



THE QUARTERLY OUTLOOK

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE KENYA SCHOOL OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION (KESRA)

OCT / DEC 2021 | ISSUE 7

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TAX PRISM KNOWLEDGE CHALLENGE.

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Sundar Pichai
Chief Executive Officer Alphabet
Inc. and its subsidiary Google.

Imagine life is a game of 5 balls that you manipulate in the air trying not to fall these balls. One of them is rubber, and the rest is glass. The five balls are: Work, family, health, friends, soul. It will not be long before you realize that (work) is a rubber ball. Whenever you fall, you will jump again, while the other balls are made of glass. If one of them falls, it will not return to its previous form. It will either be damaged, bruised, cracked or even scattered.

You have to be aware of that and strive for it. Manage your work efficiently during working hours, take the time to be assured of your sincerity, give the necessary time to your family and friends, take appropriate rest, and take care of your health. If you are gone, it isn't easy to return as it was.

The five balls are: Work, family, health, friends, soul.





Giuliano Liguori
CEO at GLWEB Digital Transformation
Advisory

A Clear Digital Vision

In an increasingly competitive world, we should have a deep understanding of the business in which we operate, how it is evolving, and the new innovations that we could embrace or build to remain competitive and conquer new market segments. To do this, we must be able to develop a clear vision of transformation that takes us to another level of performance.

By embracing Digital Transformation, we will deal with artificial intelligence, machine and deep learning, virtual reality, and a lot of other innovative technologies. At first sight, it might even sound fearful to lead the business in such a complex and intricate direction. With this in mind, we will consider some strategies to better understand and take competitive advantage of the huge streaming of data in the current era of the digital revolution.

The Digital Revolution

Nowadays, the world is increasingly full of new possibilities offered by advanced technologies. Our society has become filled with the incredible capabilities of AI, IoT, robots, drones, machine learning capabilities, augmented reality and so on. Digitalization and new technologies have been rocking in the past few decades and humankind has faced the era of the fourth industrial revolution. The Fourth Industrial Revolution, or Industry 4.0, is the theorization of a manufacturing paradigm based on the concept of the "Cyber Physical System" (CPS), where advanced computer systems can interact machines augmented with computational, communication and control capabilities.

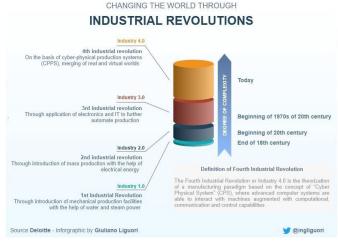


Fig.1 — Changing the world through Industrial revolutions

Let's take a quick look at the digitalization progress. How can we comprehend it? One idea is to use the concept of FLOPS. FLOPS is a measure of calculations per second for floating-point operations. Floating-point operations are needed for very large or very small real numbers or computations that require a large dynamic range. It is, therefore, a more accurate measure than instructions per second.

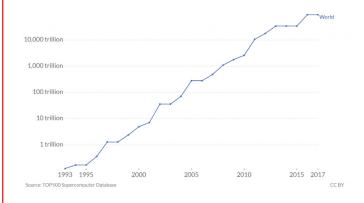


Fig. 2 — Computing capability growth (Source)

As computing capabilities continue to increase and handle higher complexity, computers are able to run applications that consider the features of human brains. Recent research on Intelligence Process Automation shows us that the implementation of digital automation could increase the success rate of transformation projects by 70%. For example, the use of Robotic Process Automation (RPA) can help organizations earn up to 4 times the ROI (Return on Investment), and the conscious and effective adoption of AI can increase business productivity by up to 40%.

In order to remain competitive, modern companies must keep pace with the digital revolution, exploiting the use of these smart technologies and integrating them into corporate digital networks. The huge amount of data generated can be processed and transformed into strategic information for the benefit of production and, therefore, of the business.

But how is it possible to transform the collected raw data into valuable commercial business information?

When predictive analyses are considered important for business purposes, those in the interdisciplinary field must use scientific methods, processes, algorithms, and systems to extract knowledge and insights from both structured and unstructured data. We call this field Data Science and it is related to data mining and Big Data. A Data Scientist is responsible for extracting, manipulating and generating predictions from the data.

