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Konza Technopolis Phase 1: Kenya's Smart City Vision Comes to Life



Nairobi, Kenya – 06 October, 2025 — The Government of Kenya, through the **Konza Technopolis Development Authority (KoTDA)**, has achieved major milestones in **Phase 1 of the Konza Technopolis project**, ushering in a new era of digital transformation, job creation, and sustainable urban development.

Commonly known as “Silicon Savannah,” Konza Technopolis is the country's flagship

smart city project and a central pillar of Kenya Vision 2030. It is designed to be a world-class, innovation-driven city that integrates technology, education, and modern living to drive economic growth.

A Foundation for the Future

Located about 60 kilometres southeast of Nairobi, Konza Technopolis sits on 5,000 acres of land across Machakos, Makueni, and Kajiado counties. The project is being implemented in phases, with Phase 1 covering about 410 acres — focusing on essential infrastructure, institutions, and investor-ready parcels.

This first phase has laid the groundwork for a new economic hub. It features:

- A fully operational National Data Centre, hosting government and enterprise cloud services.

- The Konza Complex, a modern nine-storey headquarters now housing KoTDA and the Open University of Kenya.
- The Kenya Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), a postgraduate science and engineering institution modeled on South Korea's KAIST, nearing completion.
- Smart infrastructure including roads, power, water, and fibre connectivity, making the city ready for investors and residents.

These achievements demonstrate that Konza is transitioning from vision to reality — a sign that Kenya's digital future is no longer a distant dream.





Smart and Sustainable Development

Konza Technopolis stands out as Africa's pioneer green and smart city, integrating environmental sustainability into its design. The city plan includes solar-powered energy systems, efficient water use, waste recycling, and dedicated green spaces. Advanced ICT systems have been embedded into the city's infrastructure to support future applications such as:



- Smart traffic management and mobility systems
- Integrated city monitoring and security
- Efficient waste and energy management
- Reliable digital communication and data services

According to KoTDA, these systems will help ensure that Konza is not only a hub for innovation but also a livable, clean, and sustainable city that responds to the needs of both people and businesses.

Driving Jobs, Innovation, and Economic Growth

Once fully operational, Phase 1 is projected to create over 16,000 direct jobs and thousands more indirectly. These opportunities span ICT, education, construction, hospitality, and research sectors.

“Konza represents a future where young

Kenyans can innovate, study, and work without having to leave the country,” said, CEO of KoTDA. “Phase 1 has shown that Kenya can deliver world-class infrastructure and digital capabilities that rival any in the world.”

Already, local and international investors have expressed strong interest in developing office spaces, technology parks, data facilities, residential areas, and innovation hubs within the technopolis. The government continues to encourage public-private partnerships (PPPs) to attract additional funding and expertise.

A Model of Public-Private Collaboration

Phase 1 has been delivered through close collaboration between the Government of Kenya, international development partners, and the private sector. Partners from South Korea have played a key role, especially in the development of KAIST and ICT infrastructure.

The success of this first phase reflects Kenya's growing reputation as a regional leader in digital transformation and an attractive destination for investment in technology, innovation, and green development.



Overcoming Challenges and Moving Forward

Like any major infrastructure project, Konza's journey has faced challenges — from funding constraints to logistical hurdles. However, through strong leadership and renewed government commitment, the project has regained momentum and demonstrated tangible progress.

In 2023, President William Ruto announced that KSh 100 billion had been secured to accelerate Phase 2, focusing on expanding commercial spaces, residential zones, and smart city systems.

The second phase will see the rollout of the Digital Media City, innovation hubs, manufacturing facilities, and transport linkages to Nairobi and surrounding areas, including the Machakos-Emali corridor. These developments will further position Konza as a city of innovation, education, and opportunity.

Kenya's Digital Vision in Motion

Konza Technopolis aligns closely with national and continental priorities — from Kenya Vision 2030 to the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It aims to help Kenya transition into a knowledge-based, middle-

income economy driven by technology and innovation.

“This city is a symbol of Kenya's digital ambition,” said Cabinet Secretary for ICT and the Digital Economy. “Through Konza, we are investing in our youth, our talent, and our global competitiveness. The foundation is laid — and the future is here.”

