



VIWANDA BULLETIN

APRIL 2026 Issue VII

KENYA-ITALY LEATHER DEVELOPMENT MOU UNLOCKS KENYA'S POTENTIAL



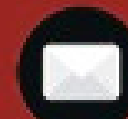
EACC Vice Chairperson Dr. Monica Muiru poses for a photo with PS for Industry Dr. Juma Mukhwana and Uasin Gishu Governor Dr. Jonathan Bii during the launch of the CAIPs monitoring partnership at the MITI Offices . PHOTO Jared Nyabuti.

The State Visit by H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto to Italy sought to deepen bilateral relations and unlock trade, investment, and industrial partnerships in line with Kenya's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) and industrialization priorities. The engagements, which were also aligned with Italy's Africa engagement framework, including the Mattei Plan

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- Geographical Indications Bill, 2026
- Review of the National Industrialization Policy, underway
- Intellectual property rights





Kenya-Italy Leather Development MOU Unlocks Kenya's Potential

President William Ruto is received by Industry PS, Dr. Juma Mukhwana at the Kenya Italy Business Forum, held in Rome, Italy.



The State Visit by H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto to Italy sought to deepen bilateral relations and unlock trade, investment, and industrial partnerships in line with Kenya's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) and industrialization priorities.

The engagements, which were also aligned with Italy's Africa engagement framework, including the Mattei Plan, which emphasizes sustainable development, energy cooperation, and industrial partnerships, have yielded key outcomes for Kenya's Leather sector and green manufacturing.

The Kenya-Italy engagements present significant opportunities to accelerate industrialization, enhance energy security, and promote sustainable manufacturing. Effective implementation will be critical to realizing the full benefits of these partnerships.

" we will continue to expand our industrial capacity CS Kinyanjui

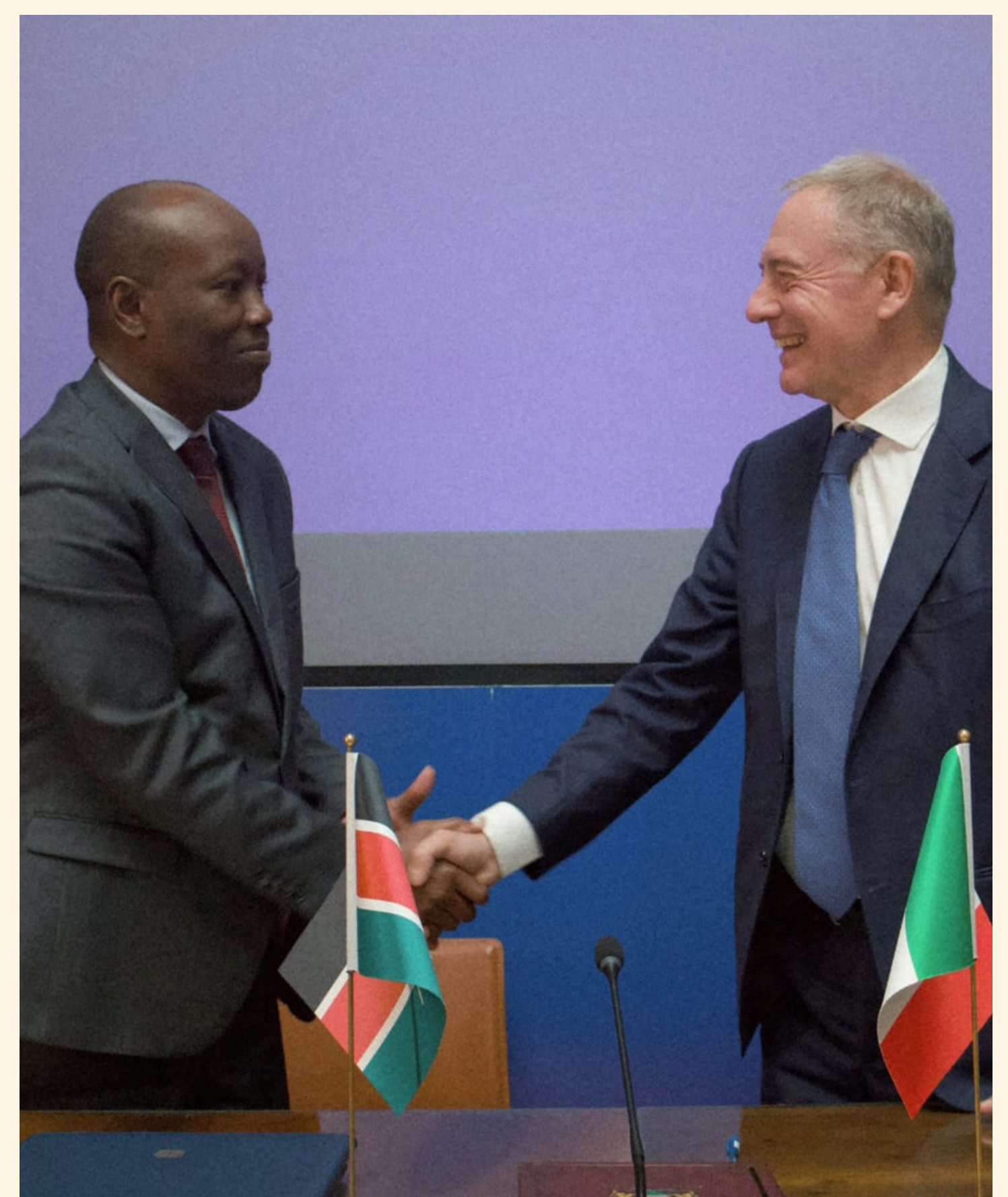
Leather Sector Development wins:

