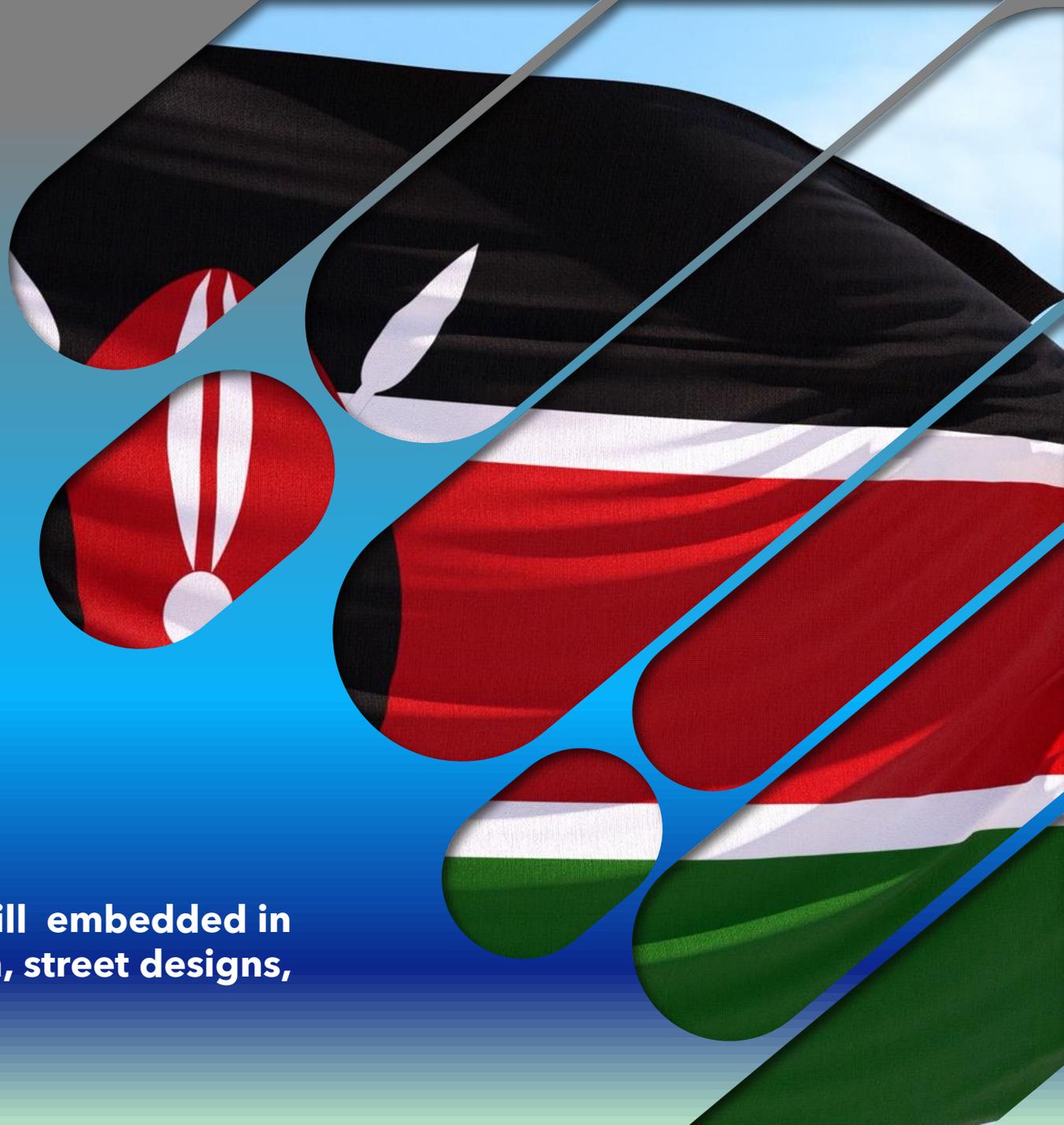




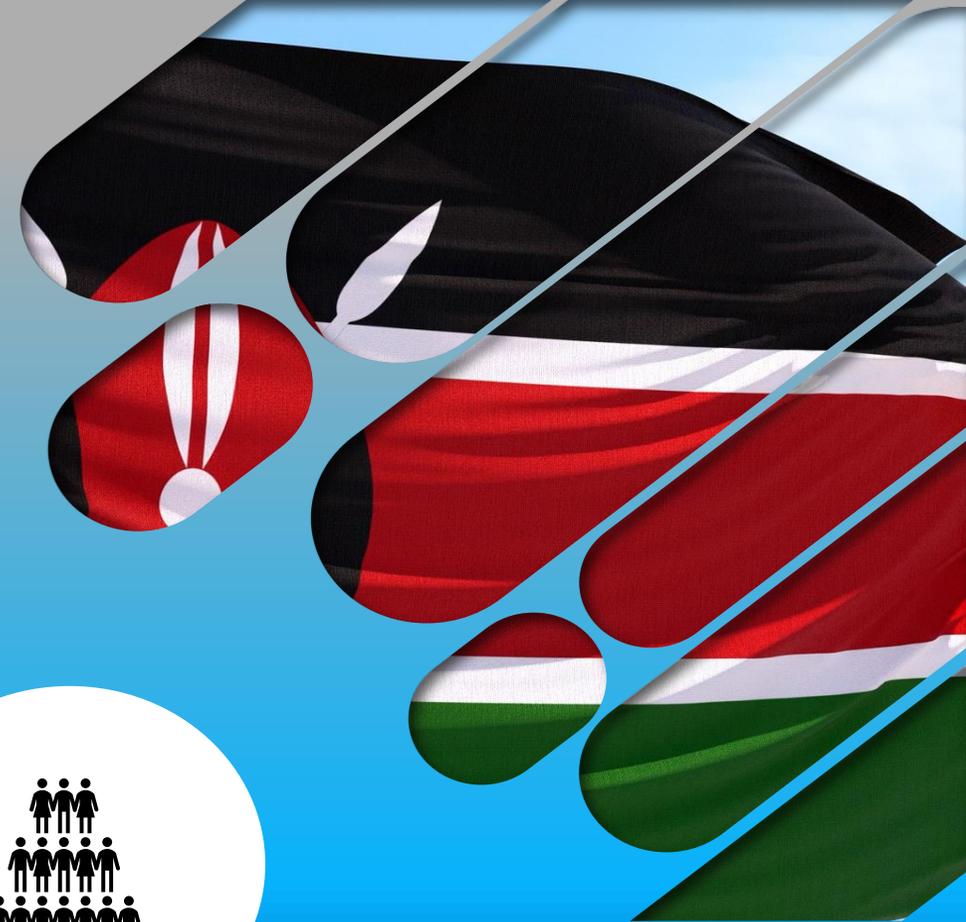
TRACES OF COLONIAL ERA? DOES KENYA NEED MORE DECOLONIZATION

By George Okachi - 2026

“Kenya’s colonial past is not just history – it’s still embedded in national politics, county laws, school curriculum, street designs, and social practices shaping daily life.”