Here the question will arise: why should businesses utilize data scientists? There is enormous value in data processing and analysis-and that is where a data scientist steps into the spotlight. An example of adding real value for a company is the creation of predictive models that combine data from all connected areas. In this way, data scientists know how to get actionable insight out of gigabytes of data and thus unlock its power to drive business value.

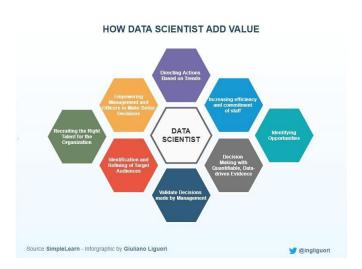


Fig. 3 — How Data Scientist add Value

Data Science: Approaches and Solutions

The complexity of data and finding meaningful solutions for businesses creates the need for Data Visualization. Visualizations with properly implemented algorithms give us the ability to absorb information more quickly, improved insights, comprehension of the appropriate next step, ability to maintain the audience's interest and many other advantages.

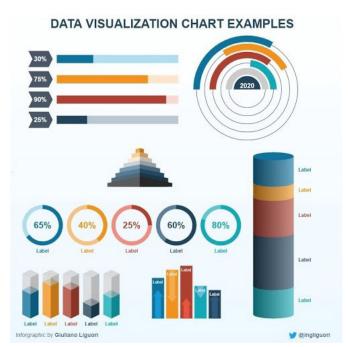


Fig.4 -Data Visualization chart

Data scientists need to effectively manage their projects to lead to higher output and faster results. During their investigations, they might use tools like Python or R to develop an algorithm, explore the data and make charts or use a couple of other data visualizing applications. Software applications like Jupyter Notebooks allow data cleaning and transformation, numerical simulation, statistical modeling, data visualization, learning, and more. Software like Julia is specifically designed to guickly implement the basic mathematics that underlies most data science, like matrix expressions and linear algebra. However, working with large datasets on a local machine may result in the overheating of machines from the simplest of machine learning tasks. A great way to solve this is to move work to a cloud-based data science enterprise platform. This gives data scientists the tools to do everything they want: seamless effortlessly-scalable collaboration, computational resources, and easy analytics. One of the best solutions available is performed by Saturn Cloud, which is supported by the AWS high-availability infrastructure.

Saturn Cloud allows data scientists to deploy, manage, and scale the PyData stack using Jupyter Notebooks in the cloud. This infrastructure is optimized to support DASK, which is a flexible library for distributed parallel computing in Python. It provides ways to scale Pandas, Scikit-Learn, and Numpy workflows more natively, with minimal rewriting. Many data scientists appreciate DASK essentially because it is a very versatile tool that works with a wide array of workloads.

MAP IN DATA SCIENCE CONTEXT | Artificial | Neural | Neur

Fig. 5 -Mind map in Data Science context

Tips to Manage Data Science Projects

Let's take a look at some good tips that will help us better deal with our Data science initiatives.

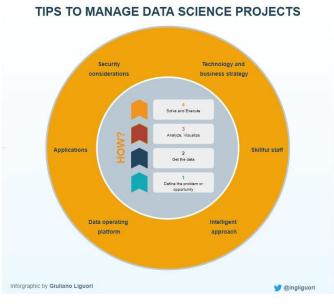


Fig. 6 — Tips to manage Data Science projects

Technology and Business Strategy

Enterprises gain certain advantages in implementing modern, innovative technology. However, technology implementation and usage must reflect the strategic vision of the business. It becomes evident that companies must have a clear awareness of what they are trying to achieve with technology to ensure a positive outcome.

Skillful Staff

It is obvious that entering into this new digitalization era will bring us new jobs and the digital transformation requires completely new skill sets. Therefore, companies should put their efforts into training existing staff members to master these skills and/or recruiting new people with different competencies.

Intelligent Approach

We need to try to sharpen our approach by focusing our intellect on further innovation and data-driven decision making that can give us a potent edge. We must develop predictive models based on new business intelligence that requires the right combination of human and artificial intelligence.

Data Operating Platform

Data processing and storage should be cloud-based. It is recognized that businesses see an improvement in performance and security after switching to the cloud. Saturn Cloud is one of the most adaptable cloud-based platforms for Data Science. Data Science teams, as well as Enterprises that had chosen a cloud-based platform, don't need to spend time on administration for the infrastructure and instead can benefit from effortlessly-scalable computational resources.

