

# ★ business

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## Japan inspection firm dismisses Kebs blacklisting

Photo/FILE



**NEW ARRIVALS:** Imported cars at the port of Mombasa. They must undergo pre-shipment inspection.

**BY LOLA OKULO**

USED imported vehicle inspectors Jevic maintains its licence is still valid, raising confusion among importers, after Kenya Bureau of Standards last week announced termination of its contract.

In a media release published yesterday, Japan Export Vehicle Inspection Centre Ltd said it follows all procedures issued by Kebs and has always operated professionally.

Last Monday, Kebs issued a notice to car importers that its contract with Jevic has been terminated. The contract was to end on January 15.

"All bookings and inspections continue for Kenya as per normal procedures. Jevic's certification is valid and accepted by Kebs and the Kenya Revenue Authority," said the firm in the statement.

Jevic has been on the spot several times before. Last

year, of cials from Ethics and Anti Corruption Commission and KRA probed the firm following allegations that it was clearing importation of vehicles that were more than seven years old.

Jevic conducts pre-shipment inspection of used vehicles imported from Japan and Dubai for use in Kenya on behalf of Kebs.

Last month, parliament threatened to blacklist the firm after claims that it was approving importation of vehicles that are contaminated with radioactive material.

The firm has previously denied that it knowingly approved importation of used cars that do not meet the set regulations in Kenya.

"Since 2009 Jevic has served Kebs in the capacity of inspection service provider and have what we believe is an exemplary record of inspection conduct," said the firm

yesterday.

"This is further supported by the positive independent audits of our operations and procedures, conducted every year by Kebs of cials."

The issue of vehicle inspection for cars coming into Kenya cost former Kebs managing director Eva Oduor, her job last year.

Other than Jevic, vehicles destined for import into Kenya are inspected by two other firms, Quality Inspection Service Japan and Auto Terminal Japan.

The Car importers association of Kenya said yesterday it is comfortable with Jevic as an inspection company.

"We as car importers don't have a problem with Jevic. They have been inspecting vehicles being imported into the country for long and they are good at what they are doing," said association chairman Peter Otieno.

## Insurer unveils cover for heavy commercial trucks

**BY MARTIN MWITA**

HEAVY COMMERCIAL vehicle owners will benefit from a new cover by Kenya Orient Insurance.

According to the company, 'Orient Commercial Insurance' aims at supporting the rapid growth in the transport sector.

The product is a comprehensive motor commercial insurance and covers trucks across

the Common Market for East and Southern Africa jurisdiction in East Africa.

It offers personal accident covers for drivers and loaders, security for goods and the vehicle irrespective of its country of location.

It further insures against riots, strikes and civil commotion.

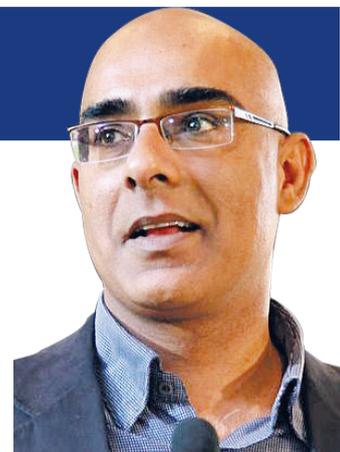
Speaking on Saturday evening during the launch

in Mombasa, Kenya Orient Insurance MD Muema Muindi said the cover will help improve trade in the region.

"We have no doubt that this product will be a catalyst for growth in the transport sector, which is a key driver for our economy as our country works towards Vision 2030. It will also give investors in the transport business a peace of mind," said Muindi.

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## NAVIGATING FINANCIAL MARKETS AMID GLOBAL TURBULENCE

"THE markets are never wrong," President Kagame said in an interview in Washington on August 5 at the USAfrica Summit.

There was no sharper signal delivered in Washington than those five words that President Kagame uttered. Picking up the signal through the noise of our world in 2014 is no easy thing. In fact, my view is the new normal is a very arrhythmic world. When I plugged "arrhythmia" into my computer, it threw up this;

"For years he'd been studying the phenomenon of chaos, of which an arrhythmic heartbeat was a perfect example"

His excellency Johan Borgstam told me the signal announcing this new arrhythmic normal was the disappearance of the MH370. Since then planes have been falling out of the sky like flies. And the uncertainty around MH370 and MH17 which is

sharpened by the way the story is seemingly turned on and off took me back to Don Delillo

"We are not witnessing the flow of information so much as pure spectacle, or information made sacred, ritually unread-

able. The small monitors of the office, home and car become a kind of idolatry here, where crowds might gather in astonishment."

The Ebola Virus continues to gain velocity and the World Health Organisation in their latest release dated August 22 announced that the "magnitude of the Ebola outbreak...has been underestimated" and of "the existence of an invisible caseload of patients who are not being detected by the surveillance system." WHO spoke of "the existence of numerous "shadow-zones."

Nato has thrown out a whole new characterisation of warfare called 'ambiguous' warfare. Eastern Ukraine has become a 'shadow-zone.'

And then of course, the beheading of James Foley by a jihadist with a British accent went viral. There was a spookiness about the British accent which spoke to centuries of received history. IS and the likes of Al-Shabaab have proven accomplished and frightening and frightful exponents of the 21st century digital ecosystem. And what is so fascinating is that their media efforts all point West. The richest hunting ground for these new 21st century serial killers/terrorists is among the disaffected in the Western World. It is clear that the 'surveillance' system was switched off because then these ne'er-do-wells were doing the dirty work of toppling Muammar and trying to topple Bashar. The indigenes are apparently bit part players.

Last week we learnt from the pentagon that the US government filed a formal complaint with China about the near miss between a Chinese J-11 fighter jet and a Navy Poseidon P-8 patrol aircraft 135 miles east of Hainan Island. Kirby said the Chinese fighter jet brought one of its wingtips within 20 feet of the Poseidon, performed a 'barrel roll'

at close range and also flashed past the nose of the US aircraft at a 90-degree angle with its underside exposed, apparently "to make a point of showing its weapons."

Now given this new level of arrhythmia, friction, and a kind of unsettling ambiguity, how are we to navigate the Financial Markets.

You see in the old days, these conditions would have created a flight into the dollar. And interestingly the dollar has been punching higher. If things tip big, the dollar might soar.



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