Where are the traces evident



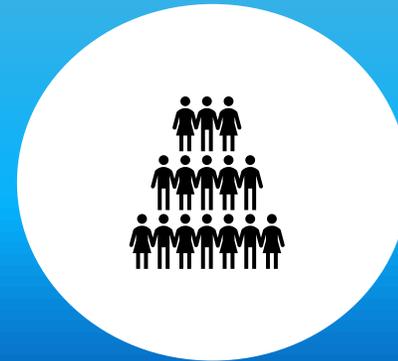
Education



Elections



Legislation

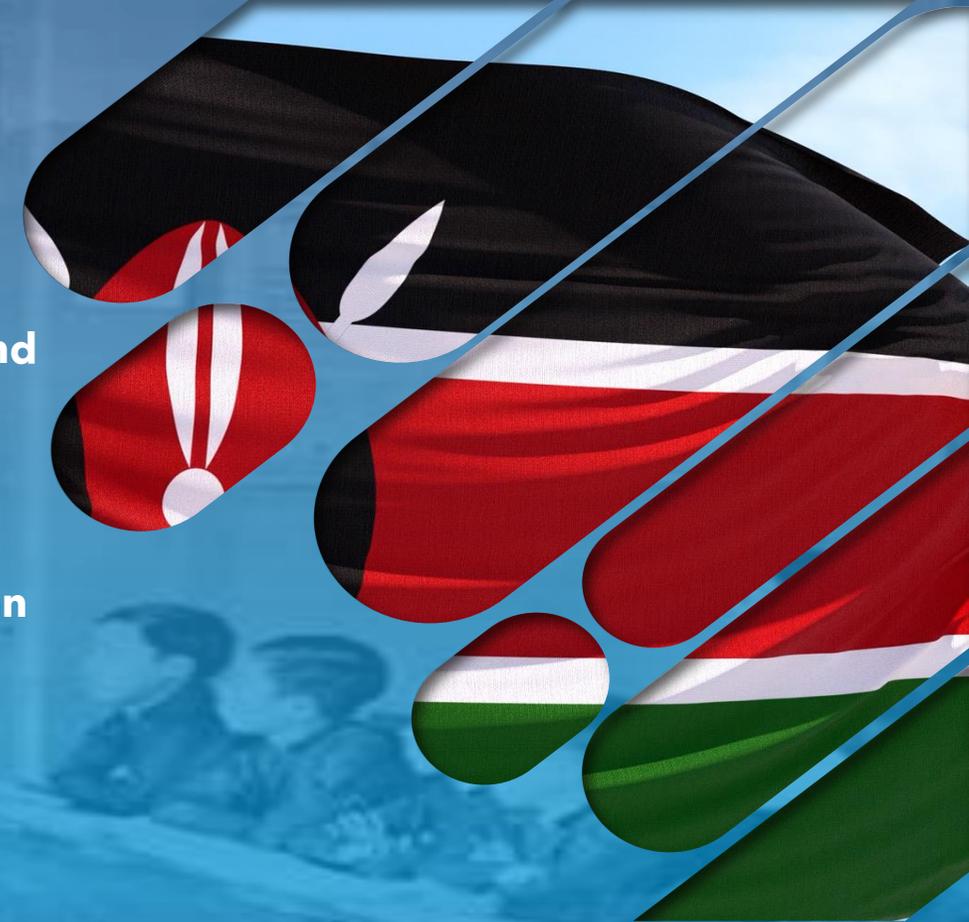


Society

Although the country gained independence in 1963, several colonial systems and legacies continue to shape society and governance.

Education

- Kenya's Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC), rolled out since 2017 and refined through 2024
- It supposed to prioritize skills over rote learning
- Critics argue it retains colonial-area traces (Heavily references European thinkers sidelining African philosophies)
- English still the official language of instruction (English competency valued and set as a standard)