- Agreement to strengthen collaboration in the leather value chain, including processing, design, and manufacturing.
- Promotion of value addition to hides and skins to reduce export of raw materials.
- Facilitation of partnerships between Kenyan and Italian firms to leverage Italy's expertise in leather technology, design, and branding.
- Expected outcome: Enhanced competitiveness of Kenya's leather industry and increased exports of finished leather products.

Investments, Trade and Industry Cabinet Secretary, Lee Kinyanjui, who signed the MOU alongside Adolfo Urso, Italy's Minister of Business and Made in Italy, noted that the strategic MoU will drive jobs and industrial growth.

"We sealed an agreement to strengthen Kenya's leather value chain, boosting local production, value addition, and global competitiveness.

"As a country, we will continue to expand our industrial capacity, deepen global partnerships, and diversify markets, while embracing emerging technologies that create new opportunities for our people." He said.





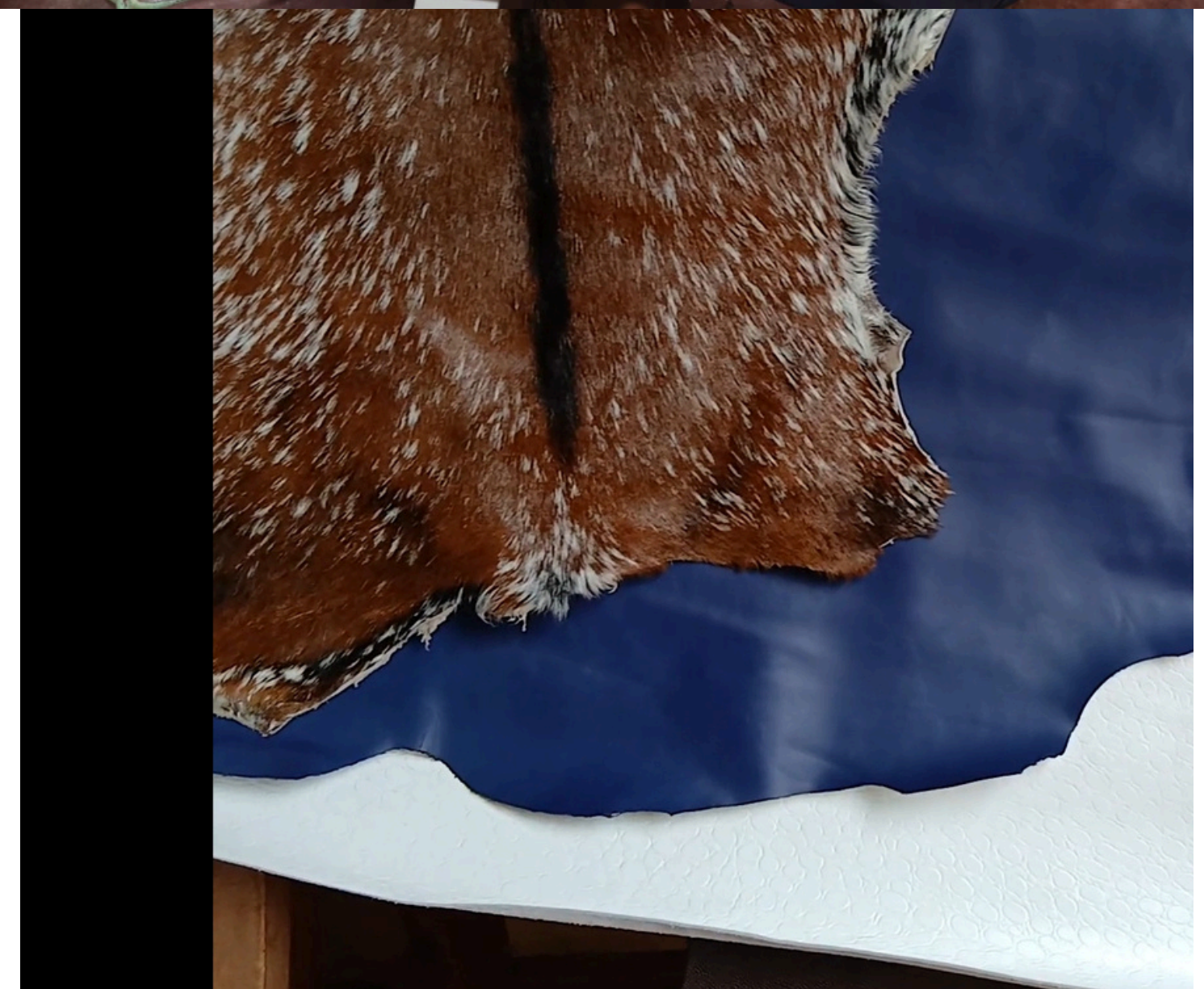
KENYA-ITALY DEALS FOR LEATHER SECTOR

01 Collaboration in processing, design, and manufacturing of leather products.

02 Promotion of value addition to hides and skins to reduce export of raw materials.

03 Facilitation of partnerships between Kenyan and Italian firms to leverage Italy's expertise in leather technology, design, and branding.

04 Enhanced competitiveness of Kenya's leather industry and increased exports of finished leather products.



Protect Kenya's Heritage, through the Geographical Indications Bill, 2026

The State Department for Industry is currently developing the Geographical Indications Bill, 2026, an important proposed law aimed at protecting, promoting, and commercializing Kenya's unique products, especially the agricultural-based, that are deeply rooted in their geographical origin.

Originally developed in 2018, the Bill seeks to safeguard indigenous products by linking them to their specific regions, ensuring that their quality, reputation, and identity are preserved and protected. Its adoption aligns with the Constitution of Kenya, which mandates the State to promote and protect the intellectual property rights of its citizens, particularly micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

As a priority of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), the champions for the growth of Micro, Small and Medium Industries (MSMIs) and small-scale producers through value addition, enhanced competitiveness, branding, and improved market access. At a time when globalization continues to expand market opportunities while increasing the risks of imitation, misrepresentation, and unfair competition, this Bill provides a timely and necessary legal framework. Kenya's diverse regions produce goods with distinct characteristics and reputations; however, without adequate protection, these products remain vulnerable to misuse.

The Bill, 2026 addresses this challenge by enabling producers to secure legal protection for their products, ensuring that only genuine producers benefit from their established reputation.