Applications

Data science covers a very wide field and therefore its applications are countless. Various sectors such as banking, transportation, e-commerce, healthcare, and many others are using data science to improve their products and services. By choosing the right platform, we can make our data science projects as effective as possible. For example, a platform that gives data scientists the tools to build scalable projects that can handle massive datasets, like DASK, put them far ahead of their competitors.

Security Considerations

Given the challenges and risks, we need to make some considerations concerning cybersecurity and data protection that remain the primary concerns of CISOs when businesses decide to move to the cloud.

For a CISO, information security and privacy are of paramount importance, though from the point of view of a data scientist, security means automating version control so that you never risk forgetting to commit. Indeed, the ability to manage data versioning alongside code versioning ensures the science is always reproducible.

Summary

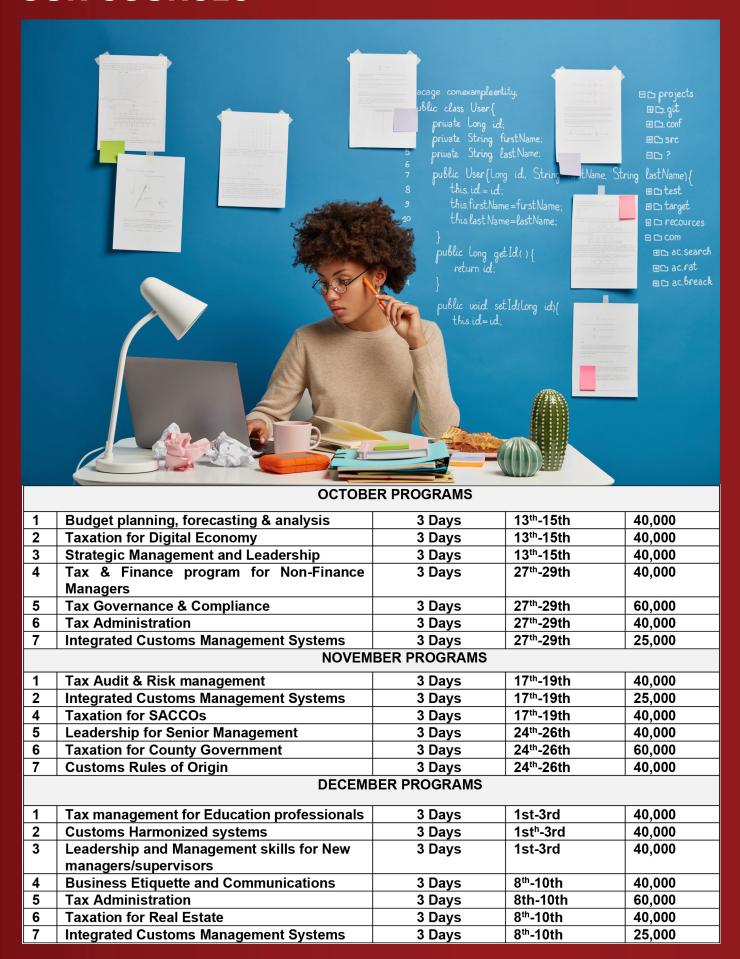
Any organization can be innovative, fast to deliver, and engaged with each new venture. Driving implementation at a rapid pace is increasingly accessible as long as businesses embrace and benefit from the opportunities of the digital age. With all the possibilities, tools, and empowering, innovative technologies coming out every day, organizations need to sharpen their business opportunities based on the right data-driven business models.

Data-driven decision making is more effective and realistic as the decisions are based on actual information and not assumptions. One of the important aspects of data visualization is that it does not just take into consideration past data, but also anticipates the future based on various holistic factors. For this reason, data science must be a fundamental component of any digital transformation effort.

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THE QUARTERLY OUTLOOK

OUR COURSES







JOURNAL OF AFRICAN TRANSFORMATION

Special 2022 Edition

Challenges and opportunities for curbing illicit financial flows to boost domestic resource mobilization for financing sustainable development in Africa

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Journal of African Transformation published by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) invites papers and submissions for its special edition on the theme "Challenges and opportunities for curbing illicit financial flows to boost domestic resource mobilization for financing sustainable development in Africa".