- GenZs encode information in the language they better understand (critics calling a re-think in considering incorporating GenZs language as Curriculum for instruction)
- Critics note persistent inequalities, like tiered access favoring elites, akin to pre-independence racial segregation in schools.

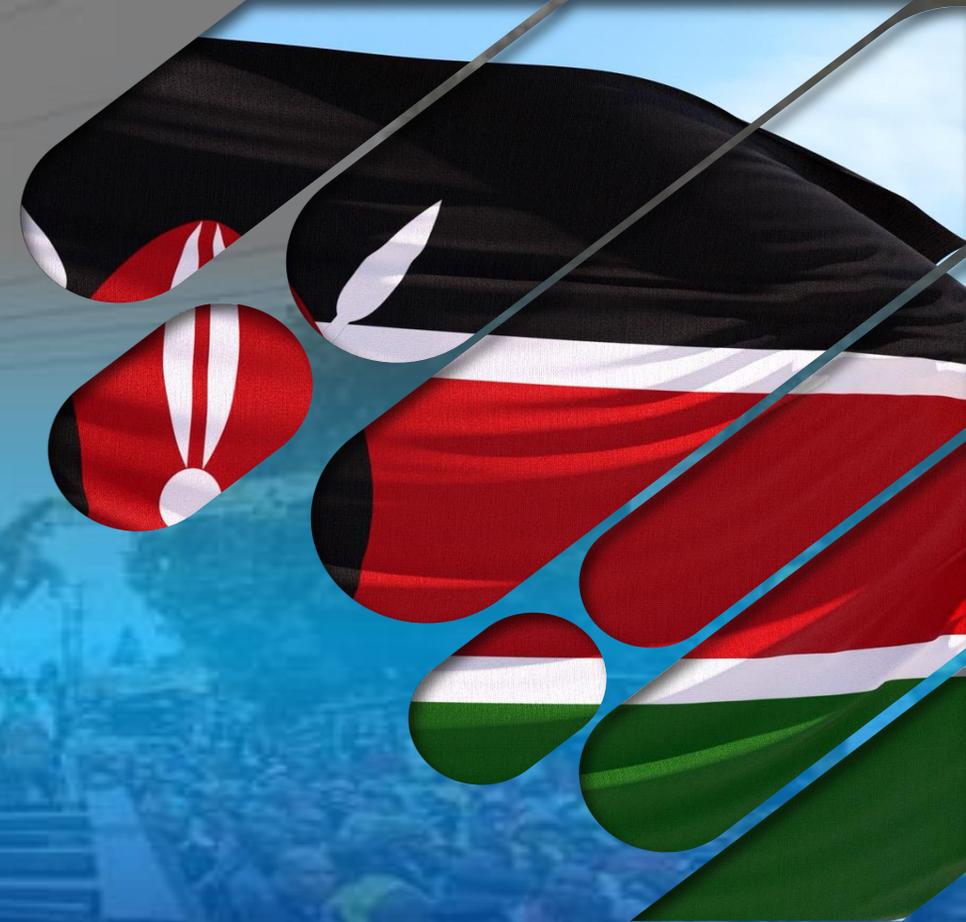


What if Kenya set sheng/Kiswahili as the official language of instruction?

Elections & Politics

- Ethnic voting still shows regional fragmentation strategies
- Currently politicians are angling to have control of there colonial-drawn tribal arithmetic(It is the relevance currency for any politicians)

Youth view: "Gen Z sees tribal voting as colonial programming—#RejectTheScript trends reject ethnic bargaining.