About Konza Technopolis Development Authority (KoTDA)



The Konza Technopolis Development Authority (KoTDA) is a State Corporation under the Ministry of ICT and the Digital Economy. It is mandated to plan, develop, and manage Konza Technopolis as a sustainable, innovation-driven smart city. KoTDA's mission is to create a globally competitive technology hub that drives Kenya's transformation into a digital economy through innovation, collaboration, and excellence.



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Alten (Kesses 1) Solar Power Station: Kenya's New Beacon of Clean Energy & Local Growth



Uasin Gishu / Eldoret, Kenya – 06 October, 2025 — Alten Kenya Solarfarms BV, a subsidiary of the Spanish renewable energy firm Alten Energías Renovables, in partnership with financiers and local stakeholders, is proud to announce the formal commissioning and full operation of the **Kesses 1 Solar Power Station** (also known simply as **Kesses Solar Power Station** or **Alten Solar Power Station**), located near Eldoret in Uasin Gishu County. This landmark project signifies a major stride in Kenya's clean energy ambitions, delivering clean power, creating jobs, reducing carbon emissions, and boosting local and national infrastructure.

Project Overview

- Name:** Alten (Kesses 1) Solar Power Station
- Location:** Kesses, Uasin Gishu County, near Eldoret, Kenya
- Status:** Operational; construction completed and the station was commissioned in June 2023.
- Installed Capacity:** 40 megawatts (MW) of contracted capacity with a peak capacity rating of approximately 55 MWp (megawatt-peak) under

optimal conditions.

- Annual Energy Output:** Approximately 123,600 megawatt-hours (MWh) of clean electricity per year.
- Households Powered:** This output is sufficient to supply electricity to roughly 245,000 households in Kenya.
- Carbon Emissions Avoided:** The plant helps avoid tens of thousands of tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually.

Ownership, Financing & Partners

- The project is developed and owned by Alten Energías Renovables with a shareholding arrangement: 70% by Alten and 30% by Inspired Evolution Investment Management.
- Financing was secured through multiple institutions, including the Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund (EAIF) (providing a loan of US\$35 million), Standard Bank of South Africa, Stanbic

Bank Kenya, and other lenders. Total cost is around US\$87 million.

- The power produced is sold under a 20-year, take-or-pay Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC).

Technical Features

- Type of Solar Generation:** Ground-mounted Photovoltaic (PV) panels arranged with single-axis trackers (allowing the panels to follow the sun's trajectory to maximize energy capture).
- Panels and Inverters Count:** The installation uses over 161,000 PV modules of ~330 W each and includes 12 inverters as part of the plant's hardware.
- Land Area:** The project covers roughly 250 acres of land for the overall solar farm, of which around 10 hectares are directly occupied by panel layout and generation infrastructure.
- Grid Connection:** Electricity is fed through a 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line that runs between the Turkwel Hydroelectric Plant and the Lessos Substation. The site is positioned so that this existing high-voltage line crosses the plant's property, simplifying transmission infrastructure needs.

Economic, Social and Environmental Impacts

Job Creation & Local Benefits

- Construction Phase Jobs:** Approximately 400 jobs were created during the construction phase.
- Permanent Employment:** About 15 full-time, permanent jobs in operations and maintenance.



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- Community Engagement: Alten engaged with communities before and during construction, offering opportunities for local labour, community benefit programs, and social investment.

Clean Energy & Climate Mitigation

- The station contributes to SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) by increasing Kenya's renewable electricity supply.
- It provides electricity without greenhouse gas emissions associated with fossil fuel-based generation. The avoided CO₂ emissions are substantial, contributing to climate action goals.

Energy Security & National Growth

- Adds significant clean generation capacity to Kenya's grid, reducing reliance on thermal or imported energy sources.
- Helps buffer the grid during periods of drought or when hydropower output is reduced.
- Supports local economic activity in

Uasin Gishu and surrounding regions — agriculture, business, education — by ensuring more reliable and sustainable power supply.

Project Timeline & Milestones

- Financial Closure:** Achieved in early 2022, with major creditors committing resources.
- Construction Start:** Late 2021 / early 2022 period.
- Commissioning Date:** June 2023, when the plant began feeding electricity into the national grid under full commercial operation.

Quotes

"We are thrilled to see Kesses in action, further cementing Kenya's status as a global renewable energy leader. Africa leads the world in solar energy potential, and more projects of this type are needed to ensure we meet the continent's growing demand for energy without compromising greenhouse gas emissions."