In 2015, the high-level panel on illicit Financial Flows from Africa commissioned by the African Union Commission and the UN Economic Commission for Africa in 2012 and led by former president of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, published its report on illicit financial flows (IFFs) estimating that annual outflows of US50 billion from Africa through IFFs. The report influenced the deliberations and agreement on sustainable development goals and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for financing sustainable development agreed by the international community in 2015.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹ identifies the reduction of illicit financial flows (IFFs) as a priority area to build peaceful societies around the world. Combating IFFs is a crucial component of global efforts to promote peace, justice and strong institutions, as reflected in target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals; "By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime".

IFFs pose serious challenges to the realization of the SDGs as they drain countries of the needed resources to fund their socio-economic development including improving social services, facilitating agricultural transformation, and reducing poverty and inequality. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development² therefore calls for the redoubling of efforts to substantially reduce IFFs, with a view to eventually eliminating them.

A review of the literature reveals that there are different understandings of what IFFs constitute and how they can be measured, ranging from estimates of money laundering schemes that rely on the banking system to disguise the illicit origin of funds, to macroeconomic measures that compare mirror trade statistics between countries. The absence of a common understanding hampers policy action to combat IFFs in the national context and to agree on common policy goals at the international level.

Further work to bring consensus to the definition and therefore a conceptual framework detailing on what should be included within the scope of IFFs or how the component parts could be measured was reached by the inter-Agency Expert group on financing Sustainable Development and the UN Statistical Commission under the leadership of UNCTAD and UNODC supported by UNECA and other international experts from national statistical offices, academics and practitioners. The framework provided a statistical definition of IFFs as: "Financial flows that are illicit in origin, transfer or use, that reflect an exchange of value and that cross-country borders." The agreement of this conceptual framework and statistical measurement methodologies however requires the need for continuous assessment and review of the statistical methodologies to adapt them to various local conditions in developing and developed countries.

The key elements or types of IFF3 include tax evasion and avoidance, over-invoicing, and under-pricing, proceeds of corruption, financing of crime and terrorism.

IFFs thrive on networks of hidden resource flows. Once IFFs leave the country of origin, they may go directly to the destination country or indeed pass through a transit country, usually a safe haven, placing onerous processes for investigators and trackers to follow them. Yet with developments of better understanding of the IFFs concept, it is imperative that these resources lost from countries of origin can be returned to facilitate sustainable development and achievement of the SDGs in country of origin. Asset recovery is thus a significant ambition of African countries⁴ who are suffering leakages through IFFs.

The key research questions on the IFFs include:

What is the nature, context and manifestations of IFFs in different African countries?

How do IFFs impact on the state and society in Africa?

What are the main challenges African countries are facing in effectively curbing IFFs including the issue of institutional weaknesses?

What kind of reforms can African countries undertake in curbing IFFs?

How can digitalization and technological transformation create opportunities for curbing IFFs?

How can Africa take advantage of developments on the international stage with various initiatives aimed at curbing aspect of IFFs?

How can Africa overcome the challenges it is confronted with in recovering assets lost through IFFs?

How can global coalition on addressing IFFs be foisted and strengthened in addressing the problem?

The sub-themes to be addressed by the special edition include:

- Conceptual and theoretical issues on IFFs and measurement issues;
- · Context, manifestations, and dynamics of IFFs;
- Country experiences on IFFs on the scale, magnitude and dimensions of the problem and national efforts at curbing it;
- Challenges and opportunities in addressing the problem of IFFs;
- The role of digitization and technological revolution in addressing the problem of IFFs:
- National, regional and global coalitions in combating IFFs;
- Comparative experiences, lessons learned and future prospects in curbing IFF

The journal invites theoretical and empirical papers, with both qualitative and quantitative approaches for the special edition. The papers should address the above research questions but not limited to them. While the submissions should be rigorous and scientifically grounded, we encourage that the papers should also have policy bent and recommendations that could support African countries in addressing the challenges of IFF.







Submission

All submissions will be peer reviewed. Only original and quality work shall be accepted for publication.

Send your manuscripts to eca-jat@un.org and cc; eca-spord-ood@un.org on or before 15 December 2021. Authors whose articles are selected will be notified by the mid of January 2022

For any inquiries, write to the Editor-in-Chief at eca-jat@un.org with a subject line "Attention Editor-in-chief".

