

**BAT Kenya crowned Employer of the Year.** British American Tobacco (BAT) Kenya Ltd has been declared Employer of the Year. The firm was awarded at an event organised by the Federation of Kenya Employers in Nairobi on Friday. Centum Investments was ranked second while the University of Nairobi came third. BAT also featured among the top three in four category rankings by PricewaterhouseCoopers. [Kevin Ogotu]



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Environmental sustainability- proper waste management, pollution management-air, noise, water. We must avoid tragedy of commons.

# Business

**AFRICA NEWS: NIGERIAN SOLDIERS KILL 13 BOKO HARAM MILITANTS. P. 38**

## In Brief

### ICT. Microsoft to deliver cloud from South Africa

Microsoft revealed plans to deliver the complete, intelligent Microsoft Cloud for the first time from data centres located in Africa. The new investment is a major milestone in the company's mission to empower people and organisations achieve greater recognition in digital transformation. Microsoft will deliver cloud services, including Microsoft Azure, Office 365, and Dynamics 365, from data centres located in Johannesburg and Cape Town.

Frankfurt, Germany

## KICC bets on renovations to grow conference tourism



**KICC Chief Executive Nana Gacaga giving a gift hamper to a guest during the IMEX tourism global fair, in Frankfurt Germany.** [Courtesy]

The Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) is scheduled for a facelift to tap growing conference tourism in the country.

The sprucing up is meant to ensure that conferencing at KICC is an all-round business. KICC Chief Executive Nana Gacaga said the corporation would increase the number of events it organises to attract more conference tourists.

"The corporation will organise at least four events per year to attract international participation. These will be held during the low-conference season.

"This will also help increase Kenya's conference tourism market share. The centre will also undertake renovations from July this year to modernise the meeting rooms," she said.

Ms Gacaga spoke at the global fair, IMEX, in Frankfurt, Germany, where players in Kenya's tourism industry exhibited their potential. The principal secretary in the Ministry of Tourism, Fatuma Hirsi Mohamed, led a delegation that was tasked with marketing and positioning Kenya as a renowned business events destination.

The industry segment

accounted for 32 per cent of tourists who visited Kenya in 2016.

Business and conference tourism was critical to the rebound of the tourism industry, which earned the country more than Sh99.7 billion, a 17 per cent growth, in 2015. The turnaround last year saw the number of visitors growing 13.5 per cent to 1.1 million.

According to the Kenyan National Bureau of Statistics, tourism's revival was due to high profile conferences that took place in Kenya during the year. [Macharia Kamau]