This will enhance product value, encourage high-quality production, and stimulate investment across value chains. Beyond legal protection, the Bill is a catalyst for economic transformation, rural development, and cultural preservation



Industry Principal Secretary Dr. Juma Mukhwana makes his remarks on the Geographical Identification bill by KIPI at the Voyager hotel in Mombasa.

**Kenya's
diverse
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reputations
-PS
Mukhwana**



ACA Hosts FCC Tanzania Delegation for Training on Trademark Recordation

By Cecilia Mwanja

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) hosts a delegation from the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) for a week-long training programme on trademark recordation, in a move aimed at strengthening regional collaboration in the fight against counterfeit trade.

The delegation, led by Salvatory Chuwa, comprises senior officials from enforcement, surveillance, and internal audit functions. The engagement is designed to facilitate knowledge exchange and provide practical insights into Kenya's implementation of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Recordation Programme.

Speaking during the opening session, ACA Executive Director Robi M King'a underscored the importance of regional cooperation in safeguarding legitimate trade and protecting intellectual property rights. He noted that partnerships between enforcement agencies are critical in addressing cross-border illicit trade and enhancing market integrity.

Dr. King'a highlighted that ACA has been implementing the IPR Recordation Programme since 2022 as a key enforcement tool to monitor imported goods and curb the entry of counterfeit products into the Kenyan market. He observed that the programme has strengthened coordination with customs authorities and enhanced surveillance at points of entry. Since its inception, the initiative has generated approximately KSh 400 million in revenue.

On his part, Mr. Chuwa outlined Tanzania's progress in establishing an Electronic Recorded Trademark Register in 2025 to support enforcement and compliance monitoring. He noted that the system enables real-time verification of trademarks, identification of authorized manufacturers, and confirmation of product origin, thereby improving the efficiency of inspections.



Anti-Counterfeit Authority CEO Dr. Robi King'a poses for a photo with a delegation from the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) for a week-long training programme on trademark recordation

KSH. 400
Revenue from
ACA's IPR
Recordation
Programme

He further stated that suspected counterfeit goods are promptly detained, with enforcement actions including seizure, fines, confiscation, and destruction of illicit products. However, he cited challenges such as limited awareness among small-scale traders, reliance on digital systems, and the use of informal border routes.

The training programme will cover Kenya's legal framework, operational procedures, and practical application of trademark recordation, including inter-agency collaboration with customs authorities and enforcement mechanisms for monitoring imports.