— **Sine Zulu, Investment Specialist, Ninety**

One / EAIF

"With the Kesses Project, Standard Bank has been able to provide continued support to the use of clean energy across the African continent allowing for a more sustainable future."

— **Sherrill Byrne, Executive, Energy & Infrastructure Finance, Standard Bank.**

Broader Significance & Alignment with Policy

- Renewable Energy Commitment:** The commissioning of Kesses is part of Kenya's larger energy strategy to scale up renewable generation, meet increasing energy demand, reduce carbon emissions, and ensure sustainable development.
- Sustainable Development Goals:** The plant contributes to several SDGs — particularly SDG 7 (Affordable & Clean Energy), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and indirectly to SDG 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth).
- Decentralization & Regional Growth:** Placing clean energy infrastructure in Uasin Gishu enhances regional balance, benefits rural and urban users, and supports local business and industrial growth around Eldoret.





These images are an artist's impression



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Challenges & Learnings

Site Development: Securing suitable land with good irradiation and connection to existing high-voltage transmission lines was essential. The fact that the 230 kV Turkwel-Lessos line runs through the project's land was a strategic advantage. (

Financing Complexity: Raising capital from multiple lenders, negotiating terms, obtaining financial closure took time, reflecting typical challenges in large renewable energy projects in Africa. Nonetheless, the multi-stakeholder financing model has proven effective.

Regulatory & Grid Integration Issues: Ensuring grid-access, negotiating the PPA with Kenya Power, ensuring stable transmission capacity were key tasks.

Looking Forward

Operational Excellence: Alten will focus on maximizing efficiency, ensuring the panels, trackers, inverters, and control systems are maintained to high standards to meet generation targets.

Local Community Development: Continued engagement with local stakeholders to advance social benefits — job training, local procurement, possibly community energy programs or extension of electricity access.

Scaling Renewables: Kesses 1 serves as a template for future solar farms. As solar and other renewables are ramped up in Kenya, similar projects will help reduce energy costs, improve reliability, and contribute to climate resilience.

Policy & Investment Environment: Success of Kesses 1 will encourage greater investment in renewable energy, reinforce confidence of financiers and developers, and help refine regulatory frameworks and PPAs to be responsive to market realities.

Invitation / Call to Action

Alten, together with project partners, invites media, community leaders, government



agencies, civil society, and the public to:

- Visit the project site (with prior arrangement) to see first-hand the operation and community impact of Kesses 1.
- Collaborate on community development projects linked to the station, such as schools, clinics, environmental programs, or local power connections.
- Support policies and initiatives that promote clean, affordable, and reliable electricity, including incentives for renewable energy, streamlined permitting, and improved transmission infrastructure.

About Alten Kenya Solarfarms & Partners

- **Alten Energías Renovables:** An independent power producer with experience in developing, financing, constructing, and operating solar PV

- projects across Sub-Saharan Africa, Europe, Latin America and elsewhere.
- **Inspired Evolution Investment Management:** A regional investment firm focusing on East Africa, partnering in ownership of the Kesses project.
- **Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund (EAIF):** A PIDG-managed fund providing debt finance for infrastructure projects in Sub-Saharan Africa. It has been a key financier of Kesses 1, helping bring about more clean energy capacity in Kenya and across Africa.
- **Standard Bank / Stanbic Bank Kenya:** Major financiers in the project, helping structure the debt and provide local banking/financial services.





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Two Rivers Mall Extension with Residential: A New Chapter in Nairobi's Integrated Urban Lifestyle



Nairobi, Kenya – 06, September 2025—**Centum Real Estate, in partnership with Two Rivers International Finance & Innovation Centre (TRIFIC) SEZ**, is pleased to announce the forthcoming extension of the Two Rivers development, bringing an expanded residential offering alongside enhanced amenities, infrastructure, and continuation of the mixed-use live-work-play environment that has become iconic in Nairobi. This extension marks a major milestone in transforming Two Rivers from a leading retail and entertainment destination into a fully integrated precinct where people live, work, shop, and engage in community life.

Overview of Two Rivers and its Vision
Two Rivers is a master-planned precinct located on approximately 102 acres in Nairobi's diplomatic blue-zone area of Runda, between Limuru Road, the Northern Bypass, and the Western Bypass. The development is designed to combine retail, commercial, leisure, hospitality, and residential uses into a cohesive smart-city environment.

