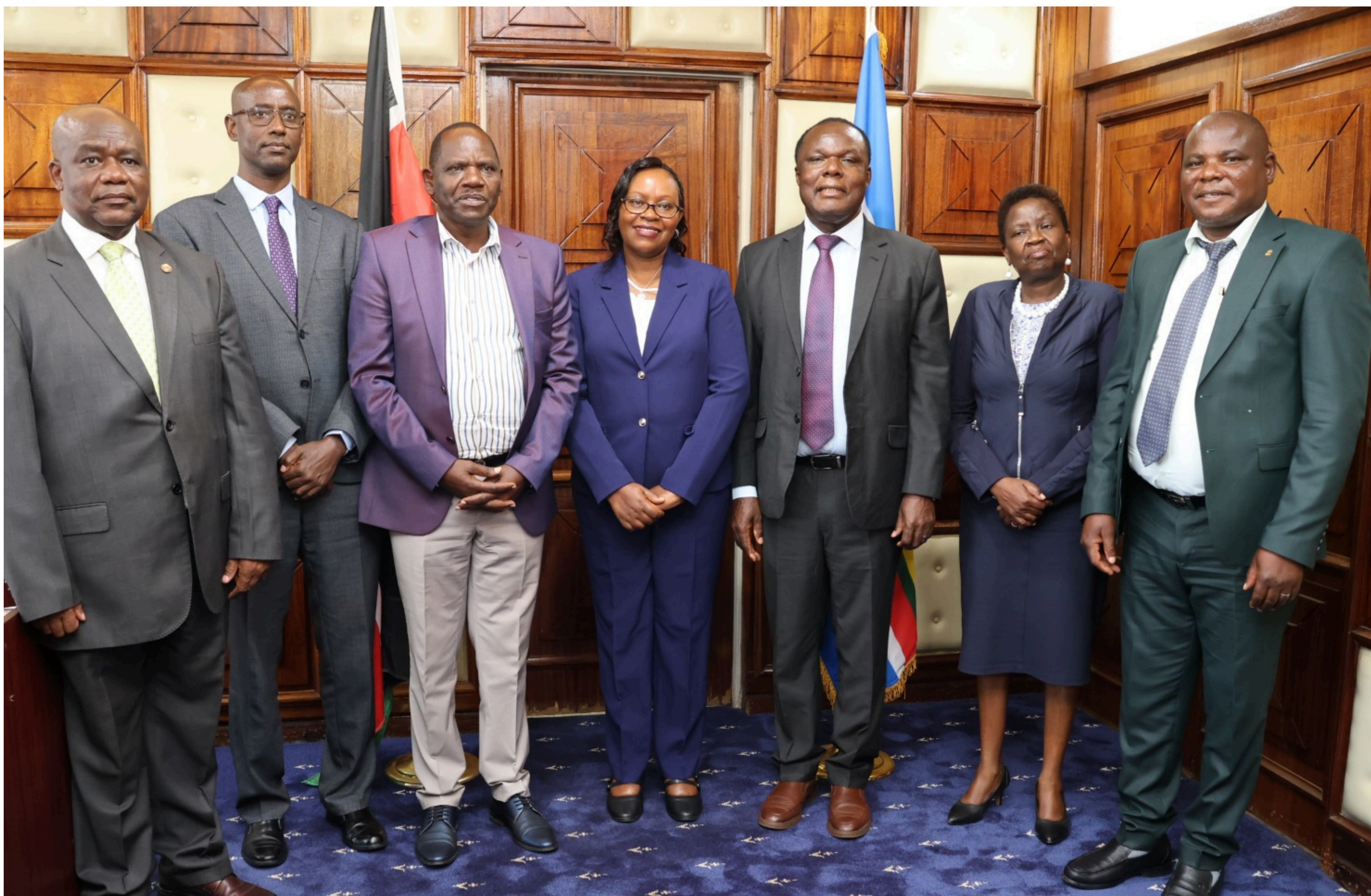




MARCH 2026 Issue VI

# VIWANDA BULLETIN

## MITI, EACC PARTNER FOR CAIPS COMPLIANCE MONITORING



*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 Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, in partnership with the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), the Council of Governors, and County Governments, has launched a compliance monitoring exercise on the development and implementation of the County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs) Programme.

