

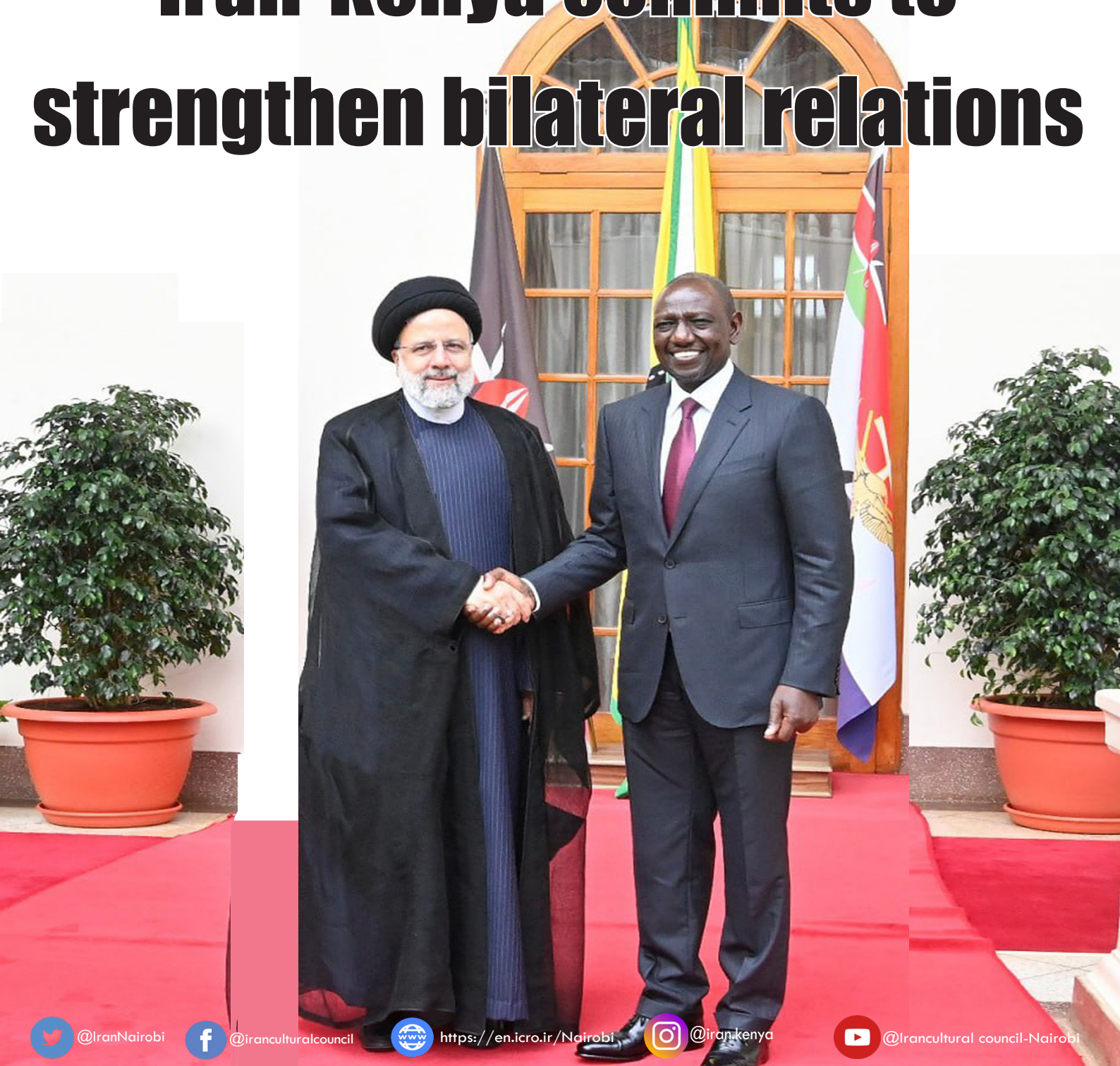
PRESS MAGAZINE

PUBLICATION OF THE CULTURAL COUNCIL OF THE EMBASSY OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, NAIROBI-KENYA

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Iran-Kenya commmits to strengthen bilateral relations



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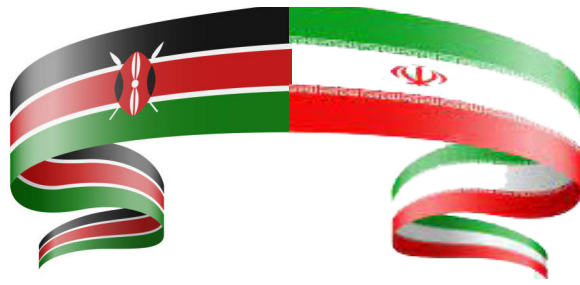
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***His Excellency
Sayyid Ebrahim Raeisi Sadati,
President of the Islamic
Republic of Iran,
landed at the Jomo Kenyatta International
Airport, Nairobi
for a State visit to Kenya on
12 July 2023***



Profile

The Cultural Council of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nairobi promotes mutual understanding and cultural co-operation among people of Kenya and Iran in line with the principles of the cultural agreement between Iran and Kenya.

