

DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Ghana's MTN and Vodafone enter a national roaming agreement



DIGITAL ID NEWS

Ethiopia issues second tender for biometric hardware to implement digital ID enrollment



Newsletter

ISSUE 30 | MAY 5 | 2022

www.lawyershub.org @lawyershubkenya  

HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT THE LAWYERS HUB

Central Bank Digital Currencies: Opportunities and Challenges for Kenya

Friday 6th May 2022, 6:30 PM EAT

Register to Attend: bit.ly/CBDCKe

Email: hello@lawyershub.ke to request in person attendance

A Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) is a digital currency issued by a Central Bank and intended to serve as legal tender. It is the same as a fiat currency and is exchangeable one-to-one with the fiat currency, only that it is in electronic form. As a result of the potential benefits associated with CBDC, various countries are experimenting and researching whether to issue CBDC. So far, the Bank of International Settlements (BIS) estimates that as of 2021, 86 percent of central banks were actively researching the potential for CBDCs, 60 percent were experimenting with the technology and 14 percent were deploying pilot projects.

Kenya is currently researching whether to issue a CBDC. On 10th February 2022, the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) published a Discussion Paper on CBDC opening up the conversation on their viability with key stakeholders. To inform its decision-making, CBK has invited the public, industry and various stakeholders to review the discussion paper on CBDC and provide feedback and ideas that CBK should consider when assessing whether to issue a CBDC in Kenya or not. **Following the publication and potential implementation of a Central Bank of Kenya CBDC, the Lawyers Hub has curated this conversation aimed at enlightening the public on these digital currencies, their potential impact, and policy considerations of their implementation. Importantly, this policy discussion will address pertinent questions such as does Kenya need a CBDC? If so, what are the expected benefits and how can we address the risks associated with a CBDC?**



CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCIES

Opportunities and Challenges for Kenya

Friday, 6th May 2022

6:30 PM EAT / 4:30 PM WAT /

5:30 PM SAST

Duration: 90 minutes

Session Facilitator:
Lawyers Hub Kenya

➤ Register to attend:
<http://bit.ly/CBDCKe>

🗣 Hosted on Zoom and In Person
at the Lawyers Hub Kenya

www.lawyershub.org



ISSUE 30 | MAY 5 | 2022

www.lawyershub.org @lawyershubkenya  

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

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 LAWYERS HUB ON OMDIYAR 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>

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

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 startups 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

STARTUP NEWS

Global accelerator firm, Techstars enters Nigerian Market, forming a partnership with ARM labs to run a Lagos based program

■ Techstars was founded in 2006 and has since invested in about 3000 companies, among which includes a number of Nigerian companies. The investment firm has now expanded into Nigeria forming a partnership with ARM labs to launch the ARM Labs Lagos Techstars Accelerator Program whose main focus will be to support fintech startups. ARM labs which was already established in Nigeria is equally focused on promoting the growth of fintech startups to develop better financial solutions in the region. Applications for the program begin from May 9th to July 27th, 12 startups are selected each year.

Tanzanian lifestyle Company, Tigo continues partnership with 'Apps and Girls' NGO to launch Girls and Women empowerment project 2022 phase 3

■ Apps and Girls mission Includes bridging the gender digital divide in Tanzania and across Sub-Saharan Africa. Tigo has supported the empowerment project since 2020. The continued partnership was announced by Apps and Girls CEO over the celebration of the International Girls in ICT day 2022. The empowerment program comprises coding clubs, school based applications, mentorship, entrepreneurial training and access to technology resources. Since its inception, the project has spread over 13 regions including Uganda, Kenya and DRC, supporting over 125,800 women and girls.



Photo: Apps and Girls

Farmer line, Ghanaian agritech company, secures \$12.9 million pre-series A funding

■ Despite Sub-Saharan Africa offering great potential for thriving agricultural farming, the opportunity is largely untapped because of lack of quality farm inputs and supporting infrastructure. Farmeline, taking into account this gap, was founded in 2013 to offer solutions to promote farmers' growth. These include; access to quality farm inputs, education on best farm practices and efficient transportation of produce to markets. The agritech startup received a \$12.9 million pre-series A funding that will go towards its rapid expansion. The company intends to reach 300,000 farmers, an increase of 400% compared to last year's numbers.