Submission Instructions

Articles should be between 6,000 and 10,000 words in length. This includes all text, for example, the structured abstract, references, all text in tables, and figures and appendices. Please allow 520 words for each figure or table.

Authors should follow JAT Author Guidelines; Click here

Deadline for Paper Submission

Deadline for the submission of papers: 15 December 2021

Important Note

The Special Issue is open to submissions from researchers, policy makers, development practitioners and others, with special appeal to the participation of young researchers and women.

About the Journal: The Journal of African Transformation is a bi-annual inter-disciplinary and peer-reviewed scholarly periodical published by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). The Journal is committed to publishing very high quality and original research that makes cutting-edge advances on African development issues. It seeks to publish scholarly empirical and theoretical research articles that contribute to Africa's development thinking, policy and practice.

¹A/RES/70/1

²A/CONF.227/20. United Nations, Report of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, Addis Ababa 13–16 July 2015 (New York, 2015), para. 23–24.

³On the conceptual framework on IFFs, UNODC and UNCTAD identify the following types of IFFs (i)-Illegal tax and commercial IFFs (ii) IFFs from aggressive tax avoidance (iii) IFFs from illegal markets (iv) IFFs from corruption (v) IFFs from exploitation-type activities (vi) IFFs from financing of crime and terrorism; see https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/IFF/IFF_Conceptual_Framework_for_publication_15Oct.pdf

4http://www.auanticorruption.org/uploads/Common_African_Position_on_Asset_Recovery_-_EN.pdf

STATEMENT | SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

World Bank Group to Discontinue Doing Business Report



The Doing Business Report

- Formalize and enforce the methodology and procedures used by the Doing Business team to collect, analyze, and confirm the data incorporated into the *Doing Business* report.
- Consider establishing an authorization process at the senior management level for changes to the *Doing Business* report's methodology or publication process to avoid abuse of discretion by a single manager.
- Enhance procedures/safeguards to data changes occurring during or after Bank-Wide Review.
- Consider further embargoes on distribution of rankings, including not sharing rankings outside of the Doing Business team until the report is finalized.
- Develop and implement procedures for the routine audit of *Doing Business* data and rankings by an independent party (i.e., external to the Doing Business team).
- Establish safeguards to protect DECVP's research-focused mission and to reduce potential
 conflicts of interest that can arise from DEC taking on operational or client-facing
 responsibilities such as RAS support.
- Consider making the underlying data for the *Doing Business* report available to external researchers following publication of each year's report to have an independent check on the reliability of DB methodology and calculations.

TAX PRISM.

Tax Prism is a quarterly publication focused on increasing the readers' knowledge on tax, customs, fiscal policy and management matters. Further, the publication seeks to provide a conversational platform for businesses with an aim of connecting, informing and promoting innovation for better positioning and improved business compliance. The magazine actively keeps its audience up to date with changing trends in the business environment (macro and micro).

You're invited subscribe to Tax Prism:

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Available October– December 2021 Email: Tax.Prism@kra.go.ke



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EFFECT OF PROPERTY TAXATION ON HOME OWNERSHIP



Nancy Muhoya

Chief Executive Officer – EY East Africa

Shelter is one of the basic human needs. Home ownership is thus a key achievement for most of the adult population. It is a social investment in the sense that it provides shelter. On the other hand, it is also a commercial investment since its value appreciates over time.

Demand for housing has been growing over the years as more Kenyans seek to own a home. According to the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the country has a housing backlog estimated at 1.85 million units. Home ownership, has, however, remained a challenge for most Kenyans owing to various challenges among them being the high cost of land in urban and peri-urban areas, property taxes and limited affordable credit facilities.

The right of every citizen to affordable housing is enshrined in the Constitution which states that every person has a right to accessible and adequate housing and to reasonable standards of sanitation. It is against this backdrop that in 2017, the Kenyan Government developed four key thematic areas which it would focus on in the next five years. One of the four pillars is affordable housing with the Government working towards the construction of 500,000 affordable housing units by the end of 2022.

The Government has towards this end established various initiatives to facilitate the achievement of the ambitious objective. The development of these housing units is mainly set to be achieved through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). Furthermore, the World Bank provided a \$250 million loan to facilitate this program and enhance access to affordable finance.

