

## STADIA, SPORT INFRASTRUCTURE AND HERITAGE IN NAIROBI, KENYA

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### Background

- Stadia management around the world seek and find ways to engage the public in the practice and participation of sport, whether as an athlete, attendee or more recently as a means for facilitating sports tourism.
- Stadia are also used for a variety of social and cultural events. As such stadia are not merely locations for sport competition, they become a lens through which to view and experience various aspects of the society's history and culture – whether in the practice or creation of history or as a means for sport education.
- Building the connection between the infrastructure and the public is one aspect of this engagement as stadia increasingly diversify their operations.

### Introduction

- The Safaricom Stadium at the Moi International Sports Complex in Kasarani, is depicted by Sports Kenya as the 'The Home of Heroes'.
- In contrast, the completion of the Nyayo National Stadium, heralded the successful bid for the 4<sup>th</sup> All Africa Games in 1987.
- Both stadia represent an important part of Kenyan sporting heritage
- This poster overviews the two stadia and suggests future potential initiatives
- The impact of these two stadia, on Kenyan sport is underrepresented in the discourse on sport and infrastructure, as is its potential for alternative uses such as sport and heritage education.

### NYAYO NATIONAL STADIUM

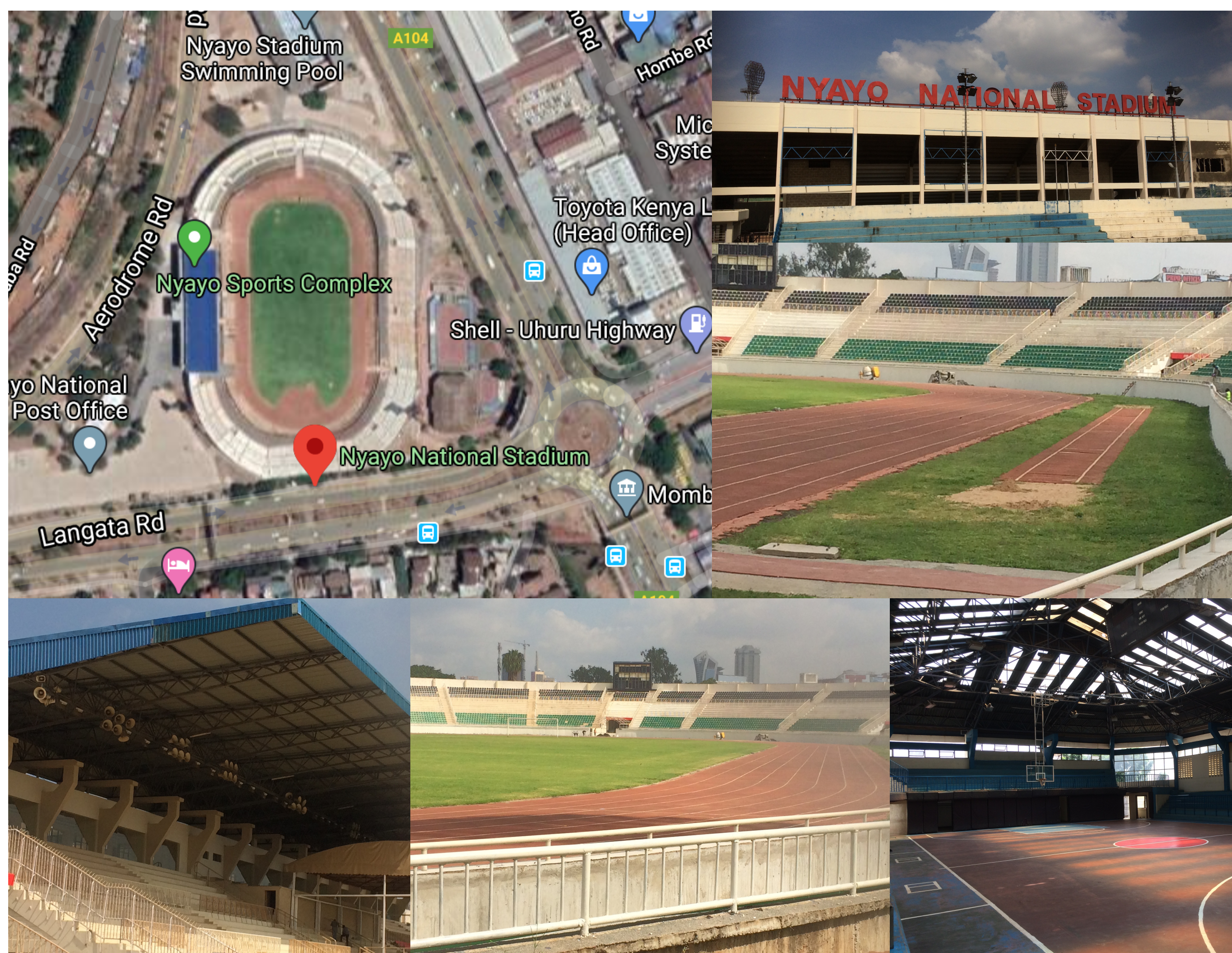


Figure 1 (left to right) a) Google Earth Image of the stadium, b) Entrance c) Running & practice track d) Grandstand seating e) Track f) Basketball arena

- Nyayo National Stadium has a capacity of up to 30,000 seats.
- Nyayo National stadium is located at the junction of the busy Mombasa and Langata roads adjacent to the industrial area and less than 2 kilometres south of the central business district (Figure 1).
- Nyayo national stadium is accessible for regular sporting activities during weekends, daily sporting events and for past-time activities for people working in the nearby CBD and the industrial area.

### SAFARICOM STADIUM



Figure 2 (left to right) a) Google Earth Image of the stadium, b) Entrance c) Track d) Pitch (Photos: Enomoto 2020)

- The Moi International Sports Complex comprises a 60,000 seat stadium, a 5,000 seat indoor arena and a competition pool.
- It is located in the Kasarani area, along the Thika superhighway on an expansive site, about 15 kilometres north east of the central business district.
