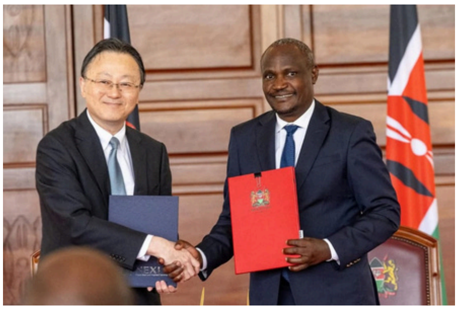
Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry
State Department for Industry



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KENYA, JAPAN INK KSH13.1B AUTOMOTIVE DEAL

President William Ruto (second left) admires a locally assembled vehicle on display. With him are Industry CS Lee Kinyanjui (left), PS Dr. Juma Mukhwana, and vehicle manufacturers.

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Kenya, Japan Ink Ksh13.1B

Kenya and Japan have signed a Samurai Financing Facility valued at KSh 22.1 billion, paving the way for growth of Kenya's automotive industry, supporting energy sector reforms, and advancing the country's industrialization agenda.

The financing agreement, signed between the National Treasury of Kenya and Japanese Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI), will see a total, KSh 13.1 billion support the implementation of Kenya's National Automotive Policy.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, President Dr. William Samoei Ruto described the agreement as a pivotal moment in Kenya's industrial development journey.

"Today, Kenya and Japan open a new chapter in a friendship built over decades as we strengthen our strategic partnership through new commitments in financing, investment, and development cooperation. This partnership will help us build a competitive, export-ready automotive sector while creating jobs, developing skills, and retaining value within our economy," said President Ruto.

President William Ruto and Japan's Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of Japan to Kenya, Mr. Tononobu Horie, follow the proceedings at the signing of the Ksh.2.1 deal between Kenya and Japan.

Financing Kenya's Automotive Transformation

The KSh 13.1 billion funding will support among others: expansion and modernization of vehicle assembly operations; Development of local automotive parts manufacturing; Financing for approved purchasers of locally assembled vehicles; Support for dealers transitioning from imported used vehicles to locally assembled new vehicles; Skills development and technology transfer programs; Growth of local supplier networks and value chains.

Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade and Industry Lee Kinyanjui noted that the facility addresses one of the biggest challenges facing the automotive sector,

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Automotive Deal

Energy and Infrastructure Components

In addition to automotive sector financing, the agreement includes support for Kenya's electricity loss reduction programme, which seeks to improve efficiency within the national transmission and distribution network.

NEXI Chairman and CEO Atsuo Kuroda said the facility would contribute to both industrialization and sustainable development, adding; "This initiative will support industrial growth and job creation in Kenya while leveraging Japanese technology and expertise. It will also contribute to Kenya's decarbonization efforts through improved energy efficiency."

Alternative and Affordable Financing

Also present, National Treasury Cabinet Secretary, John Mbadi, noted that the Samurai Financing Facility was part of Kenya's strategy to diversify funding sources and secure more affordable financing.

"This initiative demonstrates our commitment to exploring alternative funding models that are more concessional and cost-effective. Borrowing costs under the Samurai framework range between 0.5 percent and 3 percent, making it significantly more affordable than many commercial financing options," he said.

Industry PS Dr. Juma Mukhwana

The Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of Japan to Kenya, Mr. Tononobu Horie, noted that the financing facility reflects Japanese confidence in Kenya's future and builds on decades of cooperation in sectors such as energy, health, infrastructure, and human capital development.

KENAS Shines at WASPA Conference 2026

The Kenya Accreditation Service (KENAS) reaffirmed its commitment to improving water service delivery by showcasing the role of accreditation at the WASPA Conference 2026 held in Naivasha.

During the conference, KENAS engaged stakeholders through panel discussions and exhibition visits, highlighting how accredited testing and calibration laboratories enhance measurement accuracy, reduce Non-Revenue Water (NRW), and support informed decision-making. The agency also hosted the Chief Executive Officer of the Water Services Providers Association (WASPA), Mr. Anthony Njaramba, at its exhibition booth to strengthen collaboration in advancing quality and innovation in the water sector.

KENAS noted that accreditation continues to improve efficiency, reliability, and sustainable water management, contributing to better service delivery across Kenya.

KEBS Recognized For Excellence In Productivity And Performance

By Joshua Muricho

The Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) has been named the 2nd Runner-Up in the State Corporation Productivity Award Category during the National Productivity and Performance Awards 2026, in recognition of its outstanding commitment to productivity, innovation and operational excellence..