The engagement is expected to enhance institutional capacity, promote best practice sharing, and strengthen regional efforts to combat counterfeit trade, protect consumers, and support fair competition within the East African region.

The FCC is Tanzania's statutory body mandated to promote fair competition and protect consumers from unfair market practices, including counterfeit trade.

Industry Spearheads National Industrialization Policy Review

The State Department for Industry is spearheading the review of the National Industrialization Policy, 2012, to strengthen its capacity to spur manufacturing in the country.

The review being undertaken by Afritrade Consulting Group has also brought together stakeholders such as One Acre Fund's Tupande, Kenya Association of Manufacturers and youth MSMEs from different counties in pooling synergies towards developing a robust policy.

Industry PS, Dr. Juma Mukhwana, who shared his sentiments to the Committee and World Bank Group, noted "We must confront our challenges honestly: cost of production, fragmented value chains, limited infrastructure, skills gaps, and policy inconsistency."

Director of Industries (Research, Industrial Data and Partnerships) Stanley Koske, noted the need to harness vast Kenyan talent, creativity, and energy into manufacturing.

The manufacturing sector has experienced stagnation in its contribution to GDP at 7.3%, with medium and large industries contributing less than 5%. To this, Koske noted the government's commitment to creating an enabling environment, through supportive policies, infrastructure development, and access to finance, to unlock the full potential of our industries. The review of the 2012 NIP will also address the low value addition and inward looking, further opening up the Kenyan market to both backward and forward linkages.

Policy Review



Industry PS, DR. Juma Mukhwana, joins the team reviewing the Industrialiation Policy at a Naivasha Hotel

"We are looking forward to a people-centered policy that addresses issues around access to financing, low production costs and access to raw materials. We commend the government for the establishment of the County Aggregation and Industrial Parks, which we feel will serve to bridge the gaps in manufacturing," noted Jacob Ochieng, a partner of Phabi Peanut Production based in Kisumu.

Tupande's Head of Government Relations and Policy, Dennis Tirop, who sponsored the event, noted the need for collaboration to ensure the policy also addresses gaps in green manufacturing. The policy is expected to also address issues of skills mismatch and skills gaps, with a number of stakeholders noting the need to develop proper guidelines for identifying and addressing the skill gaps.

Afritrade Consultant David Mugambi said the review will also serve to prepare a clear framework of implementation that will ensure market access for regional integration and export promotion through standardization.

"The review is expected to capture issues around circularity and green manufacturing, in addition to bringing in the devolution as a support for CAIPS for rural manufacturing. An inclusive policy that will also align with a current implementable framework, is our target," noted Afritrade Director, Dr. Caroline Saroni.

KAM Industrial Sector's Manager Jackson Wambua noted the need to balance production costs for Kenyan industries to remain competitive.

"By Competitiveness we mean access to finances; bill of materials that is usually compromised by importation of raw materials; cost of energy and labour as well as transport & logistics."

Tupande, that facilitated the workshop has been spearheading an end-to-end system that ensured that farmers were also benefitting from the agro-processing of various value chains.





Republic of Kenya

MITI
State Department of Industry

Kenya's Green Investment Bank

By Gloria Gicheru

Kenya is exploring appropriate institutional models for the establishment of Kenya's Green Investment Bank (KeGIB).

The proposed entity is envisioned as a special purpose vehicle aimed at accelerating green climate finance in the country.