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- Automotive Industry Applauds KSh 13.1B Samurai Bond
- Value addition to revive coffee sector
- SDI Monitors CAIPs
- Roy turns 60, Feted

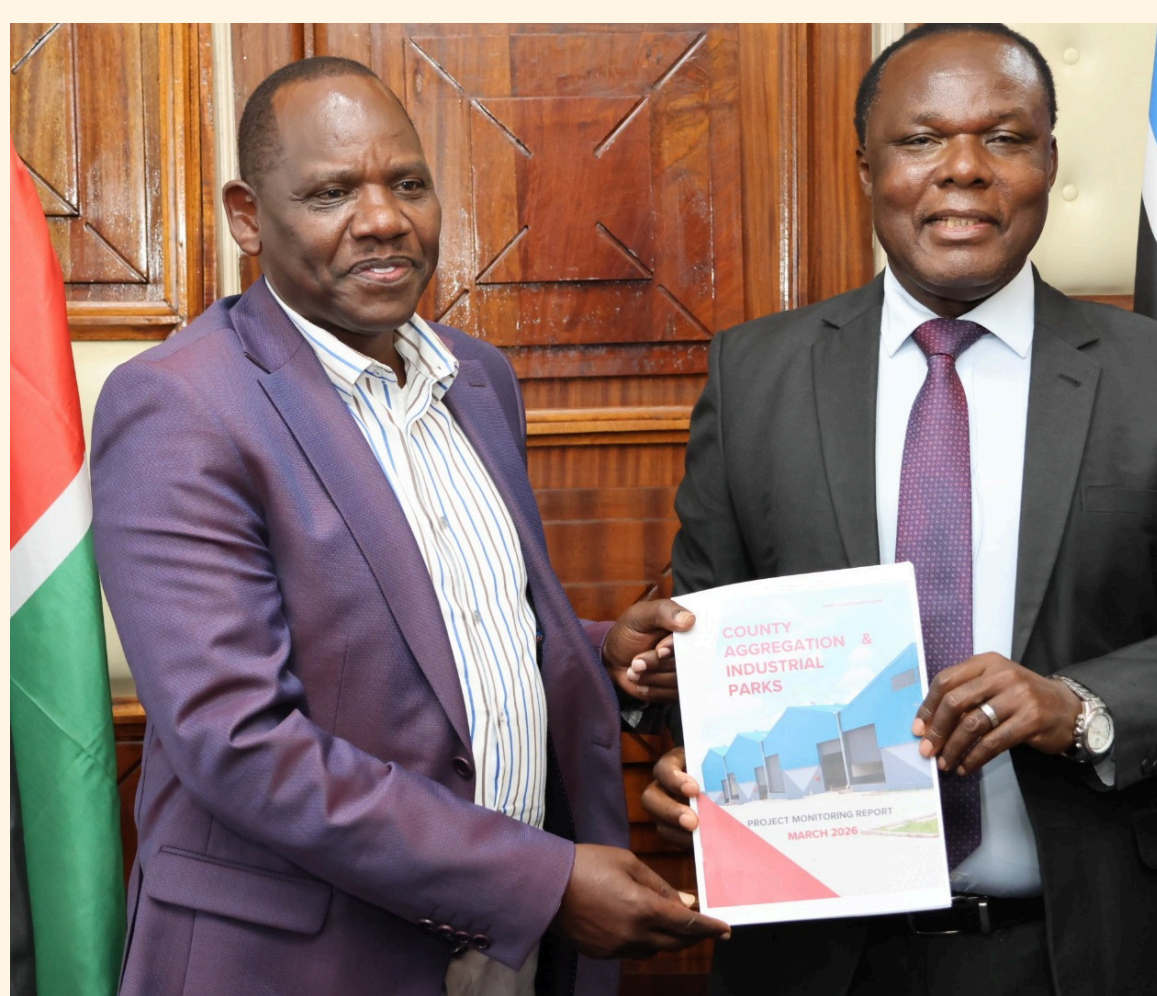
## MITI, EACC PARTNER FOR CAIPS COMPLIANCE MONITORING



The Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, in partnership with the Ethics

and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), the Council of Governors and County Governments, has launched a compliance monitoring exercise on the development and implementation of the County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs) Programme.

The compliance monitoring exercise will be undertaken by a multidisciplinary EACC team tasked with assessing procurement processes, financial management, governance structures, and overall project implementation. The review will also identify potential weaknesses that may expose the programme to corruption risks and provide recommendations to strengthen institutional systems and controls.



The initiative aims to strengthen transparency, accountability and proper utilization of public resources committed to the programme, which is a key intervention in advancing Kenya's industrialization agenda.

### 4.B

#### Kenya Shillings disbursed so far towards construction of CAIPS

The County Aggregation and Industrial Parks Programme is designed to accelerate agro-processing by facilitating aggregation, storage, processing and value addition of agricultural produce at the county level.

The programme is jointly implemented by the National Government and County Governments. The National Government committed to provide KSh 250 million to each county for the development of the industrial parks, with county governments providing matching funds.

