Konza: From Vision to Silicon Savannah reality



Road infrastructure at Konza City

BY DONALD NGALA (KNA)

Konza Technopolis is moving from a long-term smart city vision to an operational technology and innovation hub, with infrastructure, universities, digital services and private investment taking root in the 5,000-acre development.

The progress is positioning the flagship Vision 2030 project as a potential engine for Kenya's digital economy, with the Technopolis now home to about 30 companies and 80 per cent of its first phase committed to investors.

Chief Manager for Business Development and Innovation at Konza Technopolis, Josephine Ndambuki, said Phase One has been completed, commissioned and is operational, with efforts now focused on attracting more investment and accelerating development.

Speaking to the Kenya News Agency during a Government Delivery Unit inspection of projects at Konza, Ndambuki said the development is anchored on three key sectors—ICT and IT-enabled services, life sciences, and engineering.

At full development, Konza is projected to accommodate more than 240,000 workers and contribute about two per cent to Kenya's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The transformation is being supported by major infrastructure, including a 40-kilometre bitumen road network, fibre-optic connectivity, electricity, water and drainage systems, solid waste facilities and smart city installations.

Other completed facilities include a wastewater reclamation plant designed to recycle up to 70 per cent of treated water for reuse, a fresh-water treatment facility and smart city installations.

The infrastructure also includes smart poles equipped for security, public communication, advertising and street lighting.

At the heart of Konza's technology ambitions is the Konza National Data Centre and Konza Cloud, which provide digital infrastructure to government and private-sector users.

Ndambuki said the National Data Centre is operational and hosts more than 100 solutions, working with over 90 partners to develop and commercialise local technology.

Konza Cloud, meanwhile, supports thousands of government digital applications and is being developed to host a Silicon Savannah App Store where Kenyan innovators can deploy and scale locally developed solutions.

"The National Data Centre is operational and currently hosts more than 100 solutions serving public and private sector users," Ndambuki said.

The data centre has attained Uptime Institute Tier III and LEED Platinum certifications, while an offsite Business Continuity Park provides additional resilience for critical digital services.

Konza is also expanding digital inclusion through the Jitume Digital Enablement Programme, with 355 digital hubs established in more than 40 counties. The hubs provide access to digital skills, devices, artificial intelligence training, online work and e-government services.

Education and research are emerging as another pillar of Konza Technopolis.

The Kenya Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (Kenya-AIST) has been established at Konza. It received its Charter this year and is expected to offer postgraduate programmes in engineering, ICT and agricultural biotechnology, among other fields.

The Open University of Kenya, which operates fully online, is also hosted at Konza and has grown to more than 20,000 students in 10 countries.

Riara University has established a campus at the Technopolis and is preparing to admit its first students in September 2026.

The institutions are expected to strengthen research, skills development and commercialisation of emerging technologies.

Konza has also reached more than 15,000 college and university students through its NextGen Explorers programme, while innovation hubs and technology support centres are providing incubation, mentorship and market access to startups.

The Konza Technolopolis Development Authority (KoTDA) also organizes technology bootcamps for children and supports science congresses and other technology-related activities.

"It reached 120 students through a children's technology bootcamp in the 2024/25 financial year and another 150 students in the first quarter of the 2025/26 financial year," Nbambuki said.

Konza is also positioning itself as a centre for Kenya's creative and emerging technology industries. A 160-acre Digital Media City is under development, with plans for multimedia training, gaming, animation, music production and post-production studios. The project is being supported through the Kenya-Korea Economic Development Cooperation framework.

The Technopolis also hosts Kenya's first Kenya Civil Aviation Authority-certified Drone Zone, providing a controlled environment for testing and demonstrating unmanned aerial systems for applications ranging from agriculture and logistics to infrastructure inspection and environmental monitoring.

Construction of the Konza Convention Centre is at an advanced stage, while specialised projects including a biopharma park, vaccine production facility, nuclear research hub, smart industrial park and TVET centre are in various stages of development.

Ndambuki said the next phase will focus on accelerating investment, expanding infrastructure, strengthening innovation and completing key projects needed to transform Konza into a fully integrated technology and economic hub.

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Prospective agents may download the detailed application documents from the UFAA website at **http://www.ufaa.go.ke**. Applicants who download the documents from the website must immediately forward their contact details to **agents@ufaa.go.ke** for records and for receipt of any clarifications or addenda.

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This is to bring to the attention of eligible and interested Contractors that the Authority wishes to tender for the following:

1. Upgrading to Bitumen Standard of project roads (Lots 13, 14 and 15),
2. Spot Improvement of Various Roads (Batch 5 and 6)
3. Provision of Security Services
4. Provision of Conference Facilities (Framework Agreements)
5. Supply of Fuel and Lubricants
6. Provision of Cleaning Services
7. Registration of Suppliers and Service Providers for FY 2026/27-28
8. Framework Agreements for Emergency Works and Services
9. Pre-qualification of Specialized Services
10. Provision of Medical Insurance Cover
11. Provision of Group Life Assurance Cover
12. Provision of Group Personal Accident & Work Injury Benefit Cover.

Interested Bidders are requested to download the Long Advertisement, with the full list of projects and Tender Documents, from the Authority's website (**www.kerra.go.ke**) and the PPIP Portal (**www.tenders.go.ke**) ***free of charge*** from **20th August, 2026.**

Deputy Director (Supply Chain Management)
For: DIRECTOR GENERAL