types of data throughout the lifecycle. The solution is built on the concept of full Disaster recovery of hot data, and quick back and restore of warm data

which ensures zero service interruption, zero data loss and long term data retention. The Huawei Ocean Protect Data Protection improves the overall data protection level throughout the lifecycle by helping enterprises effectively protect their data using fast backup and recovery band-



#### **EVENTS**



# **AFRICA TECH SUMMIT**

February 23 & 24 2022

Africa Tech Summit Nairobi connects tech ternational players under one roof. Network with key stakeholders including tech corporates, mobile operators, fintechs, DeFi & crypto ventures, investors, leading start-ups, regulators and industry stakeholders driving business and investment forward. Following successful Summits in Rwanda, the fourth edition convenes in Nairobi, Kenya.

#### **AFRICA TECH FESTIVAL**

November 8th to 12th

This is a virtual event bringing together thousands of senior change makers from over 120 countries to learn, network and help build a better, more inclusive digital world

# **DIGITAL RIGHTS & DIGITAL** SAFETY TRAININGS

5th & 6th October

Hivos together with the Lawyers Hub will train creatives and specifically improve the capacity of ROOM partners on digital rights and safety owing to the increased use of online platforms for the creation, distribution of content, plus engagements with global audiences. This will be done through a two day workshop where participants will be sensitized on the present digital rights landscape in the East African region and equipped with tools to guarantee their safety online.

#### 3<sup>RD</sup> PRIVACY SYMPOSIUM AFRICA

3rd-5th November 2021

Privacy Symposium Africa is a unique platform established to attract, present, and discuss original research results, policy and technology developments related to personal data protection and privacy, aiming at promoting discussions, collaboration, and knowledge exchange on data protection and Privacy. This year's theme: Data Protection-A New Dawn in Africa.

#### **PRODUCT HUNT**

# YouTube Bans Anti-Vaxx Content in Bid to Suppress Misinformation

YouTube has announced a total on vaccine misinformation. The new policy was crafted as the company began to see false claims about Covid-19 vaccines "spill over into misinformation about vaccines in general," YouTube already had a policy against Covid vaccine misinformation, but the new ban against broader vaccine misinformation includes content that falsely claims approved vaccines are dangerous or ineffective, including the false belief that vaccines cause autism or cancer.

# Twitter revolutionizes social media by transforming itself into a crypto platform

Twitter Now Lets You Tip Anyone With Cash or Cryptocurrency. Twitter's virtual tip jar is rolling out to everyonewith the option to pay using cryptocurrency. Introduced in May, the feature allows prolific tweeters to receive donations directly from followers. Tips (formerly known as Tip Jar) offers a fixed spot on your profile to link to Cash App, Patreon, Venmo, and other payment platforms. "Whether you want to tip your favorite account because you adore their commentary, send some love to an emerging comedy creator for their hilarious tweets, help a small business owner through a difficult time, give to an important cause," Twitter staff product manager Esther Crawford wrote in a blog announcement.

# Amazon announces Astro the home robot

Amazon is launching Astro, its first household robot, powered by its Alexa smart home technology. The company said it can be remote-controlled when not at home, to check on pets, people, or home security. It can also patrol a home automatically and send owners a notification if it detects something unusual. Amazon was also keen to preempt privacy concerns. It said Astro can be set with "out of bounds" zones, so it cannot go into certain areas, or could be set to "do not disturb". It also features buttons to turn off cameras and microphones - though it loses its ability to move around when they are switched off.

The small robot also comes equipped with an extendable "periscope" camera that pops up from its head. Amazon showed an example of using it to check if a gas hob had been left on after leaving the house. Astro will cost \$1,449.99, but as part of the Day 1 Editions program, it will be available for an introductory price of \$999.99

#### LAWYERS HUB MEMBERSHIP



Join our membership and be a part of a great community that includes legal and tech professionals, students, startups, organizations and government representatives. Over the past year, members have benefited through Networking Opportunities, Collaboration Opportunities, Invitations to speak at events, Mentorship, Access to the Lawyer's Hub Innovation Space and to cutting-edge technology tools. This year, we have revamped our offers to make it even better and more accessible to many across Kenya & beyond our borders. These benefits include;

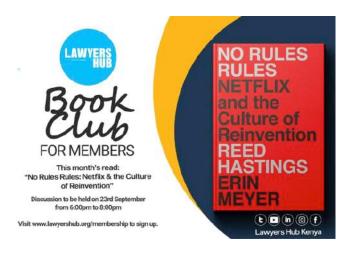
#### 1. CODING FOR LAWYERS

It is important for lawyers to learn the fundamentals of coding as the legal industry becomes more tech and data driven. The Lawyers Hub has taken the initiative to ensure that its members develop these skills by curating a coding course that is set to start on the 1st of October 2021.



#### 2. BOOK CLUB

September read: No Rules Rules; Netflix and the culture of Reinvention by Reed Hasting and Erin Meyer. Applications to join are open. 1st discussion will be held on 23rd September 2021.





#### 3. DANCE CLASS

We care about our members' mental health and fitness as these are crucial to everyone's wellbeing. The Lawyers Hub hosts two choreographed dance classes every week that will tick all your mental health boxes in Upper Hill at Ack Garden House. You also get to network with working groups.

Your 1st dance class is on the house. Join us!

#### 4. DISCOUNTS ON LAWYERS HUB AMENITIES

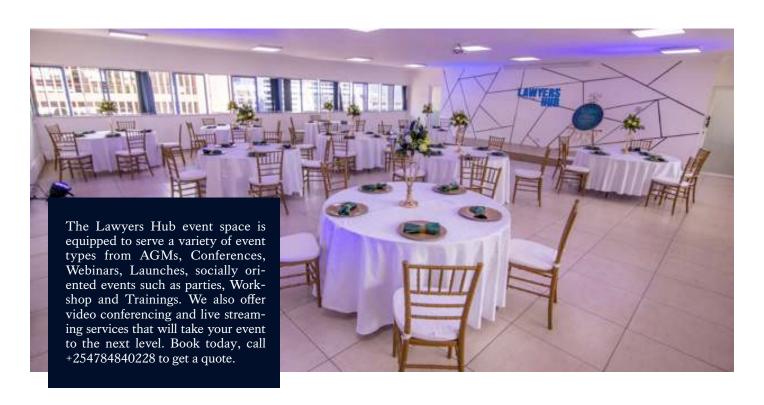
Have you been looking for an office to work from? Tired of working from home and need a change in work environment? Having issues with power or the internet? The Lawyers Hub has amazing deals on its amenities for members such as 10% discounts on virtual office, private office, hot desks, meeting and conference rooms, and event space with great features suited to help you take your business to the next level.

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#### LAWYERS HUB CO-WORKING SPACE

Our serviced office space provides individuals and organizations in the Law & Tech space with everything you need to grow and innovate. Come and work with like-minded professionals in the industry, accelerate your business growth, and unlock your potential in our well-designed work environment. We offer hot desks, private offices and meeting rooms all at flexible rates.



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