

Time is money in the city! Nairobians need an efficient transport system



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the Central Business District, would leave their homes by 5am to ensure that they are in the city in 30 minutes or less.

After 6am one can be in traffic for an hour or two. Imagine wasting two hours to get to work in the morning, then another two hours in the evening.

Four hours a day, 20 hours in a week of five days is enough time to write an entire autobiography, specifically those thick bound ones that are too heavy to be held with one hand.

As densely populated Nairobi is, it is shocking that we do not have a proper transport system or that we are still waiting for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system, when neighbouring countries have much more organised transport. But why don't Nairobi's seem to think that they deserve more for their taxes and that their time is valuable. Remember time is money.

Matatus are often driven recklessly, and many are jalopies that shouldn't be on our roads in the first place.

As a people we have been scarred by the number of corruption deals in the country that when people talk about the BRT they simply refer to it as a scandal in the making, expecting millions of shillings to be lost in the project, especially knowing that it is a project that is to cost more than \$15 million.

Two years on, and the only sign we see of BRT buses about to arrive is a red line painted on the Thika super highway, which makes absolutely no sense since it is in the inner most lane, and no stages have been set for people to enter the bus or alight.

Sometimes the Nairobi commuter train does not run on schedule, meaning there's no incentive to use it.

And due to that, Nairobians will continue to endure traffic snarl-ups in their vehicles until transport systems are more reliable.

Nerima Wako-Ojiwa, executive director at Siasa Place @Nerimaw

The early bird catches the worm they say, but for many, they wake up early because it is not by choice but necessity. One can only wake up so early for so long.

Covid-19 definitely eased traffic in Kenya. There are two main factors that contribute to the amount of traffic in Nairobi— when it rains or schools open.

Population growth leads to our cities attracting people from rural areas or towns looking for a better living. Thus we should expect more vehicles on roads in future.

During the early days of coronavirus, we enjoyed less traffic than usual. Traffic is beginning to pick up but not to the levels that we were used to last year.

This year has been different for motorists. Before Covid-19, those living in Nairobi's suburb's but working in

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As guns fall silent in Juba, leaders must pull the trigger on dirty cash

The peace process in South Sudan has kept most of the guns silent between the two main protagonists over the past year, but core governance reforms that could help the country's battered economy and build confidence among its population have seen little progress.

For example, joining the Eastern and Southern African Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG), an inter-governmental body that promotes processes to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and other threats that undermine the integrity of the international financial system, will signal to investors and international donors that South Sudan is willing to take the difficult but necessary first steps to create a conducive environment for business by rooting out corruption.

However, such a move would be devoid of meaning unless it is supported by increasing transparency, strengthening local anti-money laundering regulations, and stemming corruption.

To realise the full benefits of the peace and improve the economic conditions of the population, South Sudan's leaders should muster the political will required to chart a new course by correcting past mistakes to unravel kleptocratic networks in the country. Lax anti-corruption laws and lack of enforcement have enabled South Sudan's politicians to milk government coffers dry.

Additionally, weak anti-money laundering laws create room for illicit activity such as terrorist financing, human and drug trafficking, and organized crime to thrive.

Becoming a member of ESAAMLG would offer South Sudan a chance to begin the process of regaining credibility in the eyes of its citizens and the international community. Applying for observer status, the first step in joining, would demonstrate to the world that the government may be willing to be-

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gin the arduous task of rooting out illicit activity.

The mutual evaluation process, which involves inviting ESAAMLG's 18-member states to closely examine South Sudan's efforts in rooting out illicit finance, would provide the country with a detailed roadmap of how to strengthen its systems to effectively protect against corruption and illicit actors.

The member states of ESAAMLG have strong incentives to support South Sudan's membership — Kenya, in particular. A significant amount of corrupt proceeds from South Sudanese elites flow into Kenya, and, maintaining the integrity of Kenya's financial system is critical for that regional economic powerhouse to attract the foreign investment.

Kenya retains considerable clout in South Sudan, and it should use its influence to encourage South Sudanese leaders to join efforts to undercut the flow of laundered money from South Sudan to its neighbours.

Kenya should extend its domestic anti-corruption efforts to cover South Sudan activities, as well, particularly because so many Kenyan banks operate in South Sudan and some may be facilitating the corruption, knowingly or not. Bringing the South Sudan banking sector up to Financial Action Task Force standards would allow Kenyan banks to operate in a lower risk environment.

Joining ESAAMLG alone will not resolve all of South Sudan's economic and reputational woes.

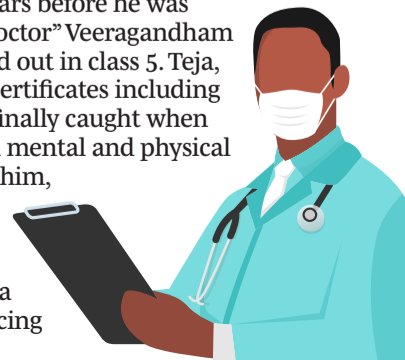
But combined with strong local anti-corruption initiatives that strengthen institutions and prosecutes corrupt officials and their international enablers, the move will demonstrate to the people of South Sudan and the international community that the government is looking ahead from tenuous peace to future prosperity.

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LAST WORD

Class 5 dropout worked as a doctor in 16 hospitals

An Indian fake doctor had worked for 16 private hospitals for four years before he was caught. In reality, "Doctor" Veeragandham Teja, 23, had dropped out in class 5. Teja, who had forged all certificates including a medical one, was finally caught when his second wife filed mental and physical harassment against him, which made the police investigate his background. Were it not of his wife, Teja would still be practicing medicine.



Trump wants an illegal third term!



Borrowing from most African leaders, US President Donald Trump says he will change the constitution to contest for a third term because his first for years was wasted by constant criticisms by his opponents. This has been unheard of

in America for the last 69 years since the 22nd Amendment of 1951 limited the president to two terms in office. He claims he deserves a third term because of the way his opponents have treated him. Most observers have dismissed it as a joke.