The precinct includes the Two Rivers Mall, with a gross lettable area of about 67,000 square metres of retail space housing approximately 220 shops including local and

international brands. Other amenities include extensive entertainment offerings, dining, family recreation, and green space, riverfront attractions, conferencing capacity, and smart infrastructure (power, ICT, roads, parking, security) integrated into the design.

Residential components are already part of the Two Rivers vision via the Two Rivers Residences and TRIFIC, which offer a range of housing units designed for both local professionals and expatriates, including 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom units, and loft-style residences.





The Extension: What's New and What to Expect

The extension is designed to build on the success of the existing Two Rivers Mall precinct by significantly enlarging the residential component, enhancing infrastructure, expanding commercial and lifestyle amenities, and further improving sustainability and liveability.

Key features of the extension include:

- **Increased Residential Units**
Expansion of the residential offering under TRIFIC to meet growing demand. The current TRIFIC residential units already number in the hundreds (including completed 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom units; the loaf residences and Cascadia). The extension will deliver additional residential units with various configurations (luxury lofts, apartments) to cater to a diverse market: families, professionals, expatriates. High standards for design, security, amenities, and proximity to the mall, offices, green spaces, and public transport.
- **Enhanced Amenities & Lifestyle Components**
More restaurants, retail stores, entertainment venues, and urban leisure spaces to complement those in the mall. Expanded green spaces, riverfront activation (walking paths, seating areas, cafés by the river, water-based attractions where feasible) as currently seen in the riverfront lifestyle offerings within Two Rivers. Fitness, health and wellness amenities (gym, jogging tracks, possibly sports courts) to support residents and visitors alike.

Possible expansion of hotel / serviced apartment offerings to support visitors, business travellers, and guests in the SEZ. TRIFIC already includes hospitality offerings.

- **Sustainability, Energy & Infrastructure Upgrades**

The extension will leverage and expand on the existing sustainability commitments. Already, Two Rivers has a rooftop solar installation, recently upgraded or being upgraded, boosting solar power from 1.2 MW to 3.2 MW to support the mall, offices, and residential blocks. Energy-efficient building designs, natural lighting, cross ventilation, smart usage of water and waste, recycling where possible. State of the art infrastructure: enhanced roads, parking, traffic and parking management systems, security, ICT networks to support the mixed-use precinct.

- **Integration with TRIFIC SEZ and Commercial / Business Spaces**

The extension sits within or adjacent to the Two Rivers International Finance & Innovation Centre (TRIFIC) SEZ, which provides incentives for businesses (lower taxes, VAT exemptions, simplified regulatory frameworks) to establish in the area. Additional Grade-A office space, commercial plots, and mixed-use buildings for businesses, boutiques, healthcare, and services to serve residents and patrons. Increased connectivity (both transport and digital) to ensure that the residential extension is well-connected to Nairobi and surrounding areas, including road access via Limuru Road, bypasses, and possibly public transport enhancements.

Impacts: Economic, Social & Urban Development

The extension is expected to deliver wide-ranging benefits to residents, the local community, and the national economy. Some of the projected impacts include: Job Creation & Economic Growth Construction of the residential blocks, amenities, infrastructure, and retail units will create employment opportunities in construction, finishing, design, contracting, and supply. Once operational, there will be ongoing jobs in facility management, security, hospitality, retail, maintenance, landscaping, etc.

Housing Supply & Urban Living

As demand for quality housing in Nairobi remains strong, particularly in secure, well-amenitized, mixed-use precincts, the extension will help provide additional housing options in a desirable location. This will address part of the housing shortage, especially for professionals, expatriates, and those seeking more integrated lifestyles.

Lifestyle, Wellness & Community

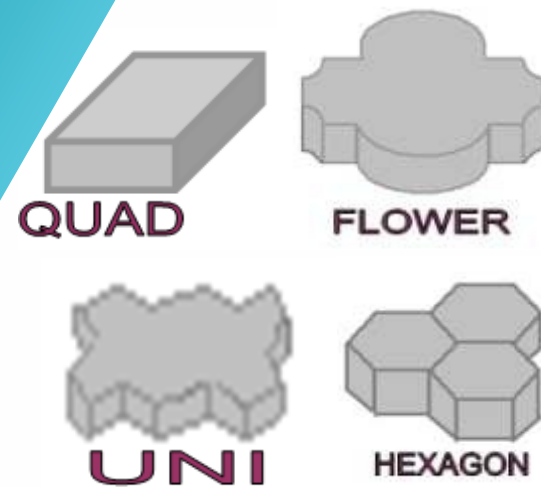
By combining residential living with retail, entertainment, green space, and healthcare in one precinct, Two Rivers is reinforcing the concept of "live-work-play" in Nairobi. Residents benefit from convenience (shopping, dining, recreation close to home), safety, and high quality of life.