Photo: Roam Motors

Kenyan mobility company Opibus rebrands to ROAM

■ Opibus which was founded in 2017 has become one of the leading companies in Africa providing sustainable mobility solutions, offering locally manufactured electric vehicles. Late last year, the company raised a \$7.5 million grant and equity funding to scale its operations. The rebrand follows the company's expansion, it was enforced to align with the company's new vision which is to electrify Africa's transportation system.

South Africa student accommodation startup, Digsconnect, secures new investment from International venture builder, Delta

■ The company which was launched in 2018 offers a platform for owners to post their properties, connecting African students moving to study abroad to mentioned owners, agents and roommates. The student accommodation startup recently secured new investment from International venture builder, Delta. Digsconnect also entered into a contract with student.com, the world's largest student accommodation platform to aid its entry into new markets across the world.



Photo: Disrupt Africa

DATA PROTECTION NEWS



Photo: Screen Rant

The US, all EU member states and 32 other non-EU member states announced signing declaration of the future of the internet

■ The declaration on the future of the internet was initially due to be presented at the Summit for Democracy on 9th to 10th December 2021. It was not until Russia's later threat to estrange itself from the internet that the declaration gained momentum. The declaration emphasizes the principle of privacy, personal data and democracy. "We call for a new Declaration for the Future of the Internet that includes all partners who actively support a future for the Internet that is open, free, global, interoperable, reliable, and secure," excerpt from the draft declaration. Initial signatories to the declaration include the United Kingdom, Japan and South Korea. The declaration was officially launched on April 28th 2022 at a hybrid ministerial meeting organised by the White House Security Council.

Problems associated with Elon Musk's plans to open source Twitters algorithm

■ Just after the public announcement that Elon Musk is likely to acquire Twitter, the SpaceX CEO shared his plans for the Social Media platform which include promoting free speech. One of the ways Musk intends to achieve this goal is by making the platforms algorithms open source, enabling algorithmic accountability. Industry experts have expressed their concerns about such plans, citing that the risks surpass desired outcomes. Access to twitter algorithms will incentivize bad actors to manipulate the platforms functioning. Making Twitter algorithms accessible might be of no use to the ordinary person who might not be able to make sense of the complexities and lines of code.

DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Standard Chartered offers Safaricom KSH 46 billion to finalize its entry into Ethiopian Market

■ Standard Chartered bank Kenya is one of the major banks that offered Safaricom a loan (sh 46 billion) to complete its financial obligations, which totals sh 98 billion, to gain its Ethiopian licence. Other banks involved have not yet been disclosed. "We led a landmark financing for a telecommunications client in the East African region. This was the largest loan syndication to the tune of \$400 million, The \$400 million facilities consisted of a short-term stand-by letter of credit and a 12-month term loan which allowed the consortium to submit and fund the winning bid for the first full-service mobile telecommunications licence for a private sector operator in Ethiopia." excerpt from Stanchart's latest annual report.

The National Bank of Ethiopia seeks to change law to permit foreign investors to operate mobile financial services, which will in turn facilitate M-PESA's expansion into the market.

■ Ethiopia's central bank drafted the bill which will allow foreign investors to offer mobile money services in the country. The consortium, including SA's Vodacom, Safaricom and Japan's Sumitomo, was the first to acquire a private mobile telephony licence. Further, a \$100 million China assembled Safaricom data centre has already been established in Ethiopia. What's holding back launching of the operations is the permit. Approval of the bill will not only promote this endeavour but is also set to promote Ethiopia's digital economy.



Photo: Techweez

Ghana's MTN and Vodafone enter a national roaming agreement

■ The two mobile operators have entered a partnership to implement nationwide roaming which will commence in the Volta region then consequently expand all over Ghana. Through this partnership, Vodafone can expand its network by utilising MTN's network infrastructure. The recent agreements formed by Ghana's mobile operators, including the recent partnership between Ghana's Glo and AirtelTigo are part of a government supported National roaming plans. These plans are geared toward promoting the country's digital economy by improving network access all over the country.



Photo: Evans Ahorsu

LEGAL TECH



Photo: Google

American Legal Tech Awards 2022

■ American Legal Tech Awards 2022 is now open to receive nominations. The theme for this year's award is 'Resurgence' focusing on legal firms and startups steering creative innovation and technology in the legal space expanding notions of what's possible. The deadline for nominations is July 31st. Finalists will be announced on August 15th and on October 9th 2022 the gala event will take place in person in Nashville, Tennessee.