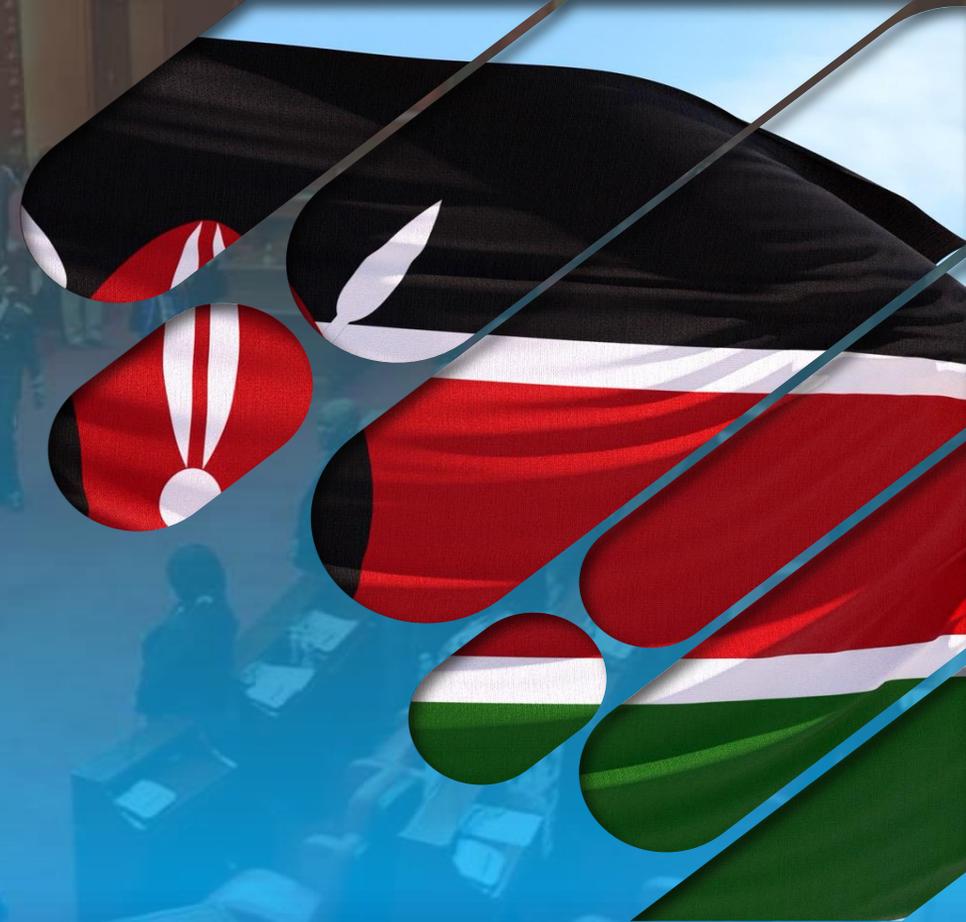
Legislation/Governance

Over 60% of Kenya's current legal codes originate in colonial ordinances (pre-1963) – Ministry of Justice, 2021 Audit.

Penal Code (Cap 63) and Public Order Act (Cap 56) still use 1948 colonial definitions of "idle persons" and "unlawful assembly."

Devolution reproduced these frameworks through county-level by-laws, not reinterpretation.

"Kenya's counties govern with inherited tools of control rather than instruments of liberation." - *Mutua M. (2023, The Conversation).*