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Environmental Sustainability

Increased reliance on solar energy, efficient resource use, waste management, and green design all contribute to reducing the environmental footprint of urban living. These measures align with Kenya's national goals for clean energy, emissions reductions, and sustainable urban development.

Increased Property Value & Investment Attraction

Quality mixed-use developments with smart infrastructure and strong amenities generally enjoy strong capital appreciation. For investors, real estate in Two Rivers is increasingly seen as high potential, especially with the SEZ status boosting desirability.

Broader Urban Planning Impact

The Two Rivers extension serves as a model for future urban precincts in Nairobi and Kenya: how to integrate different uses (housing, commerce, leisure) sustainably, with efficient infrastructure and amenities, in a way that responds to modern needs around work, community, and environment.

Key Statistics & Baseline

To set the context, here are some baseline numbers about Two Rivers and what is already in place:

- Gross lettable retail area: ~67,000 sqm with ~220 shops.
- Location covers ~102 acres.
- Existing residential units under TRIFIC: hundreds of units (including 1-, 2-, 3-bedroom, lofts, Cascadia units etc.).
- Solar power for the complex: currently upgrading rooftop solar from 1.2 MW to 3.2 MW.
- Occupancy in retail: recent entries (e.g. China Square) have pushed occupancy

above 95%.

Strategic Significance & Alignment

The extension aligns with multiple strategic goals:

- National Urban Development & Housing Policy
Kenya has ambitious targets for affordable, quality housing and sustainable urbanization. Developments like Two Rivers help deliver on these by combining housing with amenities, transport, and green infrastructure.
- Vision 2030 Flagship & Sustainability Goals
Two Rivers has been recognised as a Vision 2030 flagship development. Sustainability principles (solar, energy efficient design, green spaces) are core

to its identity.

Support for the TRIFIC Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Strategy

The SEZ framework encourages investment, business competitiveness, and innovation. The residential extension strengthens the appeal of TRIFIC for both local and international investors and businesses.

Resilience & Future-Ready Infrastructure

By embedding smart infrastructure — renewable energy, water recycling, digital, road / traffic management, security — the development aims to be resilient to environmental, economic, and demographic pressures.





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Quotes

“The extension of the Two Rivers precinct marks a pivotal moment for urban living in Nairobi. We are not just adding homes — we are delivering integrated lifestyles where residents can work, relax, and thrive in community. The residential extension complements the existing retail, commercial and lifestyle amenities, creating value for both residents and the broader city.” CEO, Centum Real Estate

“With TRIFIC SEZ as part of this ecosystem, we are making it easier for businesses to locate in a place that offers everything — from housing and healthcare to retail and entertainment. The extension reaffirms our commitment to delivering seamless environments that integrate modern living with sustainable infrastructure.”

CEO, TRIFIC SEZ

“Expanding solar capacity, enhanced infrastructure, and thoughtful design mean that Two Rivers is not only expanding in scale but also in quality. For those choosing where to live, especially working professionals and families, this extension offers a compelling, convenient, and sustainable choice.” Director responsible for Sustainability, Centum / Two Rivers

Timeline & Delivery

Planning & Design: Ongoing / near completion of extension plans and master-planning to integrate with existing Two Rivers Mall, TRIFIC, and surrounding infrastructure.

Groundbreaking for residential blocks / new amenities: expected in end of 2025.
Construction phase: expected to span [number] of months/years, depending on the specific building (residential, commercial, amenities).

Phased occupation: Residents should begin to move into newly completed units as phases are delivered, with full completion of all extension components.