To date, the National Government has disbursed KSh 4.052 billion towards the construction of the parks, with ten counties having received the full allocation of KSh 250 million each. In the 2025/2026 Financial Year, an additional KSh 4.448 billion has been allocated to the programme, with the first tranche of KSh 2.224 billion already disbursed to twenty-four counties.



Currently, thirty-four (34) County Aggregation and Industrial Parks are under development across the country, with counties at varying stages of completion. The compliance monitoring exercise will review systems, procedures and practices related to the implementation of the programme to ensure adherence to legal, procurement, financial management and governance frameworks.

# Automotive Industry Applauds KSh 13.1 Billion Samurai Bond for Localization



*Administration secretary, Karanja Njora chairs a meeting between the State Department for Industry and automotive Sector players.*

Players in Kenya's automotive sector have welcomed the Government's KSh 13.1 billion Japanese Samurai Bond, terming it as significant step toward revitalizing local vehicle manufacturing.

The KSh 13.1 billion Samurai Bond is expected to spur growth in local assembly, manufacturing, and the shift toward electric vehicles (EVs). It will provide critical capital required to move the industry beyond simple Semi-Knocked Down (SKD) and Completely Knocked Down (CKD) assembly toward Level 3 manufacturing and beyond.

The stakeholders who included vehicle assemblers, motorcycle assemblers and parts manufacturers under the umbrella of the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM), the academia and national government implementing agencies noted that the funds will accelerate the country's transition toward full-scale automotive production.

Industry representatives emphasized that stimulating demand was equally critical. Part of the funds will support individuals and businesses in acquiring newly assembled vehicles locally, thereby creating sustainable domestic demand while boosting production capacity. The vehicles locally, thereby creating sustainable domestic demand while boosting production capacity. The motor-vehicle assembly industry requires significant capital investment to transition from basic assembly to full manufacturing. Stakeholders agreed that the Samurai Bond provides the critical financial backbone needed to leapfrog technological gaps and build a competitive, sustainable automotive ecosystem from the ground up.

The industry leaders reiterated their commitment to working collaboratively with Government to strengthen standards enforcement, improve quality, and ensure Kenya emerges as a regional automotive manufacturing hub. [\[industry.go.ke\]](http://industry.go.ke)





# Automobile Standards and Regulatory Alignment



*Industry Principal Secretary Dr. Juma Mukhwana joins Engineering Vice President, Isuzu Motors Company, Thailand, Mr. Keizo Yoshimura and Isuzu D-Max brand ambassador and Marathoner Eliud Kipchoge during a visit at Isuzu EA assembly plant along Mombasa road.*

**S**takeholders in Kenya’s automotive sector have underscored the urgency of fast-tracking Kenya’s bid to join the UNECE World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29).

The permanent working party within the UN framework, sets global technical standards for vehicle safety, environmental protection, and cybersecurity. Membership, the manufacturers argue, would position Kenya’s automotive manufacturing industry to meet international compliance benchmarks and enhance export competitiveness.

Industry representative, in a meeting chaired by the State Department for Industry’s Administration Secretary Karanja Njora, also called for stronger enforcement of existing automotive regulations, including Legal Notice 112 (LN112), which requires motorcycle assemblers to localize at least 14 components. While compliance with LN84 and Legal Notice 125 has improved, stakeholders noted that full implementation

## 14 Motorcycle components to be localized

remains critical to driving meaningful localization.

The manufacturers highlighted quality assurance as a key challenge in increasing local content.

A representative from Isuzu East Africa noted that the company currently utilizes 23 out of the 34 components listed in the local content regulations, in addition to locally available fluids and greases. However, he emphasized that safety remains non-negotiable. [[industry.go.ke](http://industry.go.ke)]



# ADOPTION OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS BILL, 2026 SET TO BENEFIT LOCALS

By Theuri Mwangi

The State Department for Industry (SDI) is currently reviewing the Geographical Indications Bill of 2026, originally created in 2018 to protect local products tied to their areas of origin and indigenous to specific regions in Kenya.

Industrialization Secretary Professor Erastus Gatebe explained that the bill attributes a product's quality, reputation, or characteristic to its geographic origin or traditional designation. He noted that, "associations of producers or farmers meeting set quality standards, as well as regulatory agencies like the Agriculture and Food Authority, will be granted geographical indications."

For authorities, Gatebe added, they will oversee that GI-protected products such as Kenyan tea or coffee are planted, grown, harvested, stored, processed, packaged, and labeled according to agreed quality control standards and procedures.