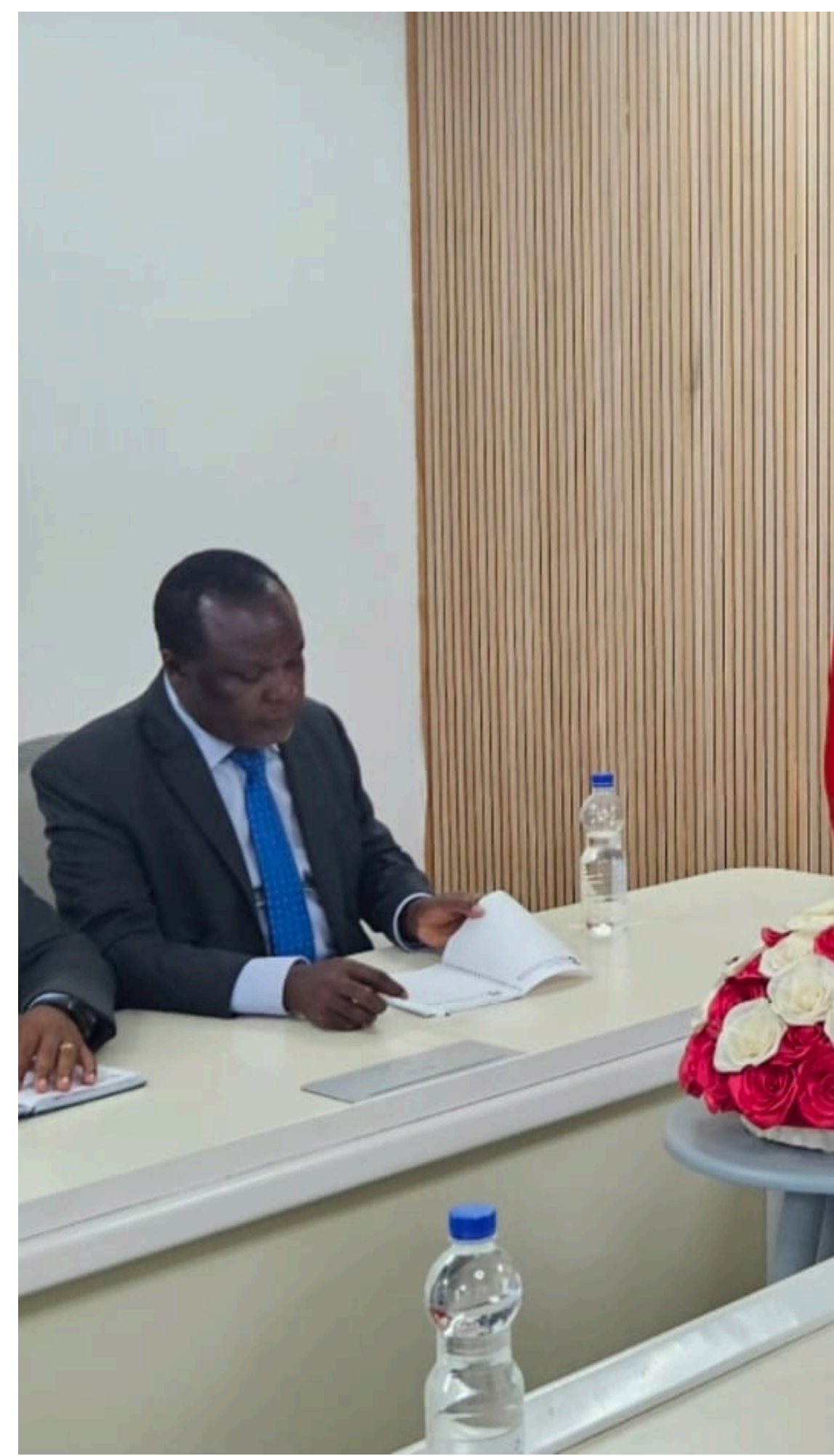
In a four-day forum that brought together a broad range of stakeholders from both the public and private sectors. Participants included representatives from the European Union, Capital Markets Authority, Kenya Bankers Association, Kenya Development Corporation (KDC), and P4G, alongside other financial institutions, private sector players, and government agencies.

Director of Industries Purity Kamau, who represented the department for Industry at the forum, highlighted that while Kenya had made significant progress in establishing policy and legal frameworks to address climate change, there remained notable dissatisfaction with existing funding mechanisms for green industrialization projects. Many of these projects began as innovative but untested ideas, which often faced challenges in commercialization and scaling due to limited access to suitable financing.



The forum worked toward defining clear and actionable steps for the establishment of KeGIB. The proposed bank is expected to operate at a high-impact level, prioritizing climate adaptation interventions while fostering an enabling environment for investors and commercial banks.

KeGIB was expected to mobilize large-scale financial resources and deploy them at concessional rates to support initiatives such as carbon credits, blue economy projects, and other climate-related investments. Ultimately, the institution aimed to bridge financing gaps and catalyze sustainable development through innovative climate finance solutions.





Manufacturing Sector Gains at KIICO 2026



ASSOMAC represents Italian companies that design and manufacture technology and machinery for the leather industry, serving leading international brands in fashion.

Speaking during tour, Kenya Leather development Council Ag. CEO, Jimmy Odhiambo emphasized the ambitious vision of the park as a game changer in the development and coordination of activities in the leather value chain.

“Kenanie Leather Industrial Park is a flagship project designed to transform Kenya into a regional hub for leather processing and manufacturing. It will offer investors a ready ecosystem with infrastructure and environmental safeguards to support sustainable leather production,” he added.



Kenya’s manufacturing sector emerged as a major beneficiary of the recently concluded Kenya International Investment Conference 2026 (KIICO 2026), with the leather and automotive sub-sectors securing significant investment interest, strategic partnerships, and policy support aimed at accelerating industrial growth.

In the leather sector, stakeholders reported renewed investor confidence driven by Kenya’s vast livestock resources and ongoing value chain reforms. The Association of Italian Manufacturers (ASSOMAC), whose leadership visited Kenanie Leather Park, signed an agreement aimed at supporting the Kenyan leather chain to transform raw materials to world-class finished products. goods such as footwear and bags.