The Cultural Council aims to create enduring partnership between our two friendly states' cultures by creating opportunities to connect with the latest skills, ideas and experience from Iran.

Activities

Library:

The Cultural Council has a very rich library consisting of myriad of books in the field of Persian language and literature. Besides, books on human sciences, history of Iran, Islamic studies, world history, religion, Islamic philosophy, a large number of books on social sciences, political science, culture and art are also available for readers and scholars.

Film and Art Division:

The film and art division consists of video and audio tapes of classical Persian music, art books, calligraphy models, attractive sceneries, handicrafts and various prominent Iranian films. In addition, film festivals and cultural exhibitions in various parts of Kenya are also organised by this Office.

Public Relations Department:

The department arranges meetings with prominent personalities from the domain of Kenya art and culture. Organises seminars, round table discussions and cultural programmes.

Information Centre:

The centre provides necessary information about Iranian art, culture and all other facets of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Distribution Unit:

This unit is responsible for providing Persian books, periodicals, magazines to the Persian loving people.

Persian Language Teaching Centre:

This unit is responsible for organising Beginners, Intermediate and advance level Persian courses for interested students. Besides, the unit has introduced Persian language teaching programme in Kenyan Universities.

Scholarship for Kenyan Students

We offer scholarships to study in the Islamic Republic of Iran to pursue either Bachelors, Masters or PhD. Please visit www.irankenya.org for more information.

Translation Unit:

The Cultural Council also does translation of books from Persian to English.

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Welcome dear reader to yet another exciting edition of Persia Magazine with a special focus on the recent visit by Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi to Kenya.

President William Ruto on Wednesday 12TH July 2023, hosted President Raisi and held bilateral discussions at statehouse Nairobi. The talks aimed at strengthening cooperation between the two countries.

Leading a delegation, President Raisi's visit to Africa entails a series of activities, including bilateral meetings, participation in intergovernmental committees, joint press briefings, and meetings with trade and economic officials in all three countries.

This highly productive visit has been an excellent opportunity for the two nations to renew and reaffirm their strong bonds of friendship and solidarity between the governments and peoples of Kenya and Iran.

The two leaders signed five Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) in areas of cooperation including ICT, fisheries, animal health and livestock products, and investment promotion.

Kenya and Iran are strategically situated to be each other's key points of entry into our respective regions, and we have affirmed our joint commitment to capitalize on this unique advantage," he added.

At the joint press briefing, President Ruto noted that Kenya and Iran are strategically situated to be each other's key points of entry into respective regions. Thus, affirming their joint commitment to capitalize on this advantage.

Iran-Kenya relations have deep historical roots and the primary objective of Raisi's visit is to enhance Iran's presence in Africa's economy.

Kenya and Iran have affirmed their commitment to working

together towards fostering unity and deepening bilateral relations between the two nations.

Iranians and Africans have traded since times immemorial, the testimony of which is the many inhabitants of the Swahili coast and the nearby Indian ocean islands of Zanzibar, Pemba and Comoros generally known as the Shirazi people.

Over the past 40 years, the Islamic Republic of Iran has never given up on its principled policy towards Africa due to political and cultural commonalities, despite the sanctions, pressure and disruptions of the West, and has always maintained itself alongside the people and countries of Africa.

Enjoy your Read

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A journey in line with an independent policy



President Ebrahim Raisi arrival at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Nairobi

At the official invitation of the heads of three African countries, Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe, Seyed Ebrahim Raisi left Tehran for Africa yesterday. Nairobi, Kampala and Harare, the capitals of Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe will host Iran's president Tuesday through Thursday to discuss and consult with the authorities on diversifying export destinations and creating areas of political and trade cooperation.

