

LEGAL TECH KENYA OPEN-SOURCE COMMUNITY



Project: Blockchain-based Land Registry and Property Deeds Software Platform

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Who We Are

Legal Technologies Kenya Limited, or Legal Tech Kenya is a legal technology startup based in Nairobi, Kenya. We build technology products for individual legal practitioners, law firms and institutional legal departments. Our focus is on building disruptive innovations that create new markets and value networks. To this end, we have recently launched our very own web application for virtual access to legal services; [Legal Point Services](#).

Legal Tech Kenya was founded in 2020. We are a company that believes in the transformative power of technology. Our mission is to provide innovative solutions for legal services and processes through legal technology. Our team is comprised of technology experts, legal experts and legal technology experts. We are guided by our main objective, which is to make access to legal services universal, convenient and less costly through disruptive innovations in legal technology. It is this objective that forms the foundation of our initiative to build an open-source community.

Our Community

We are building a community for our first open-software project, a blockchain-based land registry and property deeds software platform. Our target is to have a diverse community with experts from various professions, with the main focus being on technology experts and legal experts.

We believe that valuable knowledge relating to land tenure is, however, not just limited to the aforementioned professions, but can be sourced from a multitude of other professions. For this reason, our community is open to anyone who feels that they can make a valuable contribution to this project. Further, our community is open to anyone who is native to, or is living or working in Africa.

The objective of this community will be to provide disruptive technology solutions for uniquely African problems and challenges.

About this Project

For our first project, the Legal Tech Kenya Open-source Community will work to build a blockchain-based land registry and property deeds software platform. Our focus on land and property is guided by the central role that land ownership plays in the social, political and economic life of most Africans, as well as the historical and spiritual significance of land in most African cultures. Natural resources, agriculture, real estate enterprise and other land-based activities are at the heart of livelihoods, food security and national economies for most Africans.

The land registration process is, in principle, quite simple. In most African jurisdictions, land registries need to maintain records of ownership and record changes in ownership as they happen. Historically, a lot of this work is paper-based, which comes with risks such as lost documents, destroyed documents and falsified or manipulated documents.

We have chosen blockchain as the foundational technology for this project because of its fundamental property of immutability of records. What this means is that a blockchain ledger can remain unaltered and unchanged, meaning that the data stored in the blockchain can remain unaltered. Blockchain provides complete data integrity, simplifies auditing and allows for decentralization. These attributes solve a majority, if not all of the challenges faced by paper-based land registries.

Through collaboration in this community, we will identify common challenges in the land registries of various African jurisdictions and build a blockchain-based software platform to address these challenges.

Objectives

The objectives for this project are:

- To identify common challenges in the land registration and property deeds processes and systems of various African countries;
- To build a blockchain-based land registration and property deeds software platform that solves the identified challenges; and
- To provide a blueprint for scaling, integration with existing systems and implementation of the end product in various jurisdictions.

Expected Outcomes

For this project, we expect to gain a better understanding of land tenure in various African countries and the problems that are common to all the participating jurisdictions, as regards land registration and property deeds. This knowledge will serve as a guide for building an open-source software platform that can be applied universally within the African continent, to solve the common problems identified. We also expect to create a blueprint for local implementation in the different participating jurisdictions by providing implementation guidelines, software documentation, user guides and a detailed list of opportunities for further development.

Long-term Goals

It is our hope that the open-source software that results from this project will be implemented in as many African countries as possible, ensuring protection of land and property rights. In recognition of the diverse languages spoken across the African continent, it is also our long-term goal that the software we create will be translated into as many languages as possible, as well as made accessible to all persons regardless of disability type or severity of impairment.

Why Open-source?

Land ownership has been and continues to be a contentious issue in Kenya and many African countries. Open-sourcing this project will make protection of land and property rights easier,

cheaper and more accessible. This collaborative approach will incorporate broad ideas from different professionals, resulting in high quality software with low ownership costs.

How to Join the Community

If you are interested in joining our community, register at

<https://www.legaltechkenya.com/community> . Our community is open to all. This project is set to commence on Monday, 15th November 2021. Registration to join the community will remain open through December 2021.