Invitation to Stakeholders & Investors Centum Real Estate and TRIFIC SEZ invite:

- Prospective residential buyers and investors to engage in this new offer of homes, with varied unit types, competitive finishes, and robust amenities.
- Commercial tenants and businesses to consider expanded retail, hospitality, medical, and service-oriented outlets as the population base increases.
- Stakeholder collaboration: local government, transport authorities, utility providers, and community organisations to partner in ensuring that infrastructure, transport connectivity, security, and public services match the growth.
- Sustainability partners and service providers to support renewable energy, water management, waste management, green building, and environmental initiatives in the extension.

About Two Rivers & TRIFIC SEZ

Two Rivers is a mixed-use master-planned

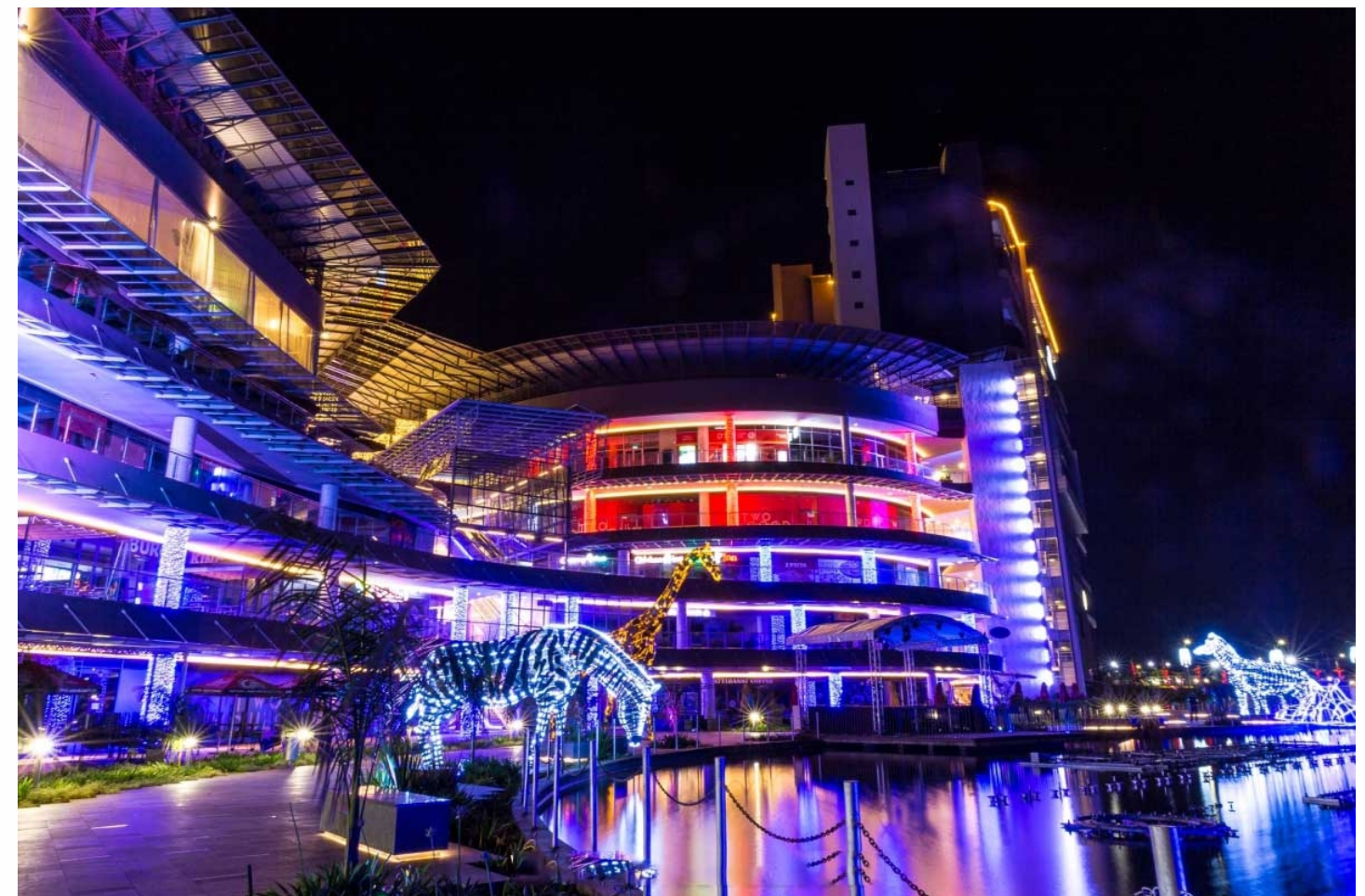
development owned primarily by Centum Group (with other partners), combining retail, hospitality, offices, residential units, entertainment, and lifestyle amenities in a location accessible via major roads and bypasses in Nairobi's expanding urban fabric. TRIFIC SEZ (Two Rivers International Finance & Innovation Centre – Special Economic Zone) is the business service and innovation part of Two Rivers, offering incentives and infrastructure for businesses, along with residential, hospitality, and lifestyle amenities, aimed at creating a vibrant precinct for both work and living.