The 13th government's doctrine on foreign policy seeks national interests everywhere in the world, and this has led to a kind of balance in relations with the world over the past two years. In line with this view, from South America to North Africa and from East Asia to the West of the continent, it is a place to find and build a platform that protects Iran's interests. The 13th government has launched an effort since September 13, 2011, whose main goal is to pay special attention to the neglected capacities in the world, which have the least impact and impact of Western policies and American hegemony and can be used as much as possible in thwarting economic sanctions and political isolation of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

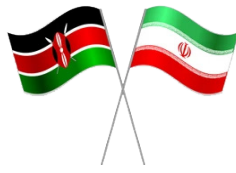
Mobility in the attention of the whole world by the Raisi government is of particular interest and evidence shows that this policy is welcomed by many countries and this welcome and events after each trip have become an

incentive for the government to continue its path.

The Importance of Africa to Iran

Africa is a continent that has been colonized by the West for centuries, but despite this historical colonialism, it still has visible and hidden capacities that make it significant and contemplative for any land, considering that the land of Africa has many mines and has a treasure trove of gold, diamonds, cobalt and many other valuable elements and metals in the world. International still has the largest undiscovered mineral and agricultural reserves in the world. Investing in such a continent, under the shadow of the 13th government's view of it, could be the golden opportunity for Iran to build a new horizon in Africa. The Iran-Africa Summit was the first step of the 13th government along this horizon path and from the same meeting, the request of officials and officials to attend Iran was placed on the list of programs of the Foreign Ministry.

The government's seriousness in looking at Africa can also encourage countries on this continent to be more accompanied with Iran. Many African states are aligned with the Islamic Republic of Iran in many international relations views due to the historical colonization of the West. Enhancing cooperation between Tehran and the African capitals requires the accompanying embassies.



Currently, Iran has only 21 embassies out of 54 African countries, and this number needs to be increased, which requires a change of perspective on African countries more than anything else, a shift in the view that Africa is a poor continent and lacks the values necessary for investment. The continent's reality today suggests that such thinking is no longer valid in at least many countries. Economic superpowers such as the US, China and Russia have for years been projecting a different perspective on the continent for their own interests. Raisi's visit to three African countries, the establishment of three business consultants in African embassies, and the beginning of political relations with some countries where misunderstandings had caused the breakdown of these ties, and the beginning of the Iranian embassy in Libya are among the most important steps of the 13th government in understanding the importance of Africa.

In the New World Order, every territory seeks economic prosperity, and Africa's capacities will be a safe route to provide the bedrock for that prosperity. Iran's neighbors have been paying special attention to the continent for years, Turkey's exports to the African country of Libya are about \$5 million, and direct airlines to the continent are constantly returning from Istanbul and Ankara airports. A significant part of the large tourism market in this country has been shaped by these flights, and ultimately the African continent is the focus of many of Iran's economic and even political rivals these days.

Contacts between African countries and Russia are also increasing significantly, and in July a conference with representatives from more than 40 African countries

was held entitled "Russia-Africa in the Multipolar World," a clear sign of this increase. The welcome of African countries, in the words of the international media, reflects their political fatigue with an order that has dominated or ignored them for centuries.