**“  
Agencies  
like the  
Agriculture  
and Food  
Authority,  
will be  
granted  
geographical  
indications-  
Prof. Gatebe**



Your Adoption of the bill aligns with the Kenyan Constitution's mandate to support, promote, and protect citizens' intellectual property rights, particularly for micro, small, and medium enterprises. It also supports the BETA Agenda, which drives MSME and small-scale producer growth through value addition, competitiveness, branding for visibility, and improved market access, fueling economic and industrial development.

Rural areas stand to gain significantly, with each county able to register unique products and benefit from tailored value chains. For Kenya's high-quality coffee and tea exports, proper origin identification will secure better prices for farmers, as products will be labeled by place of origin to command premium markets.

The bill also safeguards intellectual property for indigenous crafts like the Taita Basket from Taita Taveta in international markets, promoting local industries. It ensures Kenyan products comply with global treaties such as the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, which mandates GI safeguards.

# Preferential Procurement Master Roll under Review to Bolster Buy-Kenya Build-Kenya Policy

By Gloria Gicheru- PCO

The State Department for Industry has today commenced a review of the Preferential Procurement Master Roll No. 1 of 2025, reinforcing its commitment to the implementation of the Buy-Kenya Build-Kenya policy.

The Master Roll catalogues products manufactured locally that are entitled to preferential procurement treatment, in line with both the Buy-Kenya Build-Kenya policy and the local content policy.

**“Everytime we import products, we export jobs- Director Njabara**

Chaired by Director of Industries Christopher Njabara, the review meeting resolved to prioritize public sensitization and widespread publicity of the Master Roll, acknowledging the critical need to shift consumer narratives and behavioral attitudes toward locally manufactured goods.

The revised document, set to be rolled out for public use shortly, is instrumental in advancing the department's mandate to promote local manufacturing and reverse the growing demand for imported products.



"The importation of products leads to the exportation of jobs," he stated. "We must sensitize the public and advocate for locally made products to inspire confidence and build a culture of patriotism in our consumption."

The Buy-Kenya Build-Kenya policy mandates that ministries and state agencies allocate 40% of their procurement budgets to locally produced goods and services. Prioritizing local products stimulates the domestic economy, creates millions of jobs for the youth, reduces over-reliance on imports, and accelerates industrial growth.

Discussions also focused on enhancing the 2026 edition of the Master Roll to broaden its reach and ensure the achievement of policy objectives. Key areas of emphasis included encouraging Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), as well as the general public, to embrace locally manufactured products, including medicines, vehicles, and motorcycle parts.

# Value Addition to Revive Coffee Sector

By Wendy Achieng (PCO)

The State Department for Industry, in collaboration with the United Nations Titled the "Inclusive and Sustainable Coffee Value Chain in Kenya," the joint initiative seeks to unite government and private sector actors in a bid to transform the country's most iconic crop from a raw commodity export into a significant driver of local economic prosperity.

Once the pride of African agriculture and a lifeline for over six million Kenyans, the nation's coffee sector now stands at a critical crossroads. Production has plummeted by 70 percent over the past three decades. With the average age of a Kenyan farmer now hovering around 65, the industry faces an existential challenge regarding its future workforce.

The most telling indicator of lost potential, however, lies in the fact that 95 percent of Kenyan coffee is exported as raw, green beans. This practice forfeits the substantial economic gains that could be generated through local processing, roasting, and branding.

During a strategic meeting with UNIDO Representative Tally Einav and FAO Representative Tian Cui, Principal Secretary for Industry Dr. Juma Mukhwana emphasized the urgency of shifting away from commodity dependence. "The fragmentation that has long plagued Kenya's coffee sector extends most painfully to value addition," Dr. Mukhwana stated.

The joint programme prioritizes building local roasting capacity, fostering coffee entrepreneurship, and cultivating a robust domestic coffee culture worthy of Kenya's global reputation as a top-tier producer.



*Industry PS Dr. Juma Mukhwana with UNIDO representative in Kenya Tally Einav.*

**“ Only 5% of Kenyan coffee is consumed locally**



Key activities will include supporting young entrepreneurs in brand development, establishing shared processing facilities, and creating direct links between rural producers and urban consumers.

A central pillar of the programme is addressing the stark disparity in local coffee consumption. Despite producing high-quality beans, 95 percent is exported, with minimal retention for the local market. To catalyze a cultural shift, the initiative will drive consumer awareness campaigns, establish digital marketing platforms, and promote the use of Coffee Consumption Kits.

"Domestic consumption currently stands at a mere five percent, just 0.036 kilograms per person annually, far below global norms," noted UNIDO Representative Tally Einav. She described this low figure as representing both a market failure and a major opportunity.