Further the Government has established the Kenya Affordable Housing Finance Project to support the establishment and

operationalization of the Kenya Mortgage Refinance Corporation (KMRC). KMRC specializes in provision of solutions to one of the challenges hampering home ownership – cost of financing. The financial institution is charged with the responsibility of providing long-term funding to financial institutions which will act as an incentive that will enable them to offer long tenure loans to homebuyers.

PROPERTY TAXES

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), a property tax is a tax that is levied by the governing authority of a jurisdiction in which a property is located. This can be a national government, a county or geographical region or a municipality.

Property taxes are mainly levied on real estate an annual basis or during a real estate transaction. This is different from a tax on rental income which is basically charged on income. The number and amount of property taxes paid depends on various factors among them being the value of the property and the various rates set by national or county governments.

The World Bank notes that property tax is the single most important local tax in developing countries. At a global level, over 130 countries are said to have some form of tax on property although the contribution to the total tax revenue varies across countries.

The design and implementation of property taxes is a critical determinant of the ability of the citizenry of a country to own and develop properties.

Kenya has two levels of property taxes; (i) the National Government that is empowered to collect property taxes during a transaction in the form of capital gains tax and stamp duty and, (ii) the County Governments which have the legal powers to enforce property taxes on the development of land in the form of levies, fees, annual property rates/rents and similar charges.

Under the current tax regime, a capital gain arising from the transfer of a property is subject to capital gains tax at the rate of 5% of the capital gain. This is payable by the seller. Additionally, stamp duty is levied on the buyer at varying rates depending on the location of the property. Basically, stamp duty is levied at a

flat rate of 4% on properties located in municipalities, and at a flat rate of 2% on properties located outside municipalities.

At the County Government level, the seller is required to settle the annual land rent on leasehold property as set out by various County Governments based on the locality of the property. The buyer is then expected to honour the land rent from the transfer date.

INCENTIVES & PROPERTY TAXES EXEMPTIONS – HOME OWNERSHIP

The wide array of property taxes no doubt has a direct impact on the overall cost of home ownership. Consequently, the Government of Kenya has over the years enacted various incentives and property taxes exemptions to reduce the cost of home ownership.

For instance, the transfer of land by an individual where the transfer value is not more than three million shillings is exempt from capital gains tax.

In recognition of the fact that first time homeowners face the biggest challenges in the home ownership journey the Government has provided the following incentives. The purchase of a house by a first-time owner under affordable housing scheme is exempt from stamp duty. From an income tax perspective, the amount withdrawn from the National Housing Development Fund to purchase a house by a contributor who is a first-time homeowner is exempt from income tax.

Based on a survey conducted by the Kenya Bankers Association in 2015, 18% of the current homeowners acquired their homes through inheritance or as gifts. To cater for this group, the Government has provided the following tax incentives.

Firstly, the transfer of title of immovable property to a registered family trust is exempt from capital gains tax. This is in addition to exemption from capital gains tax of property which is transferred or sold for the purpose of transferring the title or the proceeds into a registered family trust.

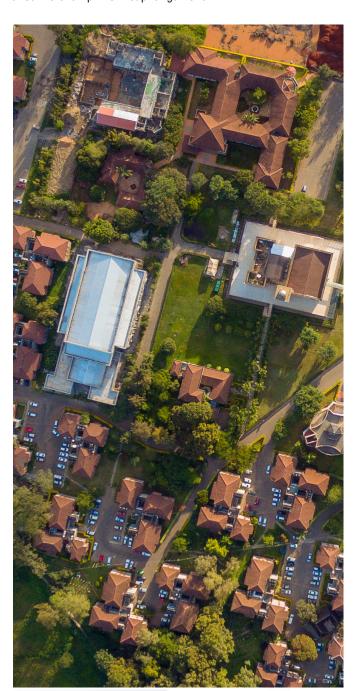
Secondly, property which is transferred or sold for the purpose of administering the estate of a deceased person where the transfer or sale is completed within two years of the death of the deceased or within such extended time as the Commissioner may allow in writing is also exempt from capital gains tax. Also notable is the fact that the transfer of a private residence if the individual owner has occupied the residence continuously for the three year period immediately prior to the transfer is exempt from capital gains tax.