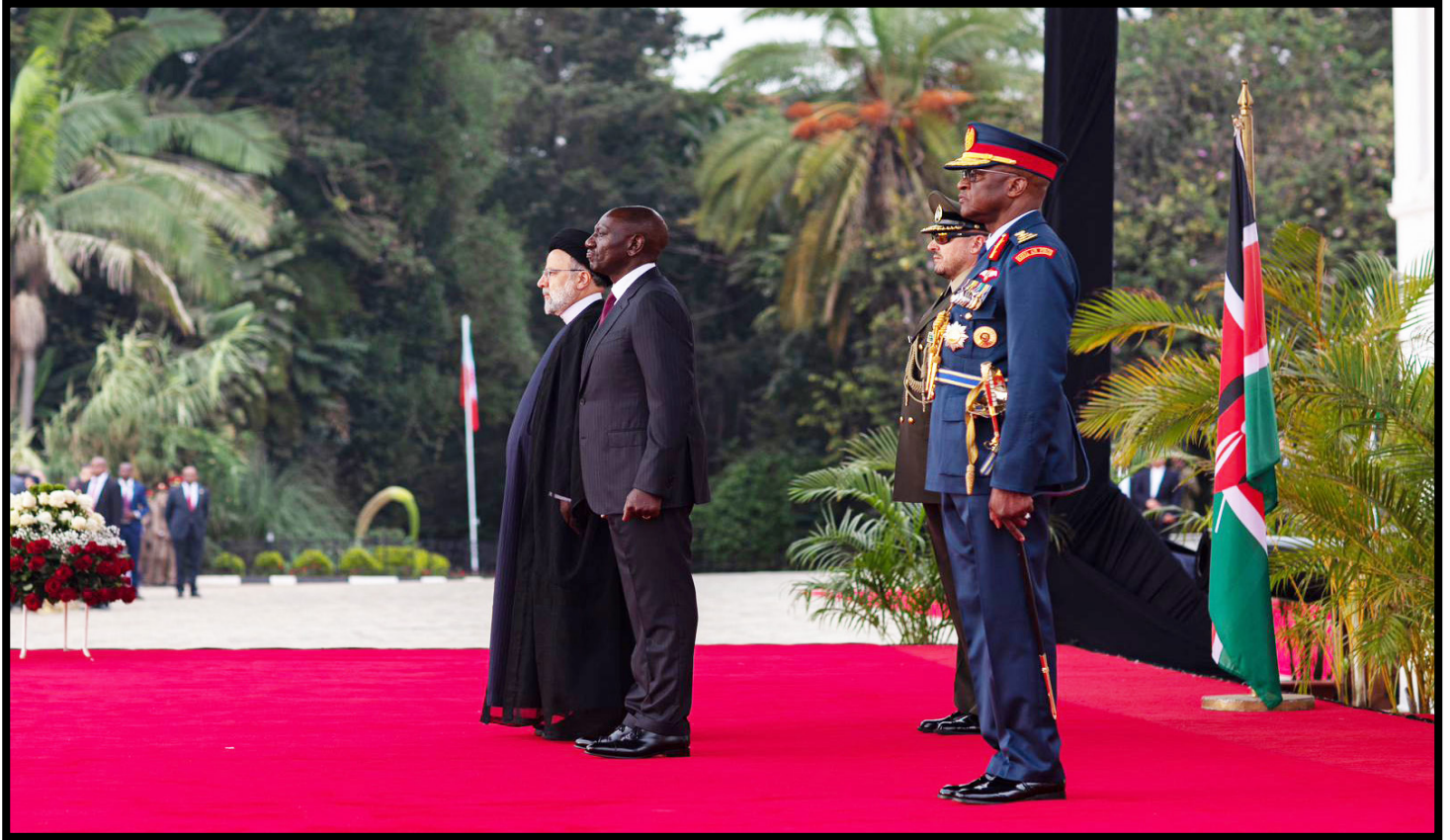
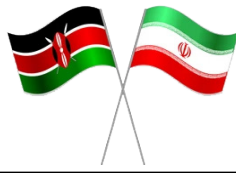
Land of Opportunity

In line with a special look at such a significant capacity, the government intends to define a reliable partner for the countries in this area; a partner that, given its capacities in the field of energy, knowledge-based technologies, power plants, dam, defense and security can create a significant position for both itself and for the African continent from the perspective of economic cooperation, and it seems that the trips of the Islamic Republic of Iran officials to this The continent is rising.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is trying to start a new chapter in relation to the Black Continent by creating and expanding air and sea shipping lines on the one hand and expanding economic consultations on the other hand, in which Africa takes part of the raw materials needed by Iran, and Tehran in the field of technical and engineering services, goods, cars, tractors, household appliances, medical equipment and medicine can be used in the field of technical and engineering services, goods, cars, tractors, household appliances, medical equipment and medicines. Africa's big and pristine market is impressive.

The beginning of continuous and robust relations with the African continent can bring the Islamic Republic closer to some of the continent's most prestigious unions. Unions, such as Africa, ECOWAS, Southern African Development





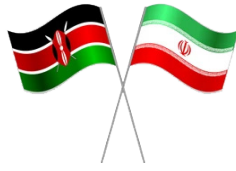
President Raisi and his Kenyan counterpart William Ruto at State House, Nairobi

Community (SADC), ADBG African Development Bank Group or even the Arab League, are examples of such organized institutions on a continent that is the second-largest and most populous region covering 20% of the Earth's land area and 1.4 billion people (18 percent). Proximity to one of the unions' member states opens the way for exporting Iran's capabilities, especially in the field of food and medicine.