# All Systems go, for KIRDI Techno Centre



By Sarah Gacii- PCO

The Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI) Board Chair Eng. Peter Mositet officially handed over the site to the for purposes of finalizing the construction of the Techno Centre. The Techno Centre sits on a land area of 16,219 acres and has a built-up area of over 56,000 m<sup>2</sup>.

The Techno Centre design comprises a podium with 3 levels of commercial space, showrooms, shops, plenum and an amphitheatre with modern conference facilities, three adjoining but distinct towers partitioning modern green spaces.

At the 05, a capsule accommodation facility of the level of a 3-star hotel and ample parking on 3 basement levels with a capacity of 400 vehicles.

The Techno Centre is designed to be green and will contain features such as solar PV, green lighting, grey water treatment and recycling,

and rooftop rainwater harvesting, among others.

The Director-General, Dr. Kelvin Khisa, underscored the project's core commitment to sustainability, highlighting its design as a green building integrating solar technology, water harvesting, and circular economy principles. With strong support from the Government of Kenya and our dedicated team, we eagerly await the start of construction and the future handover of this pioneering facility.





# SCA, QI To pave way for seamless Export Market Access

By Wendy Achieng- PCO

**I**n a significant move to safeguard Kenya's agricultural exports, the State Department for Industry recently convened with representatives from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) from Vienna to launch a major initiative aimed at diagnosing why Kenyan agricultural exports continue to face rejection at international borders.

The mission, implemented in partnership with TradeMark Africa (TMA), forms part of the broader Standards Compliance Analytics (SCA) and Quality Infrastructure (QI) Assessment initiative. Its core mandate is to understand why agri-food exports from Kenya, Uganda, and Zambia face recurrent rejections that cost economies lost revenue, cause reputational damage, and reduce market access—particularly for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

"We are moving beyond treating isolated incidents to reveal deeper, systemic challenges," said Stanley Koske, Director for Industries, during the inception meeting. The initiative links real-world trade data with on-the-ground quality infrastructure assessments, creating an analytical bridge between border rejections and national capacity gaps.

Agri-food exports from Kenya continue to face recurrent rejections at international borders, resulting in lost revenue, reputational damage, and reduced market access, especially for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). These rejections often reflect deeper systemic challenges, including an inability to meet destination-market standards and regulatory requirements.

At its core, the initiative is built on a robust analytical framework that links real-world trade data with on-the-ground quality infrastructure. By scrutinizing export rejection patterns and non-compliance notifications from major destination markets, the team is working to identify high-risk products and recurring causes of refusal.

