

Na WAANDISHI WETU

BAADHI ya wasomi na wanasiasa nchini wamekoshwa na uwekaji wa jiwe la msingi la ujenzi wa Reli ya Kisasa (SGR) kutoka Uvinza, mkoani Kigoma hadi Musongati, nchini Burundi.

Kutokanana hatua hiyo, wamempongeza Rais Dk. Samia Suluhu Hassan kwa ujasiri wake wa kuendeleza mradi huo mkubwa wa treni ya umeme ya kisasa.

Jiwe la msingi liliwekwa juzi katika hafla ambayo Waziri Mkuu, Kassim Majaliwa, alishiriki akimwakilisha Rais Dk. Samia huku Rais wa Burundi, Evariste Ndayishimiye naye akishiriki kwa niaba ya nchi hiyo.

Akizungumza katika uwekaji wa jiwe hilo, Majaliwa alisema reli hiyo itakayokuwa na urefu wa kilometa 240 pindi itakapokamilika, itakuwa ya kwanza kuunganisha nchi za ukanda wa Afrika Mashariki.

Waziri Mkuu alisema reli hiyo ya kisasa itasaidia kuunganisha masoko na kuendeleza biashara baina ya Tanzania na Burundi.

"Reli ikikamilika itafungua fursa kwa wananchi wetu ambao watakuwa wakitoka hapa hadi Dar es Salaam ndani ya siku moja. Hata katika usafirishaji wa mizigo, hivi sasa, lori linatumia saa 96 kutoka Dar es Salaam hadi Bujumbura lakini baada ya ujenzi kukamilika, usafirishaji mizigo kwa treni (ya SGR) utatumia saa 20 tu," alisema Majaliwa.

Alisema mradi huo utachochea ukuaji wa uchumi kwa nchi hizo na ukanda wa Afrika Mashariki, ambapo utakuwa kichocheo kikubwa cha kukuza sekta za biashara, kilimo, viwanda na madini.

Rais wa Burundi, Ndayishimiye alisema utekelezaji wa mradi huo ni jambo kubwa kiuchumi katika kusafirisha mizigo hasa madini ya Nikel yanayopatikana kwa wingi katika eneo la Musongati mkoani Burundi nchini Burundi, lakini hayakuwa yakichangia sana ukuaji uchumi wa nchi hiyo kwa kukosa miundombinu ya kuyasafirisha.

"Ninampongeza Rais Dk. Samia kwa kuleta maendeleo ya haraka nchini Tanzania," alisema Rais Ndayishimiye.

WASOMI, WANASIASA WAFUNGUKA

Wakizungumza jana na gazeti hili baadhi ya wasomi na wanasiasa kuhusu mradi huo wa SGR, walisema utawanufaisha wananchi wa Tanzania na Burundi kibiashara na kiuchumi.

Mhadhiri Mwandamizi wa Chuo Kikuu Huria Tanzania (OUT), Dk. Mohamed Maguo,

alisema ujenzi wa reli hiyo utaongeza ufanisi wa shughuli za biashara kwa wananchi wa pande zote.

Dk. Maguo alisema nchi imejaliwa kuwa na bandari nyingi ikiwemo ya Dar es Salaam huku Burundi ikitegemea bandari hiyo, hivyo reli hiyo itarahisisha usafirishaji kwa pande zote.

Alisema mbali ya biashara kubwa, reli hiyo itaongeza uhusiano kwa wafanyabiashara mmoja mmoja hususan katika bidhaa ndogo za mazao, nguo na usafiri kwa ujumla.

Akizungumzia faida za ujenzi wa mradi huo, alisema wakati wa utekelezaji wananchi watanufaika ikiwemo kina mama kuuza vyakula kwa wafanyakazi wataokuwepo.

"Mradi utaleta vituo maalumu ya kiuchumi ambavyo vitawanufaisha wananchi wa pande zote," alisema Dk. Maguo.

Mhadhiri huyo wa OUT alimpongeza Rais Dk. Samia kwa kuridhia kuanza mradi huo unaogharimu fedha nyingi.

Alisema hatua hiyo imeipaisha Tanzania katika medani ya kimataifa, kwani baada ya kusaidia ukombozi wa nchi nyingi za Afrika hivi sasa inaendelea kuleta ukombozi wa kiuchumi.

Kwa upande wake, Mhadhiri Msaidizi wa Chuo cha Kimataifa cha Kampala (KIU) Tawi la Tanzania, Erius Marius, alimpongeza Rais Dk. Samia kwa uthubutu wa kutekeleza mradi huo wa SGR ambao utasaidia nchi kukua kiuchumi na diplomasia.