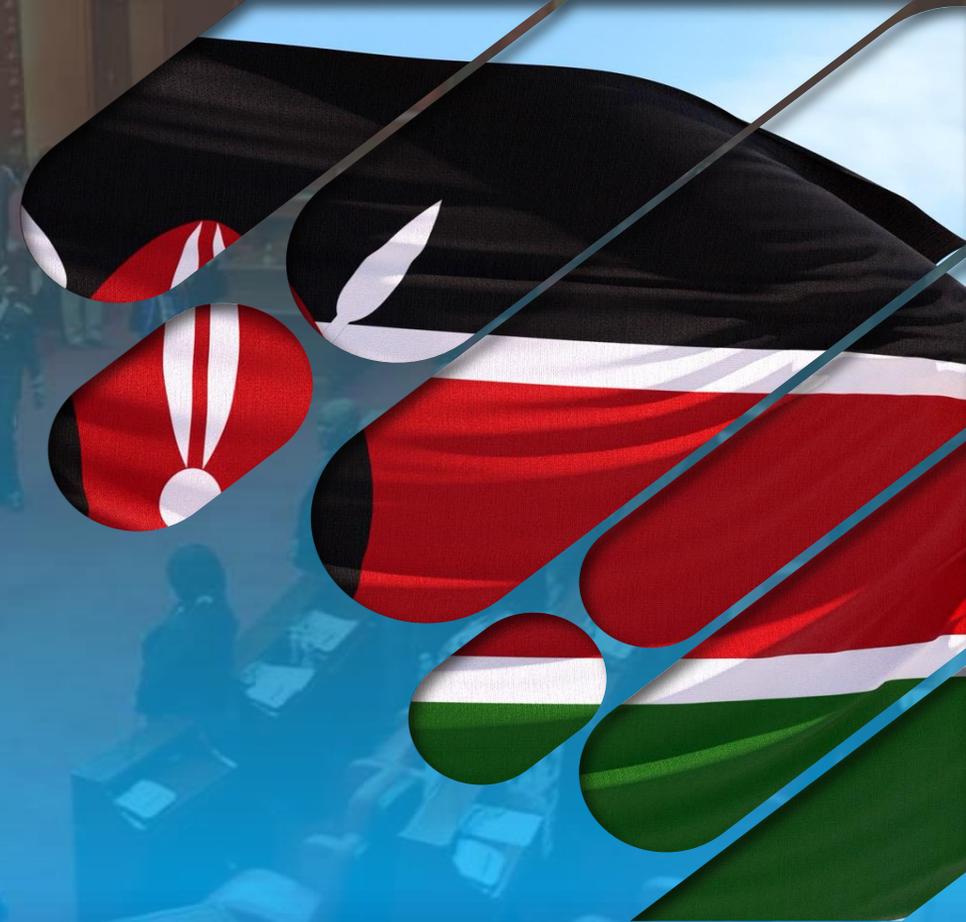
Legislation/Governance

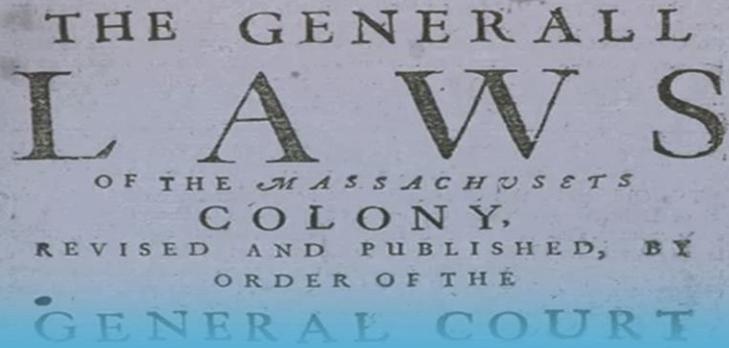
Mombasa County: Vagrancy & Policing Laws from 1925
(Modern form: Mombasa County Public Nuisance Act 2016,
Sec. 9 - penalizes "being idle or disorderly.")

Kisumu County Alcoholic Drinks Control Act 2014 uses
unchanged licensing categories (hotel, club, "native brew
site")

Kiambu County: Building Bylaws from 1948 Town Codes

"Kenya's counties govern with inherited tools of control rather than instruments of liberation." - Mutua M. (2023, *The Conversation*).