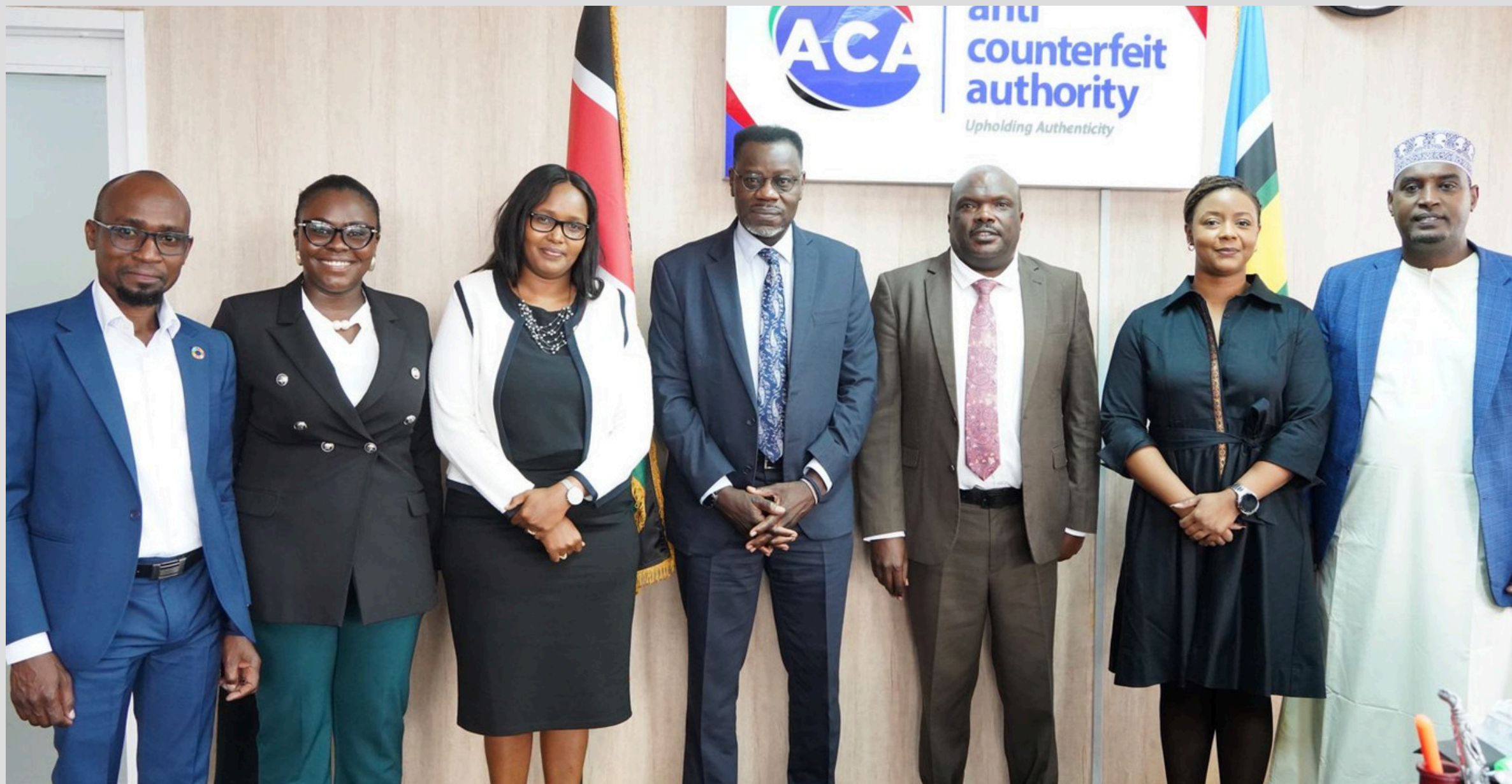


The SCA and QI initiative will assess Kenyan laboratories and regulations to identify why agri-food exports face rejection. It aims to strengthen quality infrastructure, reduce technical gaps, and improve coordination among key stakeholders.

Throughout the process, stakeholders including standards bodies, regulatory agencies, line ministries, export promotion institutions, laboratories, conformity-assessment service providers, and private sector associations will be actively engaged.

For Kenya's micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, this initiative represents a clearer path to demonstrating compliance and securing their place in global value chains. By turning data into strategy, UNIDO and its partners are helping to build a future where Kenyan agricultural products are not just traded, but trusted worldwide.

## BAT Kenya Pays Courtesy Visit to ACA to Strengthen Fight Against Illicit Tobacco Trade



*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.*

By Jackline Mwambingu- PCO (ACA)

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. The meeting focused on strengthening collaboration between BAT Kenya and ACA in combating illicit tobacco trade and protecting legitimate businesses operating within the Kenyan market.

During the engagement, the BAT delegation highlighted the growing challenge posed by illicit tobacco products and demonstrated key distinctions between genuine BAT cigarette products and illicit ones circulating in the market. The technical presentation aimed to enhance the capacity of enforcement officers to identify and intercept non-compliant tobacco products.

Speaking during the meeting, Mr. Achola noted that illicit tobacco continues to pose a serious threat to legitimate manufacturers, government revenue, and consumer safety.

"Illicit tobacco products undermine legitimate businesses, deprive governments of revenue, and expose consumers to unregulated products. Addressing this challenge requires stronger collaboration between industry and enforcement agencies," he said. Agnes Karingu, Deputy Director of Education and Public Awareness at ACA, emphasized the importance of public awareness and multi-agency collaboration in tackling illicit trade.

ACA Director of Enforcement Yusuf Osman highlighted the need for intelligence sharing and closer cooperation between regulators and rights holders to effectively disrupt illicit trade networks.

In his remarks, Dr. King'a reaffirmed ACA's commitment to working closely with industry stakeholders to safeguard Kenya's market from illicit and counterfeit products. He also encouraged BAT Kenya to utilize the Authority's Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Recordation System, which enables rights holders to register trademarks and product details with ACA to enhance enforcement and detection of illicit goods.

The meeting concluded with both parties reaffirming their commitment to continued collaboration in strengthening enforcement efforts, promoting public awareness, and protecting consumers and legitimate businesses from illicit trade.

