



Cover your mouth when sneezing



Wash hands with water and soap/sanitizer



Avoid contact with sick people



Don't touch eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands



Thoroughly cook meat, eggs. Don't eat raw food



Keep objects and surfaces clean



PREVENTION

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Kenya's huge investment in infrastructure earns praise at COMESA minister's meeting

BY MWANGI GAKUNGA

Kenya's development on railways and ports has won accolades from the Common Market for East and South Africa (COMESA) regional ministers in charge of infrastructure during their 12th joint meeting concluded last week.

The virtual meeting brought together ministers of Transport, Energy and Information, Communication Technology (ICT) and their representatives to review the implementation of infrastructural programmes in the COMESA region, two years since their last meeting in Nairobi in June 2019.

The meeting noted that Kenya was among a few other countries that have implemented monumental railways development projects in a region characterized by decline in capacity and deterioration of railway transport services resulting in loss of market share.

"The poor state of railways is due to lack of investment over the years," the ministers noted. "Member States



The Lamu newly opened Lamu Port where the Kenyan government has invested billions of shillings

applaud Kenya, Egypt and Ethiopia for their significant contribution to railway infrastructure development in the region."

The ministers urged Kenyan neighbors to expedite new connections to the Kenyan network to ensure seamless realization of full benefits.

Similarly, they urged other countries with plans to develop rail infrastructure including Eswatini, (formerly Swaziland) to link with South Africa; Sudan to link with Ethiopia and Uganda to link with Kenya and other Northern Corridor States.

The meeting also ap-

plauded Kenya and Djibouti for developing additional port infrastructure capacity and invited them to share their experiences with other Member States for learning and benchmarking purposes.

"Member States are encouraged to share their long-term plans like Kenya to

facilitate coordinated infrastructure development," the ministers said.

They recommended that all Lamu Port South Sudan Ethiopia Transport Corridor (LAPSSET) Corridor States and Djibouti be invited to utilize COMESA Trade and Transit Transport Facilitation

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Instruments on the corridor to ensure smooth flow of trade at reduced cost.

The ministers also urged Member States to improve and digitize Customs and border management processes through deployment of ICT based regional systems.

It is estimated that maritime transport handles over 80 per cent of the volume of global trade and about 90 per cent of developing countries' volume of international trade

is seaborne.

The meeting also underlined the suitability of rail transport to the region's mostly bulky commodities transported over very long distances to the ports, which has immense potential to positively contribute towards financial, economic and environmental sustainability.

The Kenya delegation at the meeting included Cabinet Secretaries, Mr. Charles Keter (Energy), Joe Mucheru (ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs) and the Principal Secretary in

the Ministry of Transport, Mr. Solomon Kitungu.

The Madagascar Minister of Transport, Tourism, and Meteorology, Joël Randriamandranto who chaired the meeting stressed the need to safeguard the huge infrastructure investment by guiding usage through policies, installing climate resilient infrastructure and observing periodic maintenance to ensure sustainability.