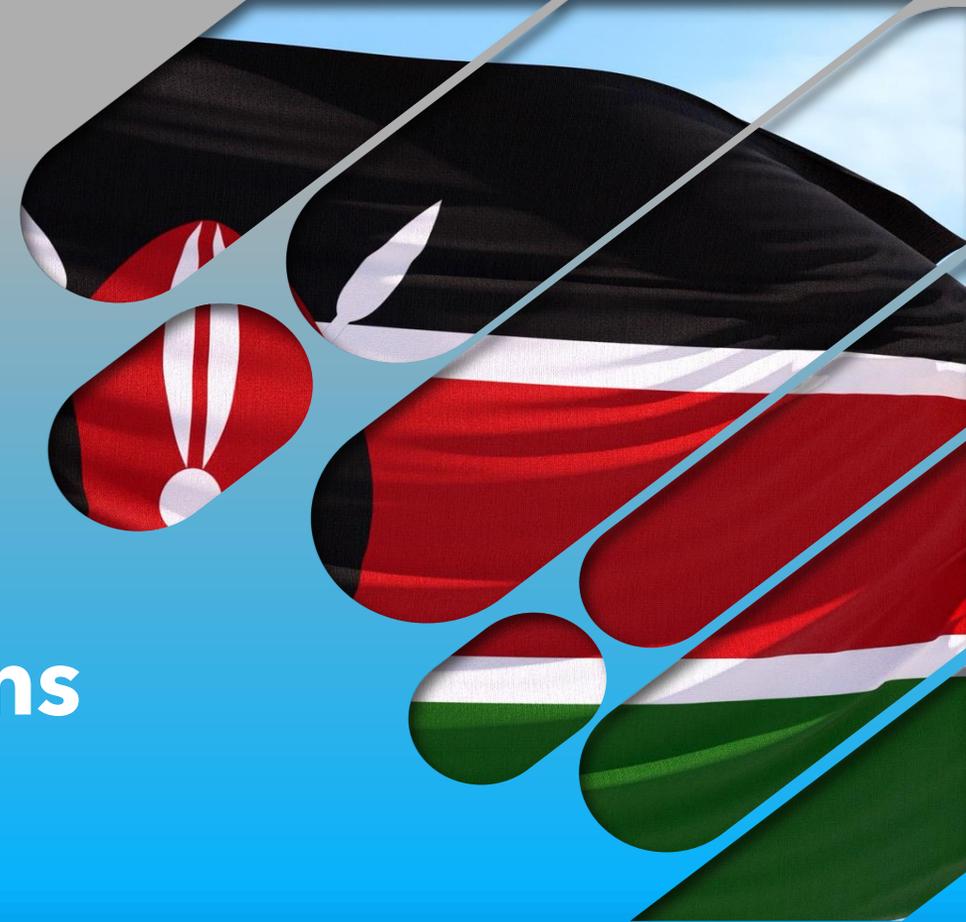




THE GENERAL
L A W S
OF THE MASSACHUSETTS
COLONY,
REVISED AND PUBLISHED, BY
ORDER OF THE
GENERAL COURT

**What if colonial era legislations
are still relevant for today's
needs?**

**Although the country gained independence in 1963, several colonial systems and legacies
continue to shape society and governance.**



Social traces - 2026 Racial segregation persists

Cases of forceful evictions persist

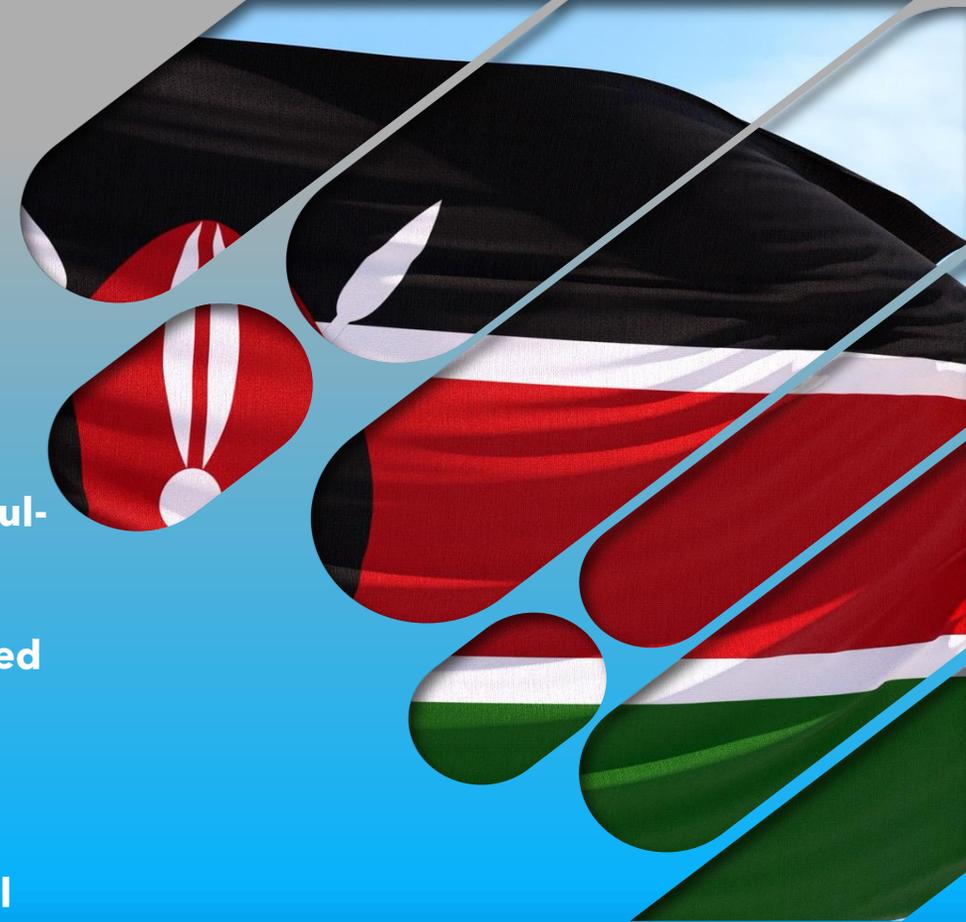
<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/rift-valley/article/2001541268/forceful-evictions-at-mutura-adc-farm-leaves-pastoral-communities-devastated>)

Silent cases of denial of IDs to marginalized communities who are qualified

Nairobi's spatial layout still mirrors colonial zoning that separated Europeans from Africans

The National Land Commission continues to receive claims tied to colonial seizures or "Crown lands."

Conservation 'wildlife over people'—same 1930s evictions, modern safari branding."