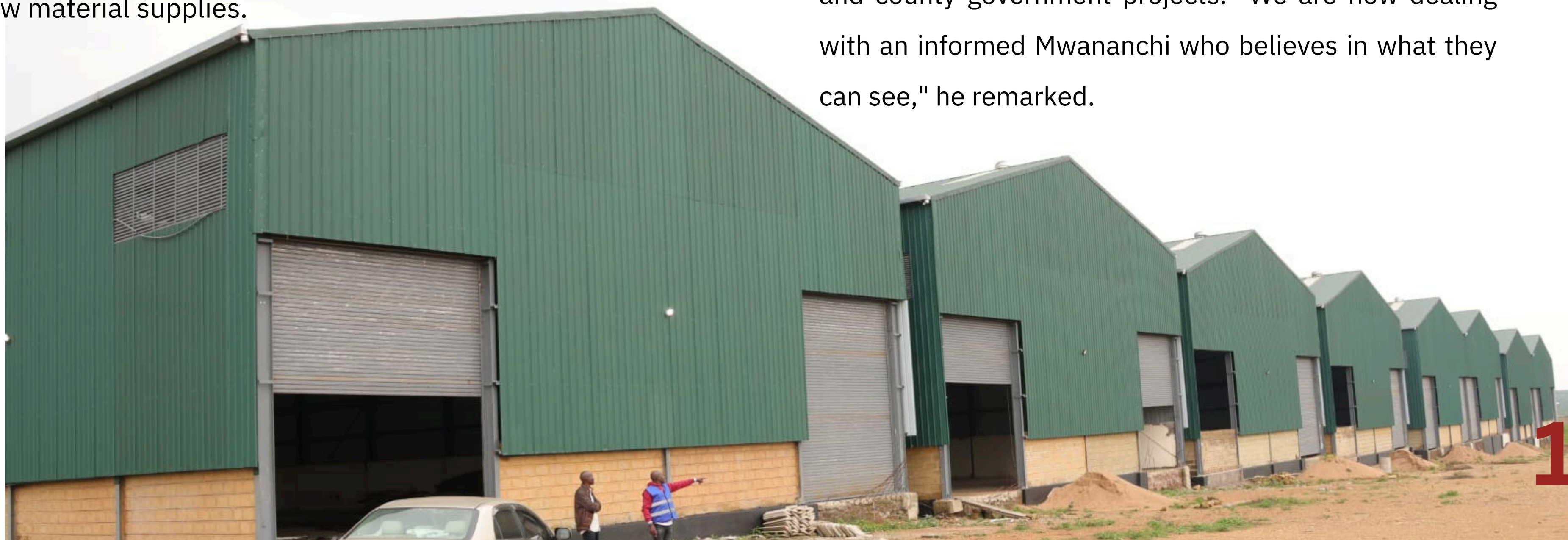
## SDI MONITOR'S CAIPS PROGRESS

By Gloria Gicheru



The State Department for Industry (SDI) has commenced a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) exercise to assess the implementation progress of the County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs). The initiative is designed to strengthen collaboration and enhance accountability across the project's stakeholders. Once fully operational, these parks are expected to accelerate regional economic transformation, generate thousands of jobs, and significantly reduce post-harvest losses.

A key objective of the M&E exercise is to identify and address challenges hindering the parks' operationalization, particularly concerning critical enablers such as road access, water supply, and internet connectivity. The team is also evaluating governance structures, investor uptake, compliance with environmental standards, and the sustainability of raw material supplies.



Speaking during a monitoring tour of the Migori CAIP, the team lead, Director Jackson Makewa, emphasized the exercise's role in developing strategies to enhance progress and bolster investor confidence. "It is time we shifted our focus from brick and mortar and began the process of investor onboarding," he stated.

Preliminary findings indicate that while most parks are progressing satisfactorily, significant challenges related to contractor performance persist. It was observed that some contractors are managing multiple major projects, which has impacted their prioritization of the timely completion of the CAIPs.



"Regular meetings with contractors are essential," advised Eng. Harrison Kuria from the Department of Public Works. "This practice keeps the county government (the client) well-informed on progress and facilitates the swift resolution of challenges."

Homabay County Commissioner Ronald Mwiwawi underscored the critical importance of the M&E exercise, describing it as an effective tool for enhancing accountability and building public trust in both national and county government projects. "We are now dealing with an informed Mwananchi who believes in what they can see," he remarked.



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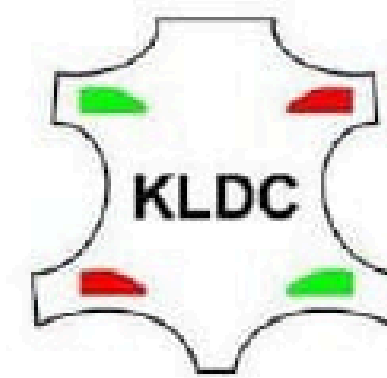
**LEATHER**  
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REGIONAL LEATHER  
MANUFACTURING HUB

📅 26 March 2026  
🕒 07:30 – 17:00  
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# SMC Sensitises Scrap Metal Dealers in Bomet on Compliance



The sensitisation initiative also emphasised the role of the scrap metal sector in promoting responsible recycling and environmental sustainability. By encouraging proper collection, sorting, and documentation of scrap materials, the sector contributes significantly to the circular economy while supporting local manufacturing and industrial growth.

