

Our hands tied in ICT Bill, says House team

BY LYNET IGADWAH

The fate of tech professionals hangs in a balance after a key Parliamentary committee admitted that withdrawing the 'oppressive' Bill tabled by Majority leader Aden Duale was beyond it.

The National Assembly Energy, Information and Communication committee on Thursday declined a request by Information Principal Secretary Victor Kyalo to withdraw the ICT Practitioners Bill 2016.

The Bill proposes that for one to be eligible for registration, one should be a holder of a Bachelor's Degree and have a minimum of three years relevant experience, something that has sparked outcry among the tech professionals.

Beyond committee

"Withdrawing the Bill is beyond this committee as it is now a property of the House. The much we can do is recommend amendments on the contentious clauses," said Kigumo MP Jamleck Kamau who chairs the House committee.

Mr Kyalo said the Bill does not reflect the policy position of the ministry and should be withdrawn immediately as it stifles innovation and economic growth.

The ICT Practitioners Bill 2016 is pushing for an Act of Parliament to provide for the training, registration, licensing, practice and standards of ICT practitioners and for connected purposes.



SULEIMAN MBATIAH | NATION

Tourist attraction

A herd of impalas, all with broken horns, graze at the Lake Nakuru National Park in Nakuru on Saturday. Male impalas often lose their horns while fighting for dominance of a herd while some are born with a single or no horn, a rare occurrence

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Ending cartels and boosting competition in consumer markets will both help growth and alleviate poverty, according to the World Bank and the African Competition Forum (ACF), which produced the report.

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At the same time, the report warns that fundamental market reforms to increase competition in key sectors is critical for competitiveness and economic growth. It also suggests that the impact would be even larger if fundamental changes were implemented in other services such as electricity, telecommunications and transport.

"Strengthened competition policy in Africa not only encourages sustainable economic growth and competitiveness across the continent by creating firms and industries that are more productive, it directly impacts poverty by encouraging firms to deliver the best deals to consumers - particularly the poor -- protecting them from paying higher prices for essential goods and services," said Anabel Gonzalez, senior director of the World Bank Group's Trade & Competitiveness Global Practice.

Sub-Saharan and North African countries have relatively low levels of competition. More than 70 per cent of African countries rank in the bottom half of States globally on the perceived intensity of local rivalry and

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