Marius alisema reli hiyo itaongeza uzalishaji wa bidhaa hususan zinazoharibika kwa muda mfupi akitolea mfano mazao ya parachichi au maua.

Pia, alisema huduma za usafiri zitarahisishwa hivyo kuondoa mizunguko iliyokuwepo na kuchochea uimarishaji wa umoja na amani kwa watu wa nchi hizo.

Naye, Mhadhiri wa OUT, Dk. Timothy Lyanga, alisema Rais Dk. Samia anastahili pongezi kutokana na ukuaji wa sekta mbalimbali ikiwemo ya miundombinu.

Alisema takwimu zinambeba Rais Dk. Samia kwa kukamilisha miradi hiyo mikubwa katika muda mfupi.

Pia, alisema katika kipindi chake, barabara nyingi zimetengenezwa na kuunganishwa na barabara kuu.

MCHUMI AZUNGUMZA

Mchumi Ladslaus Siliydion, alisema Rais Dk. Samia anapaswa kupongezwa kutokana na maendeleo katika sekta mbalimbali ikiwemo afya, kilimo na miundombinu.

Alisema katika kipindi cha miaka minne ya uongozi wake, thamani ya kilimo imeongezeka kwa kuhakikisha wakulima wanapata soko la uhakika hasa kwa mazao ya pamba, korosho na tumbaku.

"Kilimo kimeongeza thamani katika miaka hii ikilinganishwa na huko nyuma, Benki Kuu ya Tanzania (BoT) inatoa mikopo kwa benki zilizopo ziwakopeshe

wakulima kwa riba ndogo ambayo mwananchi wa kawaida anaimudu.

Mhadhiri kutoka Chuo Kikuu cha Kumbukumbu ya Mwalimu Nyerere, Dk. Philip Daninga, alisema chini ya Rais Dk. Samia hakuna mradi uliodorora huku sekta zote zikifanya vyema.

"Rais Dk. Samia anarekodi nyingi za maendeleo katika kipindi chake, hasa katika sekta hii ya usafirishaji, barabara na reli kama hivyo tayari amezindua ujenzi wa reli ya SGR Uvinza-Musongati, haya ni mafanikio makubwa," alisema Dk. Daninga.

CCM KIGOMA

Mwenyekiti wa Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), Mkoa wa Kigoma, Jamal Tamim, alisema kujengwa reli hiyo ni mafanikio makubwa kwa Chama katika utekelezaji wa Ilani ya Uchaguzi ya 2020-2025.

Tamim alisema kukamilika mradi huo kuna manufaa makubwa kiuchumi kwa serikali za nchi hizo, lakini zaidi manufaa hayo yanagusa moja kwa moja uchumi wa wananchi katika kufanya shughuli za biashara na uchumi.

"Tanzania na Burundi zina historia ya muda mrefu ya undugu wa damu mfano wakimbizi wa Burundi wanahifadhiwa Tanzania miaka mingi, usuluhishi wa mgogoro wa Burundi na hivi sasa ushirikiano katika utekelezaji wa mradi huu ni jambo kubwa katika kukuza diplomasia ya uchumi na ushirikiano wa kisiasa," alisema.

INAENDELEA UK.3

Wasomi, wanasiasa

INATOKA UK.2

Kiongozi wa Chama cha CNDD-FDD Mkoa wa Burungu nchini Burundi, Bizimana Filemon, alisema ujenzi wa mradi huo unaimarisha uhusiano wa nchi hizo hususan katika eneo la siasa.

WAZIRI MBARAWA

Mapema, Waziri wa Uchukuzi, Profesa Makame Mbarawa alisema utekelezaji wa mradi huo unaenda sanjari na Ajenda 63 ya Umoja wa Afrika (AU) ambayo inataka Bara la Afrika liunganishwe kwa mtandao wa reli ya kisasa.

