



# Frequently Asked Questions on The Technopolis Act, 2026 and The Transition from KoTDA to Technopolis Development Authority

## 1. What is a technopolis?

A technopolis is a designated geographical area planned and developed to host a high concentration of technology-oriented enterprises, research institutions, innovation centres, learning institutions, investors, entrepreneurs and supporting urban infrastructure. A technopolis is not just a real estate project. It is an innovation ecosystem designed to bring together business, science, technology, research, talent, infrastructure and government facilitation in one integrated environment.

## 2. What is the Technopolis Act, 2026?

The Technopolis Act, 2026 is the new law that establishes the Technopolis Development Authority, TDA, and provides the legal, institutional and regulatory framework for the planning, development, management, promotion and regulation of technopolises in Kenya. The Act marks an important shift from a single-project focus on Konza Technopolis to a broader national framework for developing technology-driven cities and innovation districts across the country.

## 3. What major change does the Act introduce?

The Act transitions the Konza Technopolis Development Authority, KoTDA, into the Technopolis Development Authority, TDA. This means the Authority's mandate is no longer limited to Konza Technopolis. TDA now has a broader national role to plan, develop, manage, promote and regulate technopolises in Kenya, including Konza and other designated technopolises that may be established in future.

## 4. Why was this change necessary?

The change was necessary to give Kenya a clear national framework for developing globally competitive technopolises as engines of innovation, investment, enterprise, research, science, technology and sustainable urban development. The new law strengthens the institutional foundation required to attract investors, support technology-oriented industries, promote research and innovation, create jobs, and position Kenya as a leading knowledge-based economy.

## 5. Does the Act only apply to Konza Technopolis?

No. Konza remains Kenya's flagship technopolis, but the Act provides a national framework for the establishment and development of other technopolises in Kenya. This allows the country to replicate the technopolis model in other suitable locations, depending on national priorities, regional strengths, investment opportunities and development needs.

## 6. What happens to Konza Technopolis under the new law?

Konza Technopolis continues to exist and remains a central part of Kenya's innovation and smart city agenda. Under the new law, Konza is brought under the framework of the Technopolis Development Authority. It remains the anchor and flagship technopolis, while TDA assumes a broader mandate to support the establishment, development and management of additional technopolises across Kenya.

## 7. Does the transition affect ongoing projects at Konza?

The transition is intended to strengthen, not interrupt, ongoing development at Konza. Existing projects, investments, partnerships and institutional commitments are expected to continue under the new legal framework. The Act provides a stronger basis for planning, coordination, investment facilitation, service delivery, regulation and long-term growth.

## 8. What is the Technopolis Development Authority?

The Technopolis Development Authority, TDA, is the State Corporation established under the Technopolis Act, 2026 to oversee the planning, development, management, promotion and regulation of technopolises in Kenya. TDA provides the institutional platform through which Kenya will develop technopolises as centres for technology-driven business, research, innovation, science, enterprise, skills development and sustainable urban living.

## 9. What are the key functions of TDA?

The Authority is responsible for, among other functions, planning and managing technopolises, promoting investment, allocating land within technopolises, supporting research and innovation, establishing innovation centres, administering incentives, coordinating government services, promoting technology-oriented industries and supporting the development of integrated urban infrastructure. TDA also plays a facilitative role by helping investors, innovators, institutions and enterprises operate within a predictable and supportive framework.

## 10. Who governs the Authority?

The Authority is governed by a Board established under the Act. The Board includes representatives from Government, the Council of Governors, independent experts and the Chief Executive Officer. This governance structure is intended to provide policy alignment, professional oversight, national coordination and representation of devolved government interests.

## 11. Who can establish a technopolis?

A technopolis may be established by the Cabinet Secretary responsible for ICT through a Gazette Notice, upon the recommendation of the Authority. This process ensures that the establishment of a technopolis follows a formal legal and institutional procedure.

## 12. Will the public be consulted before a technopolis is established?

Yes. The Act requires consultation with persons likely to be affected by the establishment of a technopolis. This is important because technopolis development may involve land use planning, infrastructure development, investment decisions, county coordination, community interests and environmental considerations.

## 13. What factors may define a technopolis?

A technopolis will typically be characterised by modern integrated infrastructure, technology-driven enterprises, research and development facilities, innovation ecosystems, sustainable and green technologies, support services for investors and entrepreneurs, and strong linkages between industry, academia, government and communities.

## 14. What kinds of institutions or businesses can operate in a technopolis?

A technopolis may host ICT companies, data centres, research facilities, innovation hubs, business process outsourcing firms, advanced manufacturing plants, educational and research institutions, technology incubators, accelerators, science and innovation centres, and other enterprises aligned to technology, knowledge and innovation-led growth.

## 15. Can both Kenyan and foreign investors invest in a technopolis?

Yes. The framework is designed to attract both local and foreign investors. The purpose is to make technopolises globally competitive destinations for technology-oriented investment while supporting local enterprise, job creation, skills development and knowledge transfer.

## 16. Will investors receive incentives?

Yes. The Act provides for incentives to encourage investment in technopolises. These incentives are intended to make technopolises attractive locations for technology-driven enterprises, research institutions, innovation-based businesses and other qualifying investors.

### **17. Who administers investor incentives?**

The Technopolis Development Authority coordinates and administers applicable incentives in line with the Act and relevant Government policies. The Authority also works with other Government agencies to facilitate access to services, approvals and investment support mechanisms.

### **18. What is the One-Stop-Shop?**

The One-Stop-Shop is a centralised service centre established by the Authority to help investors, businesses and institutions access relevant Government services and regulatory approvals more efficiently. It is intended to reduce bureaucracy, improve coordination and make it easier to establish and operate within a technopolis.