DIGITAL ID NEWS



Photo: ID Vision

Ethiopia issues second tender for biometric hardware to implement digital ID enrollment

■ The Ministry of Innovation and Technology, Ethiopian Digital Foundations Project (EDFP) announced a contract opportunity for 315 biometric registration kits, for the implementation of the country's National id program. For the bid to be considered the contractor must include 75 fingerprint biometric scanners, 75 iris scanners, 75 cameras for capturing facial images, 75 portable document scanners and other accompanying items. Bids are to be made before May 25th 2022.

BLOCKCHAIN AND DIGITAL CURRENCIES



Photo: Finbold

Central African Republic Adopts Bitcoin as legal tender, becoming the first African country to do so

■ Following El Salvador's adoption of Bitcoin as the country's legal tender, the Central African Republic became the second country in the world and first in Africa to follow suit. The bill which was unanimously adopted forms a framework for cryptocurrency regulation in the country and adds Bitcoin as an official currency in the country. It was introduced by the Minister of Digital Economy, and Telecommunications, Gourna Zacko, and the Minister Of Finance and Budget Calixte Nganongo.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY NEWS



Photo: Modern Diplomacy

World Intellectual Property Day April 26th 2022, message from WIPO Director General, Daren Tang

■ This year's World intellectual property day's theme is - IP and Youth, Innovating for a better future. The Director General promoted the awareness of IP not just as a legal right but as a tool for socioeconomic growth, for both individuals and countries. He emphasised the need to build a more inclusive IP ecosystem connecting members from diverse communities beyond IP experts. Moreover, he further acknowledged the vision and ambition of global young innovators and the importance of the awareness of uses of IP to actualize their ideas.



Photo: Kvaela

Public Procurement And Asset Disposal (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bills No.32 of 2021)

■ West Pokot County Senator, Samuel Poghishio moves that the Public Procurement And Asset Disposal (Amendment) Bill be read a second time.

“The purpose of the Bill is to amend the Public Procurement Act to address the challenges faced by procuring entities in implementing the act including the multiple awards of contracts. Challenges have been witnessed in procurement processes particularly in regards to awarding of contracts, these challenges relate to the allegations of unfairness in valuating contracts including non-disclosure of evaluation criteria. Whether the contracts were evaluated properly. These challenges have largely come from bidders who have made a substantial investment in the contracting process and are seeking to recover their costs. This Bill attempts to cure this challenge and its passage is paramount in streamlining procurement processes in Kenya. “West Pokot County Senator, Samuel Poghishio.

“ Challenges have been witnessed in procurement processes particularly in regards to awarding of contracts, these challenges relate to the allegations of unfairness in valuating contracts including non-disclosure of evaluation criteria.

Extension period for public consultation on Industry Guidelines for Child Online Protection and Safety in Kenya



Photo: Google

■ Stakeholders, including the general public and all interested parties, are invited to review the proposed industry guidelines for child online protection and safety in Kenya and provide any suggestion(s) with justification(s), views and inputs in enhancing its implementation.

The Communications Authority of Kenya would like to inform stakeholders, interested parties and the public that the consultation period has been extended to 20th May 2022 and request for inputs and comments which will inform any changes to the final industry guidelines for child online protection and safety in Kenya.

Written submissions can be forwarded to the Authority through cop@ca.go.ke or the address below on or before the stated deadline.

Public participation on the Revenue and Expenditure Estimates for Fiscal Year 2022/23

The Budget and Appropriations Committee of the National Assembly invites the public to share views on the Revenue and Expenditure Estimates for Fiscal Year 2022/23.

Representations or written submissions may be addressed to clerk@parliament.go.ke, to be received by Thursday, May 5, 2022, at 5 p.m.

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

AFRICA LAW TECH FESTIVAL | 2022
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY DIALOGUE

SUMMIT ON
Artificial Intelligence and Business

NAIROBI, KENYA | 2ND & 3RD JUNE 2022

POWERED BY
LAWYERS HUB | **AFRICA LAW TECH**

REGISTER:
www.africalawtech.com

AFRICA LAW TECH FESTIVAL | 2022
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY DIALOGUE

SUMMIT ON
Artificial Intelligence and Democracy

NAIROBI, KENYA | 2ND & 3RD JUNE 2022

POWERED BY
LAWYERS HUB | **AFRICA LAW TECH**

REGISTER:
www.africalawtech.com