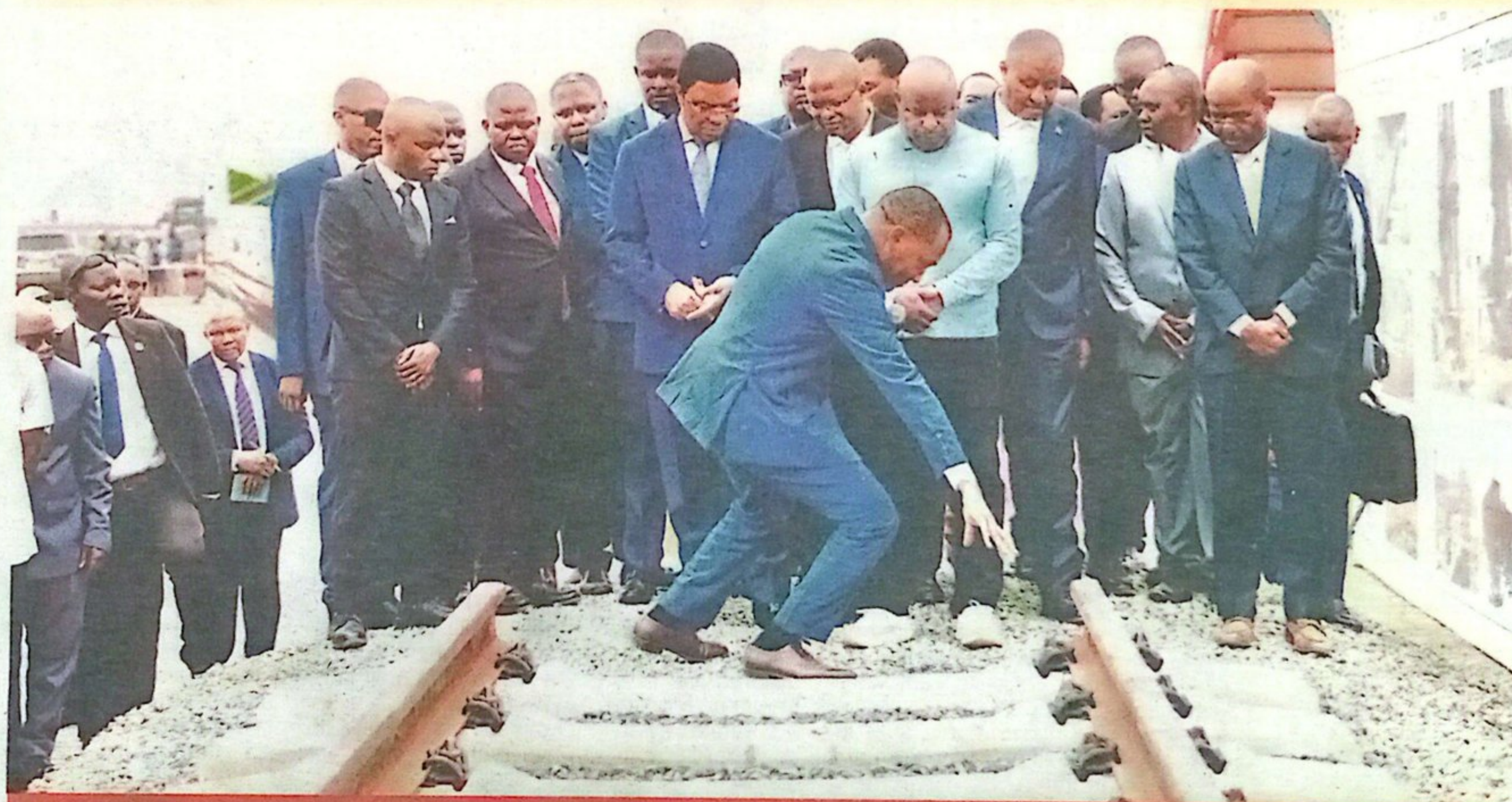
Alisema mbali na kuziunganisha nchi hizo, kukamilika reli hiyo itapunguza gharama za usafirishaji mizigo.

"Hivi sasa, kontena moja la futi 20 linasafirishwa kwa gharama ya dola za Marekani 3,800 lakini reli ikikamilika, gharama itashuka hadi dola za Marekani 2,000.

Waziri Mbarawa alisema faida nyingine itakayopatikana baada ya mradi huo kukamilika ni kuwezesha kusafirisha mizigo mingi kwa wakati mmoja.

"Hivi sasa, mzigo unaosafirishwa kwa lori moja ni tani 30, lakini reli ikianza kazi, tutasafirisha tani 3,000 kwa wakati mmoja," aliongeza.