The partnership brought on board over 130 highly specialized Italian companies under the ASSOMAC umbrella, is expected to revitalize the leather sector through technology and equipment at the Kenanie Leather Industrial Park, (KLIP).



Kenyan Benchmarks Ethiopia's Leather Industry

By Caroline Kungu

A Kenyan delegation on a benchmarking tour of Ethiopia has identified critical lessons to unlock the country's leather sector potential, following an in-depth assessment of Ethiopia's highly integrated and export-oriented leather industry. The tour, aimed at informing reforms within Kenya's leather value chain, comes at a time when the sector is increasingly viewed as a key driver of industrialization, job creation and export growth. Kenya boasts the fifth-largest livestock population in Africa, yet stakeholders note that the industry continues to struggle with low levels of value addition, weak quality infrastructure, fragmented institutional coordination and limited industrial-scale processing capacity.

Findings from the mission highlighted Ethiopia's success in building one of Africa's most coordinated leather industries, supported by a vast livestock base of approximately 70 million cattle, 43 million sheep and 53 million goats. The country processes an estimated 2 million hides and over 20 million skins annually, supplying both domestic and export markets.

Delegates observed that Ethiopia's progress has been driven by deliberate policy interventions, including a 150 percent export levy on raw hides and skins to discourage the export of unprocessed materials. The establishment of sector-specific institutions and dedicated industrial zones such as Modjo Leather City has further accelerated investment and large-scale production.

The tour revealed a robust industrial base, with Ethiopia hosting 17 operational tanneries, more than 20 medium to large footwear factories and over 800 leather goods enterprises. The sector employs between 25,000 and 30,000 people and generates over USD 120 million annually in exports, with key markets in Europe, Asia and the United States. The country is positioned as a regional hub for leather manufacturing.



Institutional coordination emerged as a key strength underpinning Ethiopia's success. Agencies such as the Ethiopian Conformity Assessment Enterprise and the Leather and Leather Products Research and Development Institute were cited for their roles in quality assurance, research, certification and industry support. These institutions, alongside the Industrial Parks Development Corporation, have helped strengthen standards compliance and enhance the global competitiveness of Ethiopian leather products.

The delegation also noted the strategic use of specialized industrial parks to attract foreign direct investment. These parks provide serviced land, shared infrastructure and investor incentives such as tax holidays and duty-free importation of machinery, creating a conducive environment for large-scale manufacturing.

Drawing from the tour, Kenyan stakeholders emphasized the need for stronger institutional coordination across the leather value chain and improved implementation of existing policies. Priority areas identified included fast-tracking the operationalization of the Kenya Leather Industrial Park and establishing a National Accredited Leather Laboratory to support quality assurance and export competitiveness.



Why you need to protect your intellectual property rights



By Justus Ondari- KIPI

Catherine Wanjoya, a Kenyan entrepreneur, was inspired to develop a sanitary pads dispenser after coming face-to-face with the challenges facing women, including school-going children, in her rural home in Makueni County.

“I was touched by how widespread the problem of access to menstrual health products was in my home area when I visited a few years ago. It was then that I decided to try and come up with a workable solution to the problem,” says Catherine, the Chief Executive Officer of Genesis Care Kenya.

She has partnered with various organizations to ensure a wide reach of her invention, key among them, telecom operator, Safaricom, which has seen the device dispense the pads upon one paying via M-Pesa through a paybill number. In order to ensure proper disposal, Catherine came up with an innovative mobile incinerator for the used pads.

She has installed the devices in 69 schools, two universities and two corporates -Safaricom and East African Breweries Ltd (EABL), all spread over 17 counties of the 47 counties in the country.

Before going to the market, however, she had registered Genesis Care Kenya as a trade mark and protected the dispenser and incinerator as utility models with the Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI), a State Corporation under the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI).

“Looking back, it is the smartest decision I made. I have had to deal with people copying my innovations. I have even been forced to use the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) to stop them,” she says of another Agency under MITI. Welcome to the world of intellectual Property (IP), which covers the creations of the mind, such as inventions (patents), literary and artistic works (copyrights), designs and symbols, names (trade marks) and images we all encounter in our day- today lives.

“By striking the right balance between the interests of innovators and the wider public interest, the IP system aims to foster an environment in which creativity and innovation can flourish,” says the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), a United Nations agency.

KIPI, which was established in 2002 upon the enactment of the Industrial Property Act 2001, No. 3 of 2001 and also implements the Trade Marks Act, Cap 506, is mandated to promote inventive and innovative activities, facilitate the acquisition of technology through registration and regulation of patents, utility models, technovations, industrial designs and trade marks in Kenya.