Lastly, the transfer of assets between spouses; between former spouses as part of a divorce settlement or a bona fide separation agreement; to immediate family; to immediate family as part of a divorce or bona fide separation agreement is exempt from capital gains tax.

The National Housing Corporation (NHC) is charged with the responsibility of increasing affordable home ownership under the affordable housing agenda. To ensure that it fulfils its role in the most efficient manner the Government has extended the

following tax incentives to NHC. The transfer of a house constructed under an affordable housing scheme from the developer to the National Housing Corporation is exempt from stamp duty. Additionally, the income of the National Housing Development Fund is exempt from income tax.

Ownership of homes through mortgages still remains a viable option for Kenyans and to reduce the cost of mortgage financing, the transfer of property for the purpose only of securing a debt or a loan, or on a transfer by a creditor for the purpose only of returning property used as security for a debt or a loan is exempt from capital gains tax.

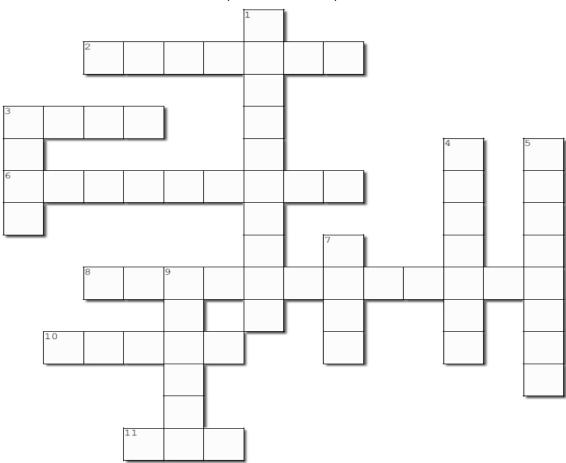


CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it is noteworthy that property taxes play a crucial role in home ownership and should be a key area of consideration by policy makers to ensure that the objectives of the affordable housing agenda are realised as envisaged by the Government.

8th Tax Prism Knowledge Challenge.

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Across

- **2.**Our Constitution in Article 43 (1)(b) recognizes the right to accessible and adequate.....
- **3.**In Kenya stamp duty is levied at a flat rate of% on properties located in municipalities.
- **6.**the Finance Act 2020 Introduced theTax Disclosure Program(VDTP).
- **8.**Housing refers to the provision of 'small loans at market rates for relatively short-terms' (Ferguson, 2004).
- **10.**Instruments of national power identified as Diplomacy, Informational, Military, Economic and Social.
- 11Most experts suggest at least..... to 15% of your total income should go into retirement savings over your working life.

Down

- 1.AI is Simply referred to as the of human intelligence in machines.
- **3.**Mortgage penetration across the Africa continent typically ranges from zero topercent.
- **4.**"If your presence doesn't make an impact, yourwon't make a difference" T. Smith
- **5.**Atax is a tax that is levied by the governing authority of a jurisdiction in which a property is located
- 7.In Kenya, a capital gain arising from the transfer of a property is subject to capital gains tax at rate ofpercent.
- **9.**A nursery where babies and young children are cared for during the working day.

Solution for Previous Issue No.7

Across.

2.TWO 5.ETHIOPIA 7. COMPETITIVENESS 8. MANUFACTURING 12.GIG

13. TRANSPARENCY

Down.

1.RWANDA 3.TVETA 4. APPRENTICESHIP 6.SEVEN 7. AfCFTA

10. NFT 11.FIFTY

Upcoming Events





World Teachers Day

October 5, 2021 (In: 14 days)

Commemorated yearly on the 5th of October, it helps the world to understand and see the impact of teachers on the development of students in the society.

Join us in celebrating all our fa...

view Event



International Open Access Week

October 19, 2021 (In: 28 days)

International Open Access Week, is a global event aimed at enhancing access to free schorlaly work and its overall benefits. Open access helps advance knowledge and research in various fiels for b...

view Event



18th Graduation Ceremony

November 19, 2021 (In: 58 days)

The end of the year marks an opportunity for the Kenya School of Revenue Administration community to reflect upor key achievements of the year. It is also an opportune time for students to celebrat...

view Event



International Customs Day

January 26, 2022 (In: 127 days)

International Customs Day was instituted by the World Customs Organization (WCO) to be commemorated on the 26th of every January. The day is set aside to recognize the role of custom officials in m...

view Event