SGR



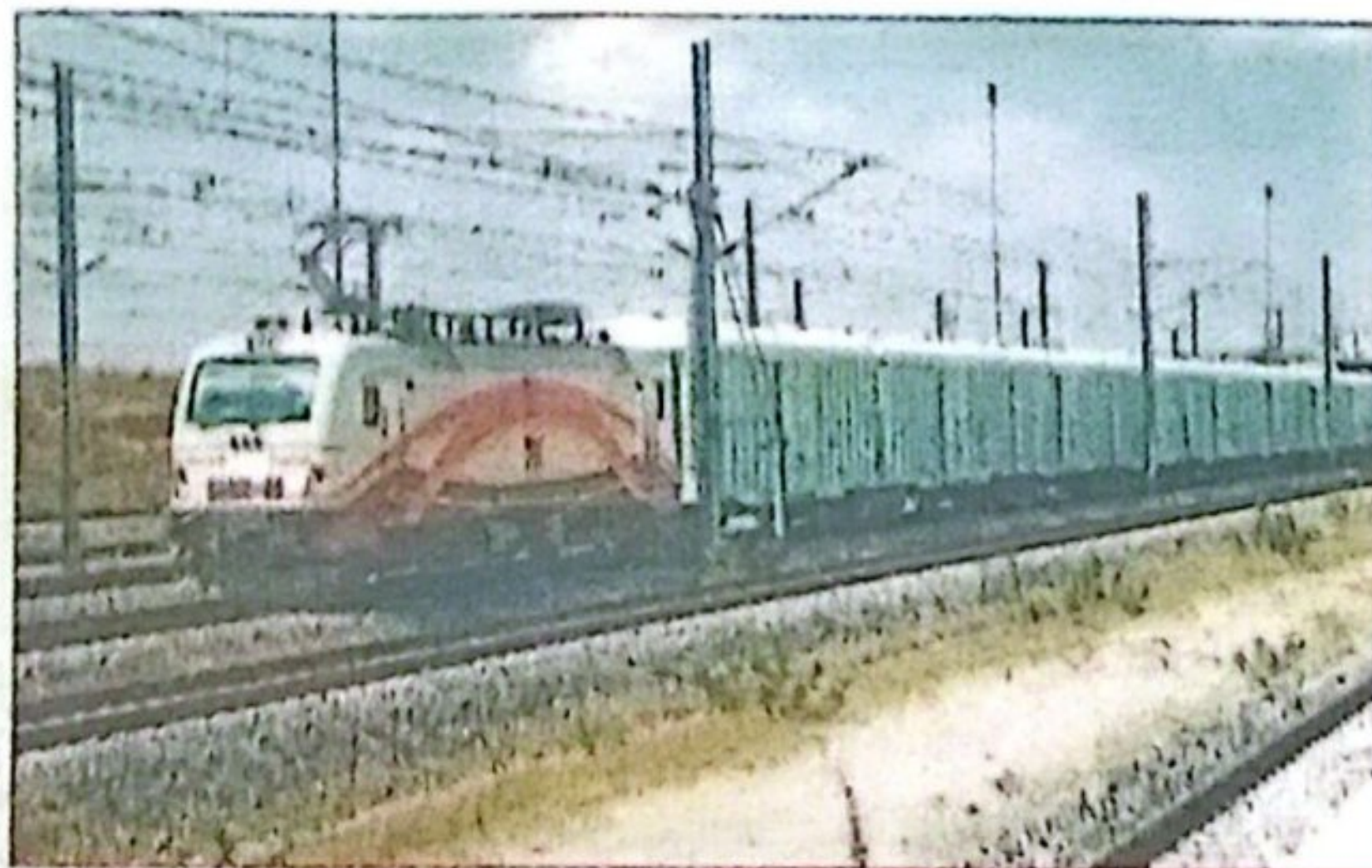
WAZIRI MKUU Kassim Majaliwa na Rais wa Burundi, Meja Jenerali Evarist Ndayishimiye, wakikagua Reli ya Kisasa (SGR) baada ya kuweka jiwe la msingi la ujenzi wa reli hiyo kutoka Uvinza mkoani Kigoma hadi Musongati, juzi. (Picha na Ofisi ya Waziri Mkuu).

Daily News
18/ August 2015
Pg 1 / Jumaat

Tanzania, Burundi hailed for strategic cross-border SGR project

By ALLY MAYALA

ACADEMICS and analysts have lauded Tanzania and Burundi for forging a strategic partnership in implementing a cross-border electric Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) project, saying it will significantly boost trade volumes and enhance regional economic integration.



With Burundi being land-linked, the SGR will ease its import and export activities through the Dar es Salaam Port, serving not only Bujumbura but also acting as a vital trade route for neighbouring countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda.

The two countries on Saturday officially launched the construction of a 300-kilometre electric SGR line worth 2.54 billion US dollars (about 6tri/-), connecting Uvinza in

Tanzania's Kigoma Region to Musongati in Burundi.

Speaking to the Daily News following the project

Continues on Page 3



SPORT»

Morocco set date

Tanzania, Burundi hailed for strategic cross-border SGR project

Continued from Page 1

execution launch, a Business and Entrepreneurship Lecturer at the Saint Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT), Dr Sylvester Jotta described the SGR project as a milestone in strengthening bilateral ties and fostering regional integration through modern transport infrastructure.

