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## New office block set to dethrone Times Towers

Photo/FILE



**SKYLINE:** An aerial view of Nairobi's CBD. A 45-floor building is planned for Upper Hill.

BY LOLA OKULO

TIMES Tower is set to be dwarfed as the tallest building in Nairobi if the National Environmental Management Authority among other regulators, approve a planned 45-storey structure in Upper Hill.

Nema on Friday invited public comments over the proposal by Jabavu Village Limited to build the proposed commercial structure which if successful will tower above the city's landmarks such as Times Tower, Kenyatta International Conference Centre, NSSF Building and Teleposta among others.

A google search on the company yielded no details.

Times Tower has 38 floors, KICC has 29 while Teleposta has 27.

Another building set to grace Nairobi's skyline is UAP Tower, a 33-storey structure which is expected to be ready for occupation in March.

"The proponent Jabavu Vil-

lage Limited is proposing to construct a commercial building tower on land title no Nairobi/Block31/219 at the junction of Upper Hill Road and Haile Selassie Avenue," said Nema in a gazette notice published Friday.

"The project will entail putting up a multiple use premise (45-storey building) that will comprise of two towers; one approximately 212.40 metres high and the other one of about 137.4 metres high and associated facilities like parking bays."

The project will occupy 2.5 acres. The building design indicates that it shall have four components. A commercial one that will occupy 30,000 square metres of total floor area, a residential component of about 10,000 square metres, a hotel on 15,000 square metres and a retail space to occupy another 15,000 square metres.

The public has 30 days from Friday to give their input on the

proposed building for Nema to consider before approving the project.

If approved, the building will attract lucrative bids especially from retail firms as there is no supermarket within Upper Hill despite its growth as a business and hospitality hub in Nairobi.

Upper Hill also lacks a petrol station, which is also very crucial to any commercial or residential area. If the project is successful it will be the tallest building in East Africa.

South Africa's Ponte City apartments located in Johannesburg with 54 floors is the tallest building in Africa followed by Carlton Centre which at 50 floors is the tallest office block in the continent.

Egypt's El Gezira tower takes third place with 43 storeys.

The Burj Khalifa in Dubai, UAE is the world's tallest building with 163 floors followed by Shanghai Tower in China at 121 floors.

## Cargo agents oppose single customs system

BY EMOJONG OSERE

CARGO clearing firms have opposed the Single Customs Territory system being introduced by East African Community member states.

They said the system which is partly operational in Ugandan and Rwanda threatens the jobs of Kenyan clearing agents at boarder points.

Through their association,

Kenya International Freight Forwarders Association, they said with the system's full implementation, over 24,000 agents working for at least 1,150 clearing companies would be rendered jobless.

"We are not against the system since it is being adopted the world over," William Ojonyo who chairs the technical team at KIFWA enya International Freight said in Malaba town.

"But let it be a system that brings all East Africans on board."

So far wheat, oil, cement, second hand clothes and batteries exported to Uganda and Rwanda exit the boarder using the system that Burundi and South Sudan are set to roll out soon.

Full implementation of the SCT is expected at the end of the month.

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## CURRENT WORLD AFFAIRS FLUID AND UNCERTAIN

It was only very recently that I actually studied the assassination of JFK. And what is indisputable is that geolocating Lee Harvey Oswald and then studying the head action of the President confirms that Oswald could not have killed him. It made me think, who or whom can shoot a President stone cold dead and spin a narrative so effectively for half a century?

Its a remarkable thing. Last week, President Obama accepted the resignation of the Secret Service director Julia Pierson after a series of lapses. Just over two weeks ago a man named Omar J. Gonzalez scaled the White House fence and managed to get deep into the executive mansion before being captured. On September 16 an armed security guard with a criminal record was allowed to get on an elevator in Atlanta with Obama. The first signal in the noise, in my opinion, is that these were not lapses but [very deliberate] messages and that the president needs to exercise extreme caution.

The next signal I wish to draw your attention to is Hong Kong and OccupyCentral. The People's Daily, in a front page editorial on Saturday, said the Hong Kong protests would never spill over into the rest of China.

"For the minority of people who want to foment a 'color revolution' on the mainland by way of Hong Kong, this is but a daydream," the newspaper said.

Xi Jinping said in an internal speech in late 2012, on the collapse of the former Soviet Union.

"Why did the Soviet Union disintegrate? Why did the Soviet Communist Party collapse? An important reason was that their ideals and convictions wavered," Xi said. "Finally, all it took was one quiet word from Gorbachev to declare the dissolution of the

Soviet Communist Party, and a great party was gone. In the end nobody was a real man, nobody came out to resist."

How Xi Jinping and Beijing handle OccupyCentral is surely going to hold important repercussions for Chinese Power. Justin Raimondo wrote.

"Far from posing a military challenge to the West, Beijing can't even control one of its own major cities - and the mighty CCP is being humiliated by a 17-year-old boy! For all the predictions of its coming hegemony, the reality is that China is a paper tiger.

China's political class is sitting atop a volcano, with the prestige of the CCP at an all-time low and rising economic inequality combined with slowing growth producing potentially volatile conditions. Their rule is so brittle, at this point, that a single incident could shift the balance of forces away from stability."

The signal is that the Chinese periphery [from Hong Kong to Xinjiang] is a potential tinderbox. The next signal is that beheadings are spreading like a contagion.

Don DeLillo writes in Mao II

"In societies reduced to blur and glut, terror is the only meaningful act. There's too much everything, more things and messages and meanings that we can use in ten thousand lifetimes...only the terrorists stand outside. The culture hasn't figured out how to assimilate him. It's confusing when they kill the innocent. But this is precisely the language of being noticed, the only language the West understands. The way they determine how we see them. The way they dominate the rush of endless streaming images."

And now Ebola has crossed the Atlantic via Belgium and arrived in North America.

There is a fluidity in the World's affairs and its added a lot of uncertainty.

Shares go up and down and readers are advised that this column represents Mr Satchu's personal opinions.