How GenZs are leading Decolonization agenda

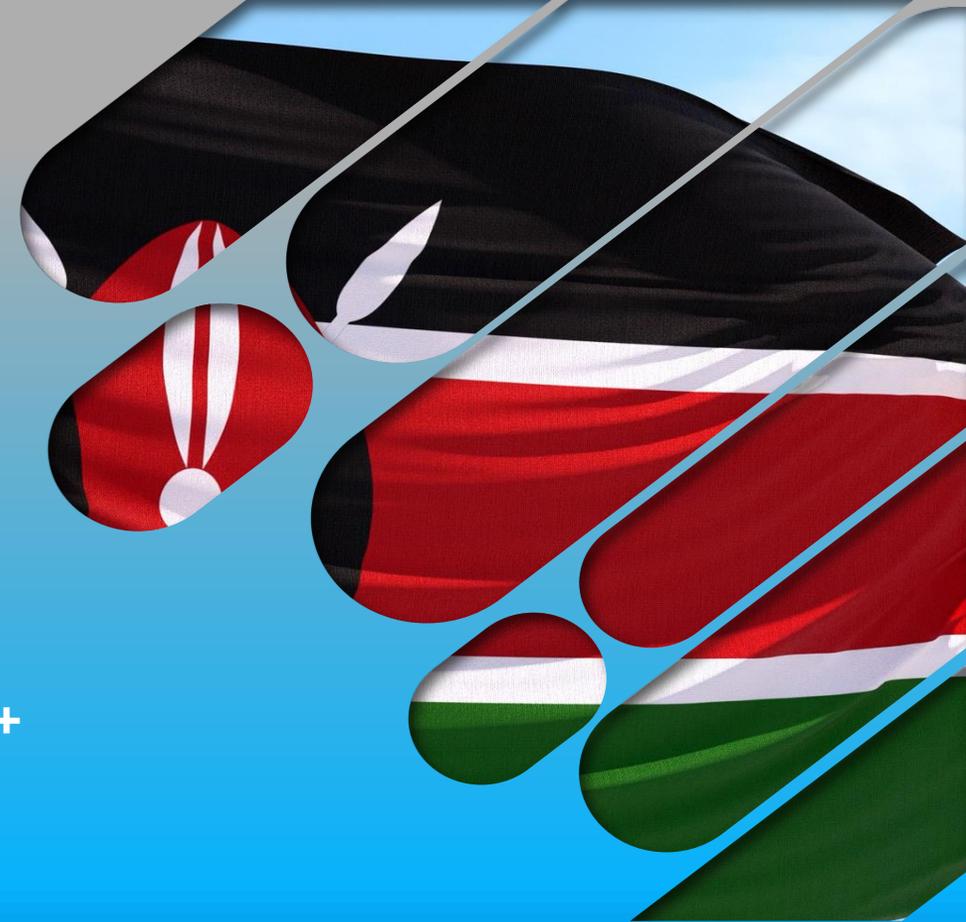
2024 Finance Bill veto proved street power works

Mombasa youth cooperatives reclaim coastal tourism from expatriate control

#DecolonizeKE student groups auditing biased curricula (50+ schools by Feb 2026)

Creation of digital safe spaces to speak about issues, put power to account (Optimization of Social media to enhance lobbying and mobilization)

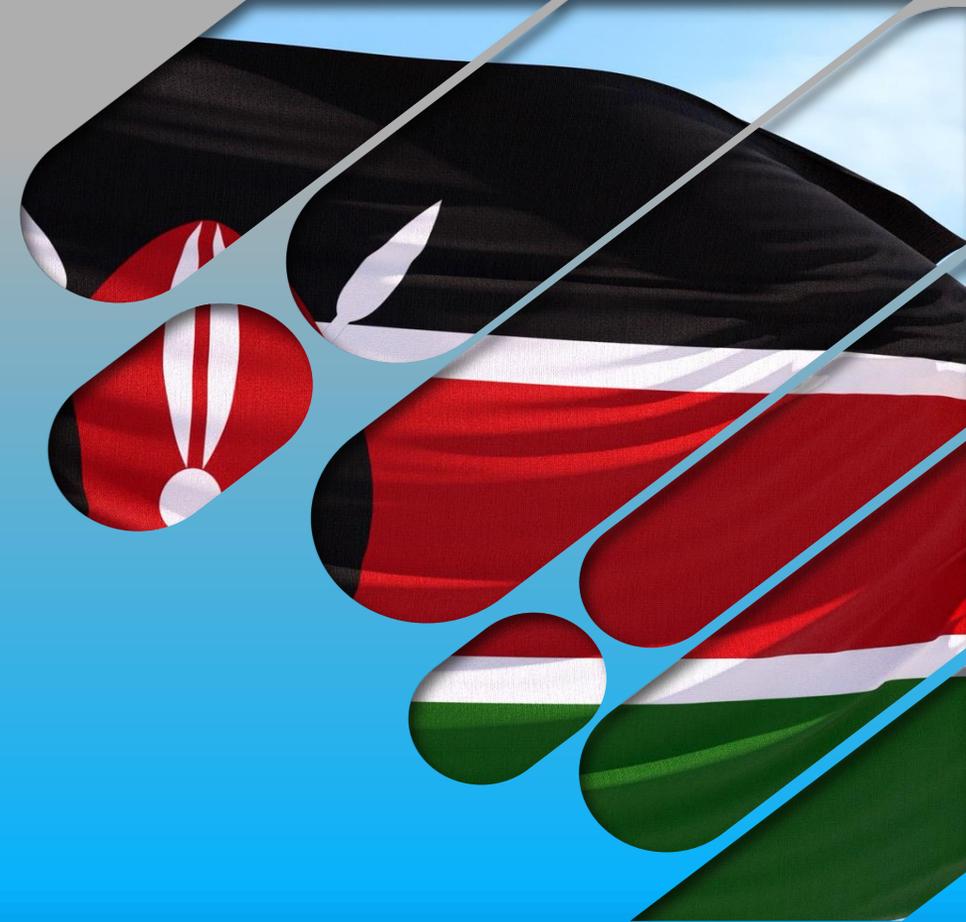
“Every generation must out of relative obscurity discover its mission—fulfil it or betray it.”