"With Burundi being land-linked, the SGR will ease its import and export activities through the Dar es Salaam Port, serving not only Bujumbura but also acting as a vital trade route for neighbouring countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda," Dr Jotta said.

He noted that the cross-border electric SGR would substantially increase trade volumes between Tanzania and Burundi, compared to the current situation where no railway link exists between the two nations.

Dr Jotta also said that the railway, complemented by inland ports like Kwana and Isaka, would significantly reduce transit times and ease traffic congestion on key routes to Dar es Salaam, particularly by reducing heavy truck traffic from Burundi and beyond.

"It will be a great relief for transporters by ensuring timely delivery of goods," he said.

He further praised Tanzania for continuing to leverage its strategic geographical position by implementing joint infrastructure projects with neighbouring countries, including the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) with Uganda.

"Tanzania is positioning itself as a strategic connector for the Great Lakes region," Dr Jotta added.

Echoing similar sentiments, an expert in economic diplomacy from the University of Arusha, Professor Kitojo Wetengere said the electric SGR will be a game-changer for cross-border trade due to its efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

"There's no other transport mode as efficient and affordable as an electric rail-

way," Prof Wetengere noted.

He said the project is expected to increase the volume of Burundian cargo using Dar es Salaam Port while facilitating the seamless movement of goods and services between the two countries.

He added that it would also stimulate investment in various sectors such as real estate and agriculture to meet growing market demands.

Prof Wetengere also underscored the job creation potential of the project, both during construction and after its completion.

A political and economic analyst at the Institute of Accountancy Arusha (IAA), Dr Adam Mnyavanu said the project aligns with the African Union's Agenda 2063, which envisions improved connectivity and continental integration.

"This SGR project will help unlock intra-African trade, which has been constrained by poor cross-border transport networks for decades," he said.

Dr Mnyavanu added that in addition to economic benefits, the railway would promote cultural exchange between Tanzania, Burundi and other regional nations.

The project, financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB), will be constructed under a design-and-build model using American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association (AREMA) standards. It will accommodate both freight and passenger transport.

The 300-kilometre railway line includes 240 kilometres of main line and 60 kilometres of passing loops. The Uvinza-Malagarasi section in Tanzania spans 190 kilometres, while the Malagarasi-Musongati segment in Burundi covers 110 kilometres.

The project is expected to be completed within six years, including a one-year trial run. Upon completion, it will link Burundi's mineral-rich Musongati region, known for its nickel deposits to the port of Dar es Salaam, boosting both trade and regional integration.

Joseph Mnyavanu
Monday 18/Aug/2025
Pg 3

The Guardian 18/August/2025 Pg 3 Monday

Tanzania, Burundi unveil \$2.15bn cross-border SGR railway project

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA and Burundi on Saturday officially launched the construction of a modern standard gauge railway (SGR) railway linking Uvinza in Kigoma Region to Musongati in eastern Burundi.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa laid the foundation stone for the 240-km railway project, which is set to become the first cross-border SGR in East Africa.

The project, estimated to cost more than \$2.15 billion is expected to be completed within five years, according to a statement issued by directorate of communications in the Prime Minister's Office.

Majaliwa assured citizens of both countries that construction will commence on schedule, emphasizing the railway's potential to boosting regional trade and connectivity.

"Once completed, passengers will be able to travel from Musongati to Dar es Salaam in a single day. Currently, cargo trucks take up to 96 hours to reach Bujumbura from Dar es Salaam. With the railway, that journey will be reduced to just 20 hours," he said.

He added that the railway will not only ease passenger and freight transport but also unlock new investment opportunities and strengthen economic ties between Tanzania and Burundi.

Burundian President Evariste Ndayishimiye hailed the project as a long-awaited dream come true. Highlighting Burundi's rich mineral resources, especially nickel, he recalled strong investor interest in the sector.

"Many asked how we would transport the minerals. This railway is the answer," he said,

expressing gratitude to Tanzania for its partnership.

He also outlined future ambitions to extend the railway to Kindu in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and eventually to West Africa's Atlantic coast, envisioning a pan-African corridor for development.

According to Lin Xiaotong, a representative from the China Railway Group Limited, which leads the consortium building the line, the cross-border railway - designed with a 1,435 mm international standard gauge and full electrification - is expected to be completed around 2030.

Serving as a vital transport corridor between Tanzania and Burundi, the railway is a key project poised to invigorate regional economic development and accelerate East African integration, he added.