KEBS Managing Director Esther Ngari, EBS, receives the National Productivity and Performance Award certificate following the Bureau's recognition as 2nd Runner-Up in the State Corporation Productivity Award Category.

The award was received by KEBS Managing Director, Esther Ngari, EBS, and presented by officials from the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC), affirming the Bureau's dedication to delivering quality services, driving sustainable performance, and promoting efficient resource utilization in support of national development.

The recognition reflects KEBS' unwavering commitment to excellence, integrity, professionalism and continuous improvement, while reinforcing its role in enhancing Kenya's industrial competitiveness and creating value for citizens through standards and quality assurance.

National Industrialization Policy Review Stakeholder Roundtable Engagements gain Momentum

Members to the National Industrialization Policy Review Secretariat, the Afritrade Consulting and GEAPP, pose for a photo with stakeholders in the Business Membership Organizations, SOEs and Cooperatives, at a roundtable event in Nairobi./ Theuri Mwangi

PS Mukwana Rallies Investors to Unlock Kitui's Industrial Potential through Value Addition

By Cecilia Mwania

The Principal Secretary for Industry, Dr. Juma Mukwana, has called on investors to leverage Kitui County's rich natural resource endowment by investing in value addition and manufacturing to accelerate industrial growth and economic transformation.

Speaking during the Kitui County Resource Endowment and Investment Opportunities Breakfast Meeting held at Serena Hotel, Nairobi, Dr. Mukwana said industrialization is key to unlocking the full value of the county's mineral resources while creating jobs and enhancing Kenya's competitiveness. The meeting was held in preparation for the Kitui Investment and Trade Fair scheduled for September 2026.

Principal Secretary, State Department for Industry, Juma Mukhwana speaks during the Kitui County Resource Endowment and Investment Oppurtunity

Hosted by Kitui Governor H.E. Dr. Julius Malombe, the forum brought together the Principal Secretary for Mining, Mr. Harry Kimtai, Secretary Administration at the State Department for Industry, Mr. Karanja Njora, government officials, investors, development partners, and county representatives.

Dr. Mukwana highlighted key Government initiatives aimed at promoting industrial development, including the establishment of County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs) and the proposed Industrialization Fund, which will provide affordable financing for manufacturers to acquire modern production machinery

He urged investors to partner with the Government in advancing value addition, expanding local manufacturing, and creating employment opportunities, noting that these investments will contribute significantly to Kenya's sustainable economic growth and industrial transformation.

Invest In Menstrual Health Products – Government Urges Manufacturers

By Phoebe Ogolla & Victoria Katheu

Industry Principal Secretary, Dr. Juma Mukhwana has affirmed the Government's continued support for the growth and development of local manufacturers through provision of affordable loans for start-ups and the development of the County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs) around the country.

This was during the inauguration of the Kenya Menstrual Economy Conference, where he encouraged manufacturers to venture into the production of sanitary towels, noting that this was a green area that needed to be ventured into with the growing female population that has led to increased demand for the product.

Dr. Mukhwana further noted that investors who took advantage of the opportunity would be able to gain access to raw materials for the essential commodity, once they established their manufacturing plants in the CAIPS, where they would be nearer to the source of raw materials and also have a ready market.

"It is time we shift the focus from viewing menstruation as a biological issue but rather as an economic opportunity", noted Dr. Mukhwana adding that , "it is a unique opportunity that has the potential to provide thousands of people with jobs." Currently, Kenya imports 90 percent of the sanitary towels.

Principal Secretary, State Department for Industry, Juma Mukhwana, poses for a photo with Embu Woman Representative, Faith Gitau, Kenya Menstrual Economy Conference Chair Faith Masika, and other stakeholders during the Kenya Menstrual Economy Conference.

It is time we shift the focus from viewing menstruation as a biological issue but rather as … a unique opportunity that has the potential to provide thousands of people with jobs." Dr. Mukhwana

Also at the event, PS for Gender, Ann Wang'ombe who was also present,called on manufacturers to ensure production of safe, quality and affordable sanitary towels as a strategy in ensuring menstrual dignity for all women.

"Menstrual dignity is a matter of human rights and social justice," noted PS Wang'ombe adding that the need for proper disposal mechanisms to protect against environment pollution was also required even as investors ventured into the market.

The Gender PS further urged investors to embrace local manufacturing of the menstrual health products saying that this would also help in reducing dependence on imports while helping tackle period poverty, further supporting the events theme the events theme "From ideas to impact: Strengthening markets, policy, and innovation in the menstrual Economy."