### **19. What services will be available through the One-Stop-Shop?**

Services may include business registration, licensing, permit processing, immigration services, tax and customs support, labour compliance services and other regulatory facilitation services relevant to businesses and institutions operating within technopolises.

### **20. Will businesses operating in a technopolis require licences?**

Yes. Businesses operating within a technopolis may be required to obtain licences or approvals from the Authority or other relevant Government agencies, depending on the nature of their operations. This helps ensure orderly development, compliance with applicable standards and alignment with the objectives of the technopolis.

### **21. Can a licence be suspended or revoked?**

Yes. Licences may be suspended or revoked where an operator fails to comply with applicable requirements, licence conditions, regulations or directives issued under the Act.

### **22. Will businesses have a right to appeal regulatory decisions?**

Yes. The Act provides for review and appeal mechanisms. This ensures that affected parties have an avenue to challenge decisions in accordance with due process.

### **23. What role do county governments play?**

County governments are important partners in the development of technopolises. They may collaborate with the Authority in planning, land use coordination, infrastructure development, management of buffer zones, service delivery, investment promotion and support for regional innovation ecosystems.

### **24. What is a buffer zone?**

A buffer zone is a defined area surrounding a technopolis where development and land use may be regulated to protect and support the objectives of the technopolis. Buffer zones help ensure that surrounding development is compatible with the technopolis, protects infrastructure investment, supports orderly urban growth and reduces conflicting land uses.

### **25. How does the Act support counties and regional development?**

The Act creates opportunities for counties to participate in Kenya's innovation economy by supporting the development of technology-oriented zones, investment destinations, research ecosystems and skilled employment centres. This can help spread the benefits of innovation, enterprise and digital transformation beyond Nairobi and into other regions of the country.

### **26. Will the Act create jobs?**

Yes. The Act is expected to support job creation by attracting investment and enabling the growth of technology-driven enterprises, research institutions, construction activity, engineering services, ICT firms, business services, manufacturing, education and training institutions, and innovation-based start-ups. The employment impact is expected to extend beyond direct jobs inside technopolises to wider supply chains and surrounding communities.

### **27. How does the Act benefit ordinary Kenyans?**

The Act is expected to benefit Kenyans by creating employment opportunities, attracting investment, improving access to innovation infrastructure, supporting skills development, encouraging entrepreneurship, strengthening public service delivery, promoting research and technology transfer, and improving Kenya's global competitiveness. Over time, technopolises are expected to contribute to better jobs, stronger local enterprises, new markets, and a more competitive economy.

### **28. How does the Act support young people and innovators?**

Technopolises are designed to provide an enabling environment for innovation, entrepreneurship, research, digital work, start-up growth and technology commercialisation. Young people, innovators and entrepreneurs can benefit from access to innovation centres, networks, investors, research institutions, skills programmes, incubation support and markets.

### **29. How does the Act support universities and research institutions?**

The Act creates a framework through which universities, research institutions and industry can collaborate more closely within technopolises. This supports research commercialisation, technology transfer, applied science, innovation partnerships, talent development and stronger links between knowledge institutions and the market.

### **30. How does the Act promote sustainable urban development?**

The technopolis model is anchored in integrated planning, modern infrastructure, green technologies, efficient land use, innovation-led growth and better coordination of services. This allows technopolises to be developed as sustainable urban centres that combine economic productivity with quality infrastructure, environmental responsibility and liveable communities.

### **31. What enforcement powers does the Authority have?**

The Authority has powers to inspect premises, enforce compliance, issue notices, take regulatory action and apply sanctions where necessary under the Act. These powers are intended to maintain standards, protect public interest, ensure orderly development and safeguard the integrity of technopolises.

### **32. What happens if an operator fails to comply with the Act?**

Where an operator fails to comply with applicable requirements, the Authority may issue notices, impose sanctions, suspend or revoke licences, or take other enforcement measures provided for under the Act.

### **33. How will disputes under the Act be resolved?**

The Act establishes a Technopolis Dispute Resolution Tribunal to hear and determine disputes arising under the Act. This provides a specialised mechanism for resolving disputes involving technopolis development, operations, compliance and related matters.

### **34. Can decisions of the Tribunal be appealed?**

Yes. Decisions of the Tribunal may be appealed in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

### **35. How does the Act support Kenya Vision 2030?**

The Act supports Kenya Vision 2030 by promoting innovation, digital transformation, industrial development, research excellence, investment, job creation and sustainable urban development. It strengthens the foundations for Kenya's transition into a globally competitive, knowledge-based and technology-driven economy.

### **36. How does the Act position Kenya internationally?**

The Act positions Kenya to compete for technology investment, research partnerships, digital enterprises, innovation talent and high-value industries. By creating a predictable legal and institutional framework for technopolises, Kenya is better placed to attract global firms, support local innovators and participate more effectively in the global knowledge economy.

### **37. What is the long-term goal of the Technopolis Act?**

The long-term goal is to transform Kenya into a globally competitive knowledge-based economy driven by science, technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, investment and sustainable development. The Act provides a foundation for developing technopolises as catalysts for national transformation, regional competitiveness and inclusive economic growth.

### **38. Where can investors, partners or members of the public get more information?**

Investors, partners and members of the public may obtain more information from the Technopolis Development Authority through its official communication channels, website, offices and designated service points. The Authority will provide guidance on investment opportunities, licensing, incentives, partnerships, land allocation, regulatory requirements and the development of technopolises in Kenya.

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Should you need any further information, kindly contact:

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