Sahel Inspiration Through Kenyan Youth Eyes

Military rule is condemned but Ibrahim-Traore-sovereignty rhetoric has taken hold in Kenya

The GenZs are aware that street power can hold power to account



Food for thought

Should counties review all inherited by-laws for historical bias?

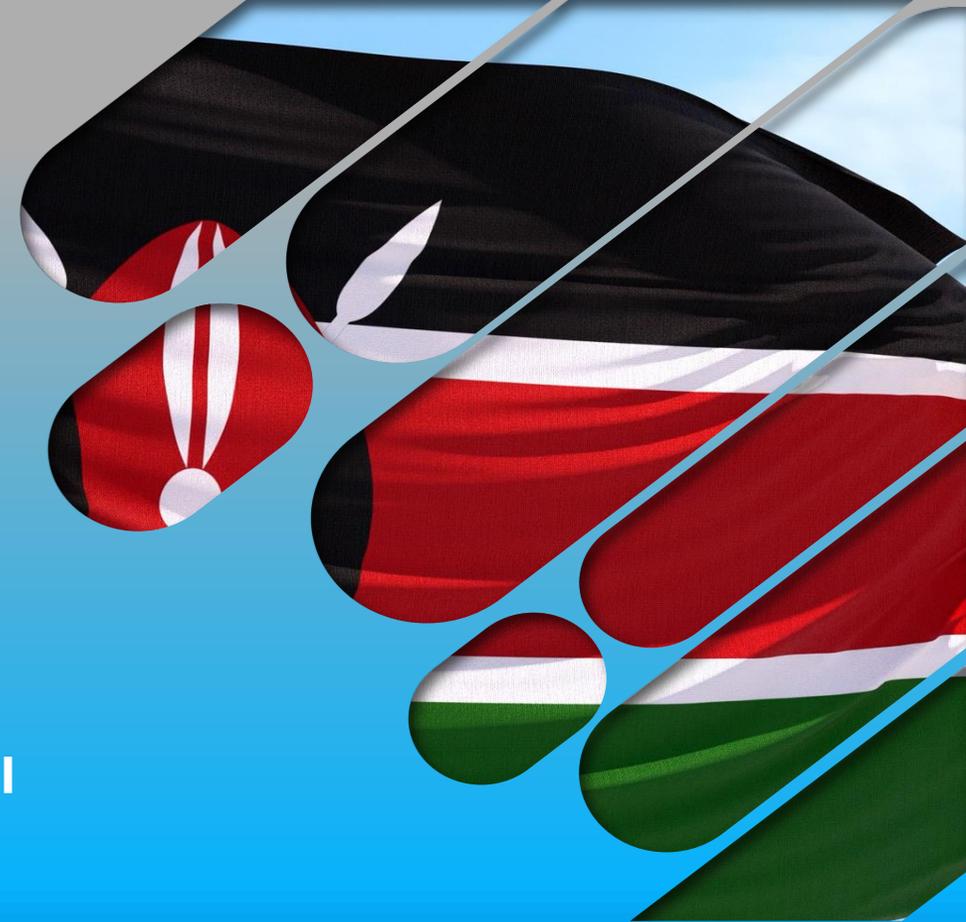
Can Kenya modernize enforcement culture without losing public order?

What legal pathways exist for *"restorative repeal"* of colonial statutes?

How can academia and county governments co-audit decolonization progress?

Name ONE colonial trace in your daily work/life. How will YOU dismantle it?

Sahel-style rupture, or Kenya gradual reclamation?



THANK YOU!