This, as she called for an end to stigma and discrimination surrounding menstruation, noting that the local production of the sanitary towels would also make them more affordable which would ensure that girls were able to remain in school throughout their menstrual cycle without interruption.

ACA calls for Innovation Driven Solution to Combat Counterfeiting.

By Jackie Mwambingu , ACA

Anti-Counterfeit Authority Executive Director Dr. Robi King'a

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) has urged innovators, researchers, students and technology developers to partner with the Authority in developing technology-driven solutions to strengthen the fight against counterfeiting and protect intellectual property rights.

Speaking during the Open University of Kenya (OUK) Innovation Week, ACA Executive Director Dr. Robi King'a said collaboration between government, academia, the private sector and innovators is critical in addressing the evolving challenge of counterfeit trade.

Dr. King'a highlighted the Authority's key digital initiatives, including the Anti-Counterfeit Integrated Management System and the Anti-Counterfeit Security

Device, which will enable consumers and enforcement officers to verify the authenticity of products through digital technology.He further invited innovators in artificial intelligence, blockchain, the Internet of Things (IoT)

and data science Device, which will enable consumers and enforcement officers to verify the authenticity of products through digital technology.He further invited innovators in artificial intelligence, blockchain, the Internet of Things (IoT) and data science

Spin Knit Nakuru, a hub for Made-in-Kenya Textiles and Apparels

Innovate to Accelerate Kenya's Automotive Sector Growth, Mukhwana

By Cecilia Mwania

Industry Principal Secretary, Dr. Juma Mukhwana underscored the importance of innovation, skills development, and a supportive policy environment in accelerating the growth of Kenya's automotive and engineering sector. He said sustained government collaboration with manufacturers is critical in creating a competitive ecosystem that will position Kenya as a regional hub for vehicle assembly and fabrication.

Speaking during a visit to Master Fabricators Limited along Mombasa Road, Dr. Mukwana noted that local manufacturers must continue embracing innovation and maintaining high quality standards to strengthen the country's industrial base. He reaffirmed the State Department for Industry's commitment to championing policies and partnerships aimed at boosting local manufacturing, enhancing value addition, and deepening industrial growth under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

The Principal Secretary toured the company's production facilities, where he was taken through key stages of bus body fabrication, including welding, fibre glass molding, trimming, pre-paint preparation, foaming, and final finishing. He commended the firm for its investment in advanced fabrication processes and

Principal Secretary, State Department for Industry, Juma Mukhwana admires lamps on display at Masters Motors on Mombasa Road, with him is Masters MD Mr Bobby Virde

"...continue embracing innovation and maintaining high quality standards...

- Dr. Mukhwana

adherence to industry standards, describing it as a model of Kenya's growing engineering capacity.

Dr. Mukwana also visited the company's in-house Ajit Training Centre, a facility dedicated to equipping workers with modern fabrication skills. He lauded the initiative as a strong example of private sector investment in technical capacity building, emphasizing that skills development remains central to strengthening Kenya's manufacturing competitiveness.

The visit, hosted by Master Fabricators Managing Director Mr. Bobby Virde Singh, brought together key stakeholders in the automotive manufacturing value chain, including officials from the State Department for Industry and the Kenya Association of Bus Manufacturers Services Ltd. Discussions focused on improving the structural integrity and quality of bus bodies to enhance passenger safety and reduce fatalities resulting from road accidents.

Master Fabricators Limited continues to play a significant role in Kenya's industrialization journey, contributing to local value addition, job creation, and the expansion of domestic manufacturing capabilities. The State Department for Industry has reiterated its commitment to working closely with such manufacturers to foster innovation, strengthen industrial standards, and unlock new opportunities in the automotive sector.

Government Advances Circular Economy Agenda To Boost Local Manufacturing

By Victoria Ndanu

The Government is strengthening efforts in accelerating the adoption of a circular economy in Kenya's manufacturing sector through the implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework, which promotes sustainable production, resource efficiency, and responsible waste management.

This commitment was reaffirmed during the Capacity Building on Policies for Circular Design workshop held recently in Nairobi under the Partnerships for Sustainable Supply Chains (PASS) Project. The training brought together representatives from the State Department for Industry (SDI), local manufacturers, academia, development partners, and policy experts to strengthen the capacity of policymakers to develop and implement circular economy policies.

The State Department for Industry was represented by Ms. Purity Kamau, Director,Chemicals and Minerals Industries, who noted that th Government was commitment to advancing sustainable industrial development through effective policy implementation seen through its commitment towards the Extended Producer Responsibility policy that promotes more responsible action from manufacturers in regards to the products that they manufacture in relation to environmental sustainability.

