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### CORPORATE IMAGE

#### Partnership for progress

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### Citybiz

## Digifunzi: Coding Kenya's future, one child at a time

Ken Mahia's groundbreaking digital literacy programme is equipping Kenyan children with skills in coding, robotics, and AI, preparing them for a competitive digital economy and bridging the technological divide across socio-economic backgrounds. He chats with **BILAS NYAMWEYA** about how he seized the opportunity.



**K**enya's burgeoning tech scene is attracting global attention, but the digital divide remains a significant barrier for many children, especially those from low-income backgrounds. Ken Mahia, founder of Digifunzi, is addressing this challenge by providing digital literacy training to children across the country.

Mahia, a tech enthusiast and entrepreneur, founded Digifunzi in 2015, with the goal of equipping children with the skills needed to thrive in the digital economy. The programme focuses on teaching coding, robotics, and artificial intelligence (AI) to children aged 8 to 16, regardless of their socio-economic background.

"We believe that every child has the potential to become a digital citizen," Mahia says. "By providing them with the necessary skills, we are not only preparing them for the future but also empowering them to solve local problems and create jobs."

The Digifunzi programme is a multi-faceted initiative. It includes classroom-based training, hands-on workshops, and mentorship programmes. Children learn to code using visual programming languages like Scratch and Python, and they also explore robotics and AI through interactive projects.

One of the key challenges Mahia faced was securing funding for the programme. However, he persevered, leveraging his network and the support of local businesses and government agencies. Today, Digifunzi has a dedicated team of instructors and a growing number of students.

"We have seen incredible growth in the number of children participating in our programme," Mahia says. "We are proud of the progress we have made and the impact we are having on the lives of our students."

The programme has already produced several notable results. Many children have developed a strong interest in technology and have gone on to pursue further education in STEM fields. Some have even won awards in national and international coding competitions.

Mahia's vision for the future is to expand the Digifunzi programme to reach even more children across Kenya. He is currently seeking partnerships with other organizations and government bodies to scale up the initiative.

"We are committed to making digital literacy accessible to all children in Kenya," Mahia says. "We believe that by investing in our youth, we are investing in the future of our country."

### Property Chamber

#### Protecting wealth in polygamous marriages

Kenya's Property Chamber is set to launch a new initiative to help couples in polygamous marriages protect their assets and ensure a fair distribution of wealth in the event of a divorce.

The initiative, known as the "Polygamous Marriage Wealth Protection Scheme," is designed to provide legal guidance and support to couples in polygamous marriages who are facing challenges in managing their shared assets.

The scheme is a collaborative effort between the Property Chamber and legal experts. It aims to address the unique legal complexities associated with polygamous marriages, particularly in terms of property ownership and inheritance.

"We recognize that polygamous marriages present unique challenges when it comes to protecting wealth," says a representative from the Property Chamber. "This initiative is a first step towards providing the legal support and guidance that these couples need."

The scheme will offer a range of services, including legal consultations, mediation, and the development of legal agreements that outline the distribution of assets in the event of a divorce or the death of one of the spouses.

It is expected that the initiative will be particularly beneficial for couples who have accumulated significant wealth over the years but lack the legal framework to protect it.

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