SMC officials called on dealers to work closely with regulators and county authorities to ensure transparency and accountability across the scrap metal value chain.

They also reiterated the Council's commitment to continuous engagement with industry players to promote compliance and professional standards within the trade.

The yard-to-yard campaign forms part of ongoing nationwide efforts by the Council to strengthen oversight, enhance monitoring of scrap metal activities, and ensure that legitimate businesses operate in a safe, structured, and well-regulated environment.

By Cecelia Mwanja ( PCO)

**T**he Scrap Metal Council (SMC) has intensified efforts to streamline the scrap metal trade through a yard-to-yard sensitization exercise conducted for scrap metal dealers in Bomet county

The outreach programme focused on educating dealers on compliance with licensing requirements, adherence to operational guidelines, and the importance of maintaining proper records for all scrap metal transactions. The SMC team engaged directly with yard owners and workers, guiding them on regulatory procedures and the need to operate within the legal framework governing the industry.

During the exercise, dealers were reminded that strict compliance helps curb illegal trade and reduces incidents of vandalism targeting critical public infrastructure such as power transmission lines, road signage, and railway components. The Council noted that poor record-keeping and unlicensed operations create loopholes that can be exploited by criminal networks involved in infrastructure theft.

**“scrap metal sector plays a crucial role in supporting the circular economy**



# ACCREDITATION STRENGTHENS REGIONAL DAIRY QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE



*Uganda's National Dairy Laboratory officers pose for a photo with Kenya Accreditation Service (KENAS) directors.*

As governments pursue agro-industrial transformation and value addition strategies, robust quality infrastructure, including accredited laboratories, inspection bodies, and certification systems is indispensable.

## **Supporting Regional Integration and Trade**

The National Dairy Laboratory's accreditation also demonstrates the value of regional cooperation in harmonizing standards and conformity assessment systems. The dairy sector is a key contributor to livelihoods, rural incomes, employment, and food security across East Africa. Accredited laboratories help ensure that dairy products comply with regulatory and market requirements, reduce duplication of testing, and build mutual confidence among trading partners, facilitating smoother cross-border commerce.

## **Building Sustainable Quality Systems**

The laboratory's rapid accreditation process, from application to assessment in a single month, reflects strong institutional commitment to technical excellence and alignment with international benchmarks. By attaining accreditation in Chemistry and Microbiology, the National Dairy Laboratory strengthens Uganda's capacity to provide credible and reliable testing services to producers, processors, exporters, and regulators.

This milestone underscores that investment in quality infrastructure is not merely a compliance exercise but a strategic economic intervention. It supports industrial competitiveness, protects public health, and positions the dairy sector for sustainable growth.

By Mutetei Mutisya- PCO, KENAS

**T**he strengthening of quality infrastructure continues to play a pivotal role in advancing

industrial development, food safety, and regional trade across East Africa. In a major milestone for the dairy sector, the National Dairy Laboratory – Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Uganda, has attained Initial Accreditation from the Kenya Accreditation Service (KENAS).

The laboratory submitted its accreditation application in October 2025, with the initial assessment conducted in the same month. Following a rigorous evaluation process, it was accredited in the fields of Chemistry and Microbiology – two critical areas that underpin the safety, quality, and reliability of milk and dairy products.

This achievement highlights the strategic importance of accredited laboratory services within agro-processing industries and underscores the growing role of regional collaboration in strengthening Africa's quality ecosystem. "Accredited laboratory services are foundational to safeguarding public health, enhancing regulatory compliance, and unlocking market access within the dairy value chain."

## **Accreditation as a Driver of Industrial Competitiveness**

Accreditation provides formal recognition of technical competence to perform specific tests in accordance with internationally accepted standards. In the dairy sector, it assures that laboratory results are accurate, reliable, and globally recognized.

Chemistry testing verifies compositional standards, detects adulterants, monitors residues, and assesses key quality parameters. Microbiological testing ensures products meet hygiene and safety requirements by identifying harmful microorganisms that may pose public health risks. Together, these disciplines reinforce regulatory enforcement, build consumer confidence, and protect market integrity.

For policymakers and industry stakeholders, accredited testing contributes directly to improved food safety, stronger regulatory oversight, enhanced traceability across the dairy value chain, reduced technical trade barriers, and increased competitiveness in regional and international markets.



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