

OPINION: INVESTMENT

Kenya stakes its claim as a global meeting hub

With the Bomas International Convention Centre rising and international arrivals surging, Kenya is positioning Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) as a high-value driver of jobs, revenue and global partnerships.

BY REBECCA MIANO

When delegates gather in a city, they do more than fill hotel rooms and conference halls. They ignite entire economies; taxi drivers ferry them, florists dress tables, audio technicians fine-tune sound systems and curio sellers find eager buyers. This is the power of the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) sector.

Globally, MICE is a formidable economic engine. A 2025 survey valued the international market at \$1.05 trillion, with projections of \$1.14 trillion in 2026; an annual growth rate of 8.4 per cent.

These figures underscore a simple truth: face-to-face encounters remain indispensable. Business travel, incentive trips and international congresses con-

tinue to drive demand, rewarding destinations that invest in infrastructure and connectivity.

Long a spectator, Africa is now emerging as a serious player. The continent's MICE industry is forecast to grow from \$22.04 billion in 2025 to \$37.28 billion by 2029; outpacing growth in the Americas, Europe and Asia-Pacific. This surge reflects deliberate investment, stronger air links and recognition by governments that business events are not luxuries but strategic pillars of diversification. From Cape Town to Kigali, Accra to Nairobi, Africa is building venues, sharpening skills and crafting narratives to attract the world's conveners.

Kenya's performance offers cause for optimism. In 2025, international arrivals hit 2.7 million, a nine per cent rise, generating Ksh 500 billion for



the tourism sector. Within that, MICE stood out: over 736,000 visitors contributed more than Ksh 11 billion in direct revenue. That is nearly a third of all arrivals, and a high-value segment whose spending ripples across hotels, airlines, transport, retail and local enterprises.

Recognising this multiplier effect, the Ministry of Tourism

and Wildlife has positioned MICE at the heart of its strategy. At the centre of this ambition is the Bomas International Convention Centre (BICC), now rising in Nairobi.

The 323,500-square-metre complex will host up to 11,000 delegates across 35 halls and rooms, complemented by three hotels, a shopping mall and an amphitheatre. More than a venue, the BICC is a declaration that Kenya intends to compete for the world's most significant gatherings with facilities that rival any on the continent.

The Cabinet's approval of the Kenya National Convention Bureau further signals a coordinated approach to bidding, marketing and stakeholder engagement. Equally vital is the determination to democratise MICE. The goal is to ensure that

conference tourism benefits not only Nairobi's boardrooms but also communities, cultural spaces and creative industries nationwide.

Kenya's MICE future demands sustained investment, rigorous marketing and unwavering commitment to quality. The prize is substantial: as global business travel regains pre-pandemic vitality and Africa's share of the market expands, Kenya is well placed to claim its portion. The BICC will soon host ideas that move the world and partnerships that shape economies. Each conference will translate into jobs and revenue, reinforcing tourism as a driver of prosperity. Kenya's MICE horizon is bright and the country is ready to seize it.

The author is the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife.



MINISTRY OF WATER, SANITATION AND IRRIGATION
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR IRRIGATION

TENDER NOTICE

State Department for Irrigation which is mandated among other activities, Water Harvesting and Storage for irrigation, management of irrigation schemes and infrastructure as outlined in the Executive Order invites interested and qualified bidders to tender for the following tenders.

S / No	Tender ID No.	Tender Reference No.	Tender Name/Description	County	Tender Security (kshs.)	Eligibility
1.	29328	SDI/706/0007/2026-27	Rehabilitation of Kenyatta Dam	Nakuru	1,500,000	Open
2.	29205	SDI/706/0005/2026 -27	Rehabilitation of Kapnyamis Dam	Nandi	1,500,000	Open
3.	29214	SDI/706/0006/2026-27	Construction of Githiru Irrigation Project	Nyeri	1,500,000	Open
4.	290202	SDI/706/0002/2026 -27	Rehabilitation of Mengit Dam	Nakuru	1,500,000	Open
5.	29204	SDI/706/0004/2026 -27	Rehabilitation of Siwo Irrigation Project	Nandi	1,000,000	Open
6	29198	SDI/706/0001/2026 -27	K.K Baithai Comprehensive School Igembe North and Thaicu Primary School Irrigation Borehole Igembe South	Meru	Tender Securing Declaration Form	Reserved for Women

Tender documents may be viewed and obtained electronically free of charge from:

I. Electronic government procurement system: [URL://egpkenya.go.ke](http://egpkenya.go.ke)

Tenderers are advised that they will not be allowed to tender for more than one project, if a firm bids for more than one tender the firm will automatically be disqualified.

Completed tenders shall be submitted through the e-GP system as per the requirements contained in the tender document.

The Closing / Opening date will be on **13th October, 2026 at 11.00 a.m.**

Bids will be opened immediately electronically in the presence of bidders or their designated representatives who choose to attend.

Bidders who may experience challenge in accessing and uploading tenders on e-GP platform should contact the e-GP Help desk at KISM towers, Ngong Road.

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR IRRIGATION





**Retirement Benefits Authority**

PUBLIC NOTICE

CALL FOR PROPOSALS AND MEMORANDA ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RETIREMENT BENEFITS PROCUREMENT GUIDELINE

The Retirement Benefits Authority is established under the Retirement Benefits Act to regulate and supervise the establishment and management of retirement benefits schemes, protect the interests of members and sponsors of retirement benefits schemes, advise the Government on relevant policy issues and promote the development of the retirement benefits sector.

On 15th May 2026, the Supreme Court of Kenya declared Section 2(o) of the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, 2015 unconstitutional and void to the extent of its applicability to pension funds of public entities and their procurement systems.

The effect of the judgment is that retirement benefits schemes sponsored by public entities are no longer bound by the procurement framework under the said Act. Trustees nonetheless remain bound by their fiduciary duties under the Retirement Benefits Act, the trust instrument and the Good Governance Practices Guidelines to procure goods, works and services through processes that are transparent, fair, accountable and competitive and that secure value for money for scheme members.

In order to address the resulting gap and provide a common standard for the sector, the Authority is seeking to develop a Retirement Benefits Procurement Guideline ("**the Guideline**") that will apply to the procurement of goods, works and services by retirement benefits schemes.

The Authority hereby invites trustees, sponsors, administrators, fund managers, custodians, other service providers, industry associations, professional bodies, public entities, members of retirement benefits schemes and the general public to submit written proposals and memoranda on the proposed Guideline.

Submissions should be clearly marked "**Proposals and Memoranda on the Procurement Guideline**" and addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Retirement Benefits Authority, and may be delivered by hand, by post to the address below, or by email to guidelines@rba.go.ke to be received on or before **5.00 p.m. on Friday, 9th October 2026.**

The Authority will consider all submissions received in the drafting of the Guideline. An exposure draft of the Guideline will thereafter be published for further comment and stakeholder validation before finalisation. Please note that submissions made in response to this notice may be summarised in the consultation record accompanying the Guideline.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS AUTHORITY
Rahimtulla Tower, 13th Floor, Upper Hill Road, P.O. Box 57733-00200 Nairobi | Tel: 2809000 | Mobile: 0726600001-5 or 0735339132

For queries regarding the Retirement Benefits Industry or your pension scheme please call RBA on toll free number: **0800720300** or email: **info@rba.go.ke**

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Retirement Benefits Authority (RBA) is ISO 9001: 2015 Certified