The workshop focused on promoting a circular economy, an economic model that encourages the reuse, repair, recycling, and recovery of materials to reduce waste and keep products and resources in use for as long as possible.

Participants also discussed the implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework, which requires producers to take responsibility for their products throughout their lifecycle, including collection, recycling, and environmentally sound disposal.

Representing the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), was Dr. Matthew Mumma who emphasized on the importance of economic policy instruments such as fiscal incentives and green public procurement in encouraging industries to adopt sustainable production practices.

Experts from the field of circular economy also highlighted the role of digital technologies, including waste traceability systems and digital product passports, in strengthening EPR implementation and improving resource efficiency.

Also present was Dr. Jane Nyakang'o, Chief Executive Officer of the Kenya National Cleaner Production Centre (KNCPC), who called for stronger collaboration among government institutions, industries, academia, and development partners to accelerate the implementation of circular economy policies that support local manufacturing and environmental sustainability.

Green industry certification to drive sustainable manufacturing.

By Victoria Katheu

The government has outlined a vision to introduce a Green Industry Certification programme to recogn-ze to recognize manufacturers that meet international sustainability standards as part of efforts to drive sustainable industrial transformation and enhance Kenya's global competitiveness.

Speaking during the Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) Awards Ceremony in Nairobi, the Principal Secretary for Industries, Dr. Juma Mukhwana celebrated industries that were adopting innovative approaches as a strategy to reduce pollution, improve operational efficiency, conserve natural resources and strengthen competitiveness.

"Our vision is clear, to roll out Green Industry Certification and recognizing enterprises that meet international standards of sustainability", he said. He also emphasized that the intended certification aligns with Kenya's broader agenda on climate resilience, industrial competitiveness and sustainable

Director for Industries Stanley Koske, awards participants at the Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) Awards Ceremony in Nairobi.

economic growth. He commended the Kenya National Cleaner Production Centre (KNCPC) for leading the resource efficient and cleaner production initiative under the Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution Programme, saying the initiative has empowered industries to reduce pollution at source while enhancing productivity and profitability. KNCPC has demonstrated that sustainability and competitiveness are not opposing goals, but, mutually reinforcing cleaner rivers, stronger industrial effectiveness, improved climate resilience and increased investments in cleaner technologies.

The PS affirmed that the government's vision to scale up cleaner production comes at a time when the Nairobi River Basin hosts more than 4,300 enterprises, highlighting the need for wider adoption of sustainable manufacturing practices.

He called upon all stakeholders including academia, government agencies and communities to form partnerships that will protect the country's rivers, people and the future.

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY GEARS TOWARDS LOCAL PRODUCTION

By Collen Mukiri

Kenya's industrialization agenda has received a boost after the Ministry of Health launched the Kenya Health Products and Technologies (HPTs) Local Manufacturing Strategy 2026–2030.

Speaking during the launch, Principal Secretary for Medical Services Dr. Ouma Oluga said strengthening local manufacturing is essential for improving the country's health security and economic resilience. He noted that increasing domestic production will reduce exposure to global supply chain disruptions while ensuring a reliable supply of quality and affordable medicines and medical technologies. This will also expand Kenya's manufacturing value chains.

The strategy, will not only support the growth of Kenya's pharmaceutical manufacturing industry but also reduce reliance on imported medicines and medical technologies. The Strategy provides a roadmap for building a globally competitive local industry capable of meeting domestic demand while expanding access to regional and international markets.

Dr. Ouma Oluga unveils the Kenya Health Products and Technologies Local Manufacturing Strategy 2026-2030.

Dr. Ouma Oluga speaking during the launch of Kenya Health Products and Technologies Local Manufacturing Strategy 2026-2030.

The initiative complements the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry's (MITI) long-standing agenda of promoting manufacturing as a key pillar of economic transformation. Through the State Department for Industry, the Government has continued to champion local production of pharmaceuticals as part of its import substitution programme, encouraging manufacturers to produce medicines, vaccines, medical devices, and other health products locally instead of relying heavily on imports. This approach is aimed at strengthening Kenya's manufacturing base, retaining more value within the economy, creating skilled employment, and reducing the country's import bill.

The benefits of the Strategy will also extend directly to ordinary Kenyans, with increased local manufacturing expected to improve the availability and affordability of essential medicines, shorten supply chains, reduce stock-outs, and create employment opportunities for thousands of Kenyans across manufacturing, distribution, research, engineering, and related industries.

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