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Process of registering firm in Kenya now reduced to one day

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The East African

IT WILL now take you a day to register a company in Kenya, following a move by the government to automate the process.

The initiative by the State Law Office is part of a wider plan by the government to improve ease of doing business, improve service delivery and attract investors to the country.

"Kenya's ranking in the Ease of Doing Business Index in the recent past has not been encouraging," said President Uhuru Kenyatta at the launch of the new service at the Attorney General's chambers last week.

The new service will also allow Kenyans to search and reserve names for their businesses and companies from the comfort of their homes and offices. Those seeking to do business with companies will also be able to access the full list of directors serving any company registered in Kenya online, unlike now when one has to physically go to the State Law Office to conduct a search.

President Kenyatta noted that the government would automate all its registry services making them accessible online and ensure that all payments are done through mobile money to en-

hance service deliver and reduce corruption.

Automation of the processes will enable payment of stamp duty and registration fees to be done at the same time, with the Registrar of Companies stamping and registering the documents simultaneously.

The registration model being piloted at the Companies Registry is expected to be incorporated at all Huduma Centres across the country. The president said all the three arms of the government are undergoing restructuring in order to offer better public service delivery.

To reform the legal framework governing enterprises, President Kenyatta said two Bills – the Companies Bill and the Insolvency Bill – are ready for tabling in Parliament.

The Bills, once approved by Parliament, he added, will introduce and entrench international best practices in corporate law and management.

The president added, "The Companies Bill 2014 will streamline regulation and ownership of businesses in Kenya. It also seeks to amend the Companies Act to align it with emerging trends in the formation and operation of companies, and to simplify their formation and operation."



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