The Managing Director of British American Tobacco Kenya (BAT Kenya), Crispin Achola, paid a courtesy visit to the Executive Director of the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA), Robi M. King'a, PhD, at the Authority's headquarters in Nairobi.

Its services include granting and registration of: -

(1) Patents

- Patents relate to protection of new inventions,
- Invention is a new solution to a problem in the field of technology,
- The invention must relate to a product or a process, and
- The product or process must be capable of being made or used in the industry e.g. COVID-19 Vaccines

Requirements for obtaining a patent

- Submission of a patent application in countries of interest
- Disclosure of the invention by providing a detailed and complete written description of the invention in the patent application

(2) Utility models

- Innovations that give some utility, advantage, saving or technical effect not available in Kenya before.

- Improvements that may not qualify for patent protection

Requirements for obtaining a UM protection

- Similar to patent

Benefit of UM protection

- Exclusive rights to the owner to make, use or sell the subject matter of invention in Kenya.
- Legal action against another party who infringes the rights.
- 10-year period of protection

Industrial designs

- Relate to protection of special appearance of products (articles)

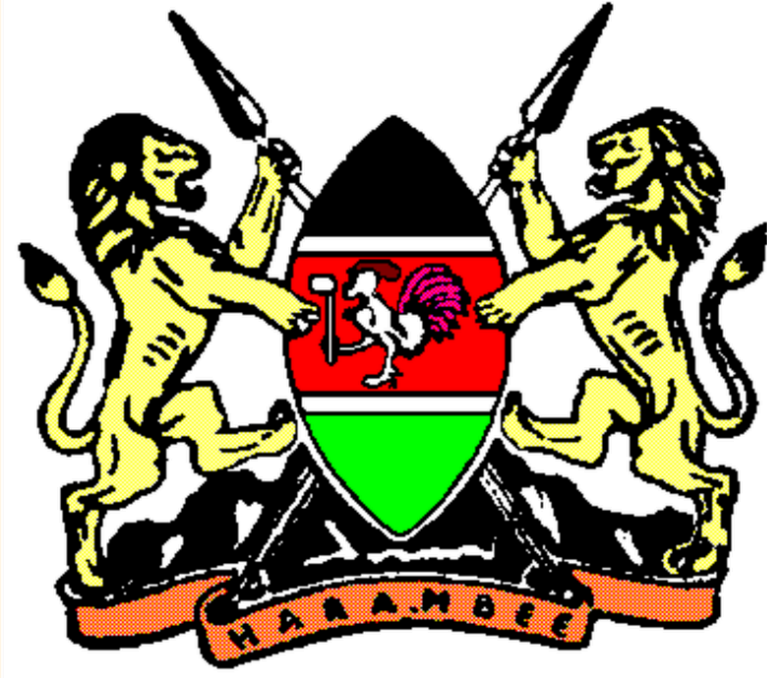
o Shape, configuration

o Pattern, ornamentation

- Features that make an article attractive and appealing to consumers; and
- adds to the commercial value of a product and increases its marketability

Requirements for registration

- submission of an application
- Graphic representations of the product (Drawings or photographs)
- Design is registrable if it is new
- Identical or similar design must not have been disclosed before the filing date



MINISTRY OF INVESTMENTS, TRADE, AND INDUSTRY
State Department for Industry

PUBLIC NOTICE

**THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY AND MANUFACTURING
OF PRODUCTS REGULATIONS, 2023**

The State Department for Industry notifies the general public, manufacturers, assemblers, investors, and all stakeholders that the East African Community Assembly and Manufacturing of Products Regulations, 2023 shall come into force on 1st July, 2026.

As part of directives issued during the 47th Meeting of the Sectoral Council on Trade, Investment and Finance (SCTIFI) held from 19th to 25th November, 2025 in Nairobi, Partner States were required to sensitize stakeholders on the implementation of the Regulations.

The Regulations provide a harmonized framework within the East African Community for, among others:

- Registration of manufacturers and assemblers;
- Utilization of raw materials and goods produced within the Community;
- Promotion of regional value addition and industrial development.

All stakeholders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Regulations and take necessary steps to ensure compliance ahead of the commencement date.

Part III First Schedule of the regulations covers local assembling and manufacturing of local vehicles and motorcycles. It lists locally manufactured Complete Knock Down (CKD) Kits that shall not enjoy customs duty incentives upon importation.

The State Department for Industry is currently undertaking stakeholder engagement and sensitization initiatives to facilitate smooth implementation.

Further details and the full Regulations are available on the State Department for Industry website:

<https://industrialization.go.ke/east-african-community-assembly-and-manufacturing-products-regulations-2023>

For inquiries and clarification, stakeholders may contact the State Department for Industry.

Dr. Juma Mukhwana
Principal Secretary
State Department for Industry

SDI, UNIDO Quest for Low Carbon Emissions

By Cecilia Mwanja

The State Department for Industry, in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), consulted on Policy around low carbon emissions in cement and steel sectors.