Final Thoughts

The Two Rivers Mall Extension with Residential represents more than development of buildings; it is about creating a more holistic urban ecosystem. Amid growing city congestion, environmental concerns, and demands for better urban living standards, developments like this show how Nairobi can grow in smarter, greener, more integrated ways.

Every new residential unit, amenity, solar panel, green space, and retail outlet contributes to a future where people have options—not just where to shop, but where to live, where their kids go to school, where they socialise, and how they engage with their community—all within reach.

As Two Rivers expands, Centum and TRIFIC SEZ reaffirm their commitment to improving Nairobi's liveability, supporting sustainable growth, and delivering on Kenya's vision of modern, inclusive urban development.





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Kenya's Vision for Inclusive Urban Living Gains Momentum as Mlolongo Affordable Housing Scheme (Phase III) Breaks Ground



Mlolongo, Machakos County — October 2025:

The Government of Kenya, in partnership with private developers and key stakeholders in the housing sector, has officially launched Phase III of the Mlolongo Affordable Housing Scheme, marking another major milestone in the country's ongoing Affordable Housing Programme (AHP). This transformative project seeks to address the growing housing demand in the Nairobi Metropolitan Region and reinforce the government's commitment to ensuring that every Kenyan has access to decent, affordable, and secure housing.

The Mlolongo Affordable Housing Scheme (Phase III) follows the successful completion and occupation of Phases I and II, which collectively delivered over 2,000 modern, affordable residential units to Kenyan families. Phase III now aims to push this progress even further, introducing an additional 3,200 housing units alongside vital urban infrastructure, green spaces, and community facilities that align with the government's "Live, Work and Play" urban vision.

Transforming Mlolongo into a Modern, Inclusive Urban Hub

Mlolongo, strategically located along the Nairobi–Mombasa Highway and serving as a gateway to the Nairobi Metropolitan area, has experienced rapid population growth in recent years. This expansion has increased pressure on housing, transport, and public amenities. The Affordable Housing Programme identifies Mlolongo as one of the critical urban nodes for integrated housing development to decongest Nairobi while spurring socio-economic transformation within Machakos County.

Speaking during the groundbreaking ceremony, Hon. Alice Wahome, Cabinet Secretary for Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, emphasized the government's commitment to delivering dignified living spaces for all Kenyans. "The Mlolongo Affordable Housing Scheme Phase III is not just about constructing houses—it is about creating communities, stimulating local economies, and redefining urban living for ordinary citizens. Each project under the Affordable Housing Programme is a step toward realizing the President's vision of affordable dignity for all," she said.

Phase III will feature a mix of one-bedroom, two-bedroom, and three-bedroom units priced to suit different income groups. The design incorporates sustainable architecture, efficient energy use, and climate-resilient construction materials—ensuring the development not only provides comfort but also minimizes its environmental footprint.

Project Overview and Design Features

The Mlolongo Affordable Housing Scheme (Phase III) will sit on approximately 40 acres of prime land within the Nairobi Metropolitan Area, with easy access to key transport corridors, including the Nairobi Expressway and Syokimau Railway Station. The site plan integrates residential zones with complementary urban amenities to foster community living and sustainability.

Key features of the project include:

- 3,200 affordable housing units, distributed across multiple high-rise blocks.
- Modern urban infrastructure, including paved roads, street lighting, water reticulation, and advanced sewerage

systems.

- Public amenities, such as early childhood development centres, health clinics, community halls, and retail spaces.
- Green open areas, children's playgrounds, and pedestrian-friendly walkways to promote social interaction and recreation.
- Integrated ICT infrastructure and provision for future smart-city applications.
- Solar energy installations to support sustainable energy consumption and reduce household power costs.

In addition, Phase III incorporates stormwater management systems and solid waste recycling stations, aligning with the broader sustainability goals of the Affordable Housing Programme and Kenya's Green Building Standards.