- Moi International sports complex caters for longer term weekly events ranging from sporting events to conventions.

### Planning, Infrastructure and Access

The location of these stadia has implications for access which is a key factor in their ability to meet the sporting and cultural needs of the country in relation to national and international events. Key issues relating to planning and use of these sporting facilities include traffic congestion especially affecting access to the Nyayo National Stadium and inadequate basic services such as provision of water and facility maintenance that affects the Moi International Sports Complex. Innovative solutions to these challenges should consider alternative means of transport to improve access, enhancing supply of basic utilities and scheduled maintenance of the facilities. Resources and finance to mitigate the above could be sourced via active sport education and heritage initiatives. Stakeholder involvement in these interventions will ensure buy-in by current users and other potential users leading to the development of a vibrant sporting heritage in the spirit of "The Home of Heroes" that in turn nurtures local and international sports tourism.

### Future Initiatives that should be Considered in Relation to these Stadia

- Use of the stadia for education – specifically focusing on Kenyan sporting heritage
- Assess the viability of temporary or pop-up educational activities related to specific events
- Reserve a percentage of stadium entrance fees to be used for sport infrastructure development and sport heritage education
- Assess access and infrastructure development of other international stadia in built up areas in order to develop strategies to maximise Nyayo Stadium's location and potential
- Review international examples of stadia and their association with sport heritage (e.g. Humphreys 2019; TOCOG 2019)
- Assess the potential of the stadia for developing a sports tourism component of their operations

**References**  
 Humphreys, C. (2019). The City of Sport: London's Stadiums as Visitor Attractions. In Smith A. & Graham A. (Eds.), Destination London: The Expansion of the Visitor Economy (pp. 91-116). London: University of Westminster Press. Retrieved May 13, 2020, from [www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctvhrd0t9.8](http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctvhrd0t9.8)  
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