The consultative meeting at Golden Tulip, Westlands, provided an analytical framework for the baseline assessment of Policy, regulations and institutional framework governing low-carbon cement and steel.

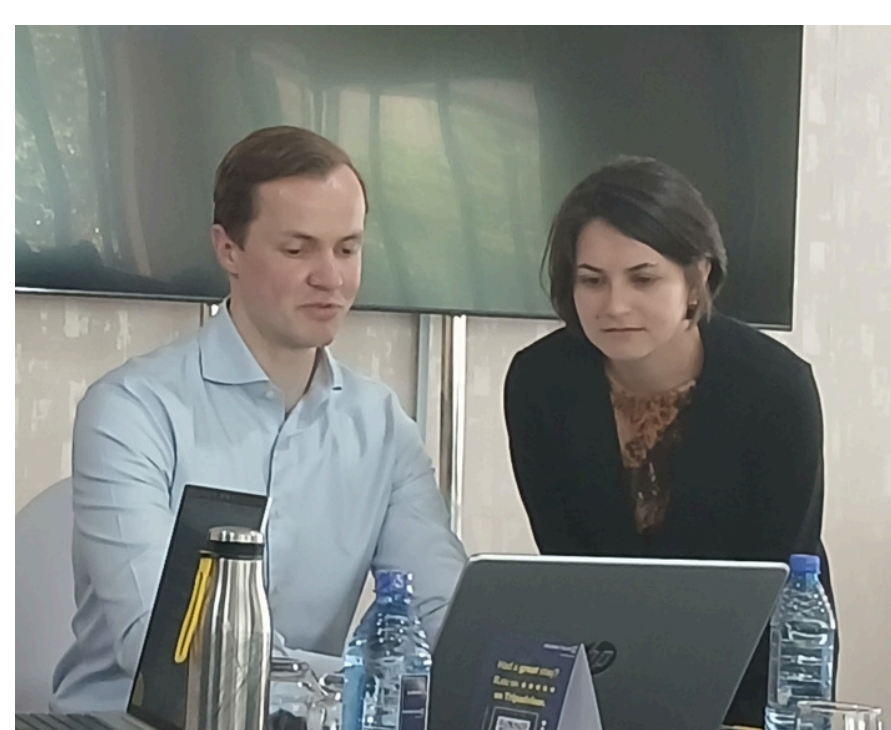
The team identified gaps and gathered insights to inform the forthcoming white paper and roadmap for the Green Public Procurement.

Kenya is advancing low-carbon policies in cement and steel through the Kenya National Buildings & Construction Decarbonization Roadmap (2026–2040), targeting Net Zero emissions by 2050.

The 2026–2040 plan outlines measures to cut both operational emissions generated from energy use in building and embodied carbon from materials such as cement and steel.

It proposes phased revisions to building codes beginning in 2026, mandatory minimum energy performance standards for new public buildings by 2030, and incentives to promote low-carbon materials.

Director Gideon Oele, who is the project's focal point noted the need to align Policy, Action and Mitigation to the Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV).



Cement Sector Decarbonization:

- Blended Cements: Policy encourages reducing Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC) clinker factors by using alternatives like fly ash and slag to reduce embodied carbon.
- Fuel Substitution: Moving from coal and heavy fuel oil to cleaner alternatives, including biomass and potentially natural gas for industrial heating.
- Technology Upgrades: Promoting waste heat recovery systems and electric kilns.

Steel Sector Sustainability:

- Electric Arc Furnace (EAF): Kenya promotes EAF technology, which produces significantly lower CO₂ emissions (0.4 tonnes vs. 1.9 tonnes for blast furnaces).
- Scrap Metal Recycling: Encouraging a circular economy by boosting recycling rates.



MANUFACTURING SECTOR

2026- Economic Survey Highlights



Manufacturing sector accounted for 7.1 per cent to the national GDP.



Total manufacturing output grew by 2.0 per cent to KSh 3,817.4 billion.



Cement production rose from 8,852.6 thousand tonnes in 2024 to 10,442.7 thousand tonnes in 2025. The quantities of basic metals manufactured grew by 4.9 per cent in 2025.



Employment in the sector increased by 5.2 per cent to 388,564 persons in 2025 to account for 11.7 per cent of total formal wage employment.

OTHERS

- Employment in EPZA gazetted zones rose by 16.4 per cent to 104,692 persons
- AGOA accredited investments grew by 10.4 per cent to KSh 42.3 billion
- The sector sustained its position as a major employer in the formal economy
- Motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers subsector rebounded recording a growth of 15.2%
- Basic metals grew by 4.9%
- Production of non-metallic products mainly cement expanded by 5.8%



Republic of Kenya

MITI
State Department of Industry

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