Public–Private Partnership Driving Success

The Mlolongo Affordable Housing Scheme (Phase III) is being implemented under a Public–Private Partnership (PPP) model, which brings together the Government of Kenya, the State Department for Housing and Urban Development, and several local and international developers. The main development consortium, led by Unity Homes Consortium Limited, will spearhead the design, financing, and construction of the project in close collaboration with the State Department.

Eng. Charles Hinga, Principal Secretary, State Department for Housing and Urban Development, highlighted the success of the PPP framework in delivering large-scale housing solutions efficiently and transparently.

"Through PPPs, we have been able to mobilize private capital, technical expertise, and innovation while ensuring that affordability remains at the core of every development. Mlolongo Phase III will serve as a model for future housing schemes across the country," he noted.

The construction is projected to create over 5,000 direct and indirect jobs, benefiting youth, women, and local artisans in the area. The government's Buy Kenya, Build Kenya initiative will guide procurement to ensure local materials and labor are prioritized, stimulating domestic industries.



Supporting Infrastructure and Connectivity

To ensure the success of the housing scheme, the government is also investing in critical infrastructure upgrades in and around Mlolongo. This includes expanding access roads, upgrading drainage systems, and improving public transportation connections to Nairobi and neighboring towns.

The Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA) has already embarked on improving feeder roads linking Mlolongo to the Nairobi Expressway, Katani Road, and Syokimau Station, ensuring residents can easily commute to work and access services. The project also complements nearby developments such as Konza Technopolis, Athi River Industrial Park, and the Nairobi Eastern Bypass expansion, creating a well-connected and economically vibrant metropolitan corridor.

Financing and Ownership Options

The Mlolongo Affordable Housing Scheme (Phase III) will provide flexible ownership and financing options, allowing Kenyans from various income brackets to participate. These include:

- Tenant purchase schemes (TPS) enabling gradual home ownership through monthly rent-to-own payments.
- Mortgage financing options through the Kenya Mortgage Refinance Company (KMRC), offering long-term, low-interest housing loans.
- Cooperative and savings groups allocations, encouraging collective ownership models among salaried and informal sector workers.

These financing options are complemented by digital registration and allocation systems managed through the government's Boma Yangu portal, ensuring transparency and fairness in unit allocation.

Empowering Communities and Building Hope

Beyond housing, the project's socio-economic impact is expected to transform the lives of thousands of residents in Mlolongo and its surroundings. The scheme includes provisions for small business stalls, vocational training facilities, and community-based social services, empowering local entrepreneurship

and employment opportunities.

Governor Wavinya Ndeti of Machakos County lauded the project, saying: "This development will not only provide homes but also uplift livelihoods. The youth in Machakos will find jobs, women will have business opportunities, and our county will experience inclusive growth. It's a win for our people and the nation."

Community engagement sessions have also been prioritized to ensure that residents are actively involved in shaping the project's implementation and maintenance plans.

A Step Toward Vision 2030 and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda The Mlolongo Affordable Housing Scheme (Phase III) aligns with Kenya's Vision 2030, the Big Four Agenda, and President William Ruto's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). It reinforces the government's goal of delivering at least 200,000 affordable housing units annually, creating jobs and stimulating the construction industry.

By fostering homeownership, enhancing



urban resilience, and promoting sustainable development, this project contributes directly to Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11) — "Sustainable Cities and Communities."

Looking Ahead

Construction of Phase III is expected to take 24 to 30 months, with the first batch of units scheduled for completion in 2027. Once operational, the Mlolongo Affordable Housing Scheme will accommodate an estimated 12,000 residents, creating a thriving, self-sustaining urban community.

As the groundbreaking ceremony concluded, Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome reaffirmed the government's unwavering dedication to affordable housing, stating: "We are building the Kenya of tomorrow—one home, one family, one community at a time. Mlolongo Phase III is proof that when we work together—government, private sector, and citizens—we can turn dreams of homeownership into reality."

About the Affordable Housing Programme

The Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) is a flagship initiative under Kenya's national development agenda aimed at addressing the country's housing deficit, estimated at over two million units. The programme focuses on delivering affordable, quality, and sustainable housing while generating employment and stimulating the construction sector. To date, the AHP has launched over 70 housing projects across the country, with more than 100,000 units under construction or completed.

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