Africa has been called the Continent of Opportunities because it can now be given special attention in the extraterritorial cultivation program. The African continent also has a significant and pristine land in the field of meat and livestock, and many countries, especially the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf, are making maximum use of this capacity of the African continent and provide part of their meat from this area. Fertile lands in Uganda and Kenya and livestock ranches in some parts of the continent have led the Islamic Republic to start its investment to take advantage of this capacity, and it seems one of the goals of Ayatollah Raisi's visit to these countries and the presence of the Minister of Jihad-e Agriculture in this trip is this issue of extraterrestrial cultivation which is in the field of food security and the needs of this field in the country He has something to say. The concentration of parts of the African continent in the field of livestock and poultry breeding has increased the need for vaccines and health and pharmaceutical items for this breeding, which can provide

another market for Iranian products and, of course, with a global standard.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, acknowledging the statistics and international references, is one of the owners of knowledge in the field of science and technology, especially the knowledge-based sector, and this knowledge is especially important for Tehran because of its locality. Exporting Iran's scientific and technological capabilities to the Middle East countries is a goal that has been considered more and more in the 13th government, and the president's own focus on this issue has been the way to unlock many knowledge-based products of Iranian companies in different countries. This is definitely a matter of interest in Ayatollah Raisi's upcoming visit, and the president will open the market for Iranian companies' products. Exports, however, are not the only goal of the president of this trip and the government, and the Islamic Republic has long-term goals in this regard, the most important of which is the establishment and establishment of factories producing Iranian products, especially in the field of industries in the country, such an experience has already been conducted in Kenya and is also on the agenda in Uganda. The transformation of the Islamic Republic of Iran into a technological and economic power in the minds of African authorities is an important goal of the 13th government.



Iran seeking better ties with ‘continent of opportunities’: Iran’s Foreign Minister



Iran's Foreign Affairs Minister, Hossein Amirabdollahian and his Kenyan counterpart Dr Alfred Mutua during the signing of MoU at State House Nairobi.

Iran is eager to expand its economic and political ties with countries in Africa and President Ebrahim Raisi's ongoing trip to Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe could lead to a major boom in relations between Tehran and countries in the region, says Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian.

In an opinion piece sent to the Islamic Republic News Agency on the eve of Raisi's visit to three African countries on Tuesday, Amirabdollahian said that economic and trade potentials that exist in relations between Iran and African countries can create a platform for serving the interests of the two sides.

"Africa has been named the 'continent of opportunities' in the global political literature because of its high economic potentials," said the minister.

He said Iran's trade ties with Africa had increased significantly over the year to late March with the signing of nearly 50 cooperation agreements, adding that Iran and African countries had also held four intergovernmental cooperation committees and exchanged some 83 trade,

economic, political and cultural delegations over the period.

Amirabdollahian said President Raisi's visit to the three African countries would pave the way for a major rise in trade and economic relations between Iran and Africa, adding that the trip will provide an opportunity for Iran to increase its supply of home-grown technologies to the African countries.

The top Iranian diplomat said President Raisi is also planned to make a trip to South Africa in the near future as part of his policy to expand relations with countries in the region.



The Islamic Republic wishes to work in synergy with African countries



President Raisi at State House Nairobi addressing officials of both countries after signing a MoUs

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi says that, unlike colonial powers, the Islamic Republic wishes to work in synergy with African countries.

“Certain [countries] have a colonialist view on Africa, but the view of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward this continent is based on human dignity and synergy,” Raisi said at Mehrabad Airport early on Wednesday before departing Tehran to visit the three African countries of Kenya, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

At the same time, he complained that Iran’s trade relations with Africa are very limited.

He hailed the good relations developed between Iran and African nations after the Islamic Revolution of 1979, saying his visit comes at the official invitation of the presidents of the three African countries.

“Today, communication with African countries is one of the priorities of [Iran’s] foreign policy,” the president said.

He added that his administration focuses on its neighborliness policy and on developing relations with Muslim and aligned countries.

Raisi also expressed hope that good steps could be taken in various political, economic, commercial, scientific, technological, and cultural fields during his African tour.

This is the first time after 11 years that an Iranian president makes a tour of Africa.

Holding bilateral meetings, attending intergovernmental committees and meeting with businesses and economic officials of the three countries are on the agenda of Raisi’s visit.



Iran, Kenya ink five cooperation agreements



Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife & Cultural Heritage, Ms. Peninah Malonza exchanging signed MoU with Iran's Foreign Minister, Hossein Abdollahian in the presence of President Ebrahim Raisi and President William Ruto

Iran and Kenya have signed five cooperation agreements in communication, mining, fishery, agriculture, culture, and tourism soon after President Ebrahim Raisi has arrived in the African country.

The agreements were signed by the heads of the political and economic delegations of the two countries on Wednesday, with the presence of President Raisi and his Kenyan counterpart William Ruto.

Raisi arrived in Kenya earlier in the day on the first leg of his three-nation tour of Africa, which will also take him to Uganda and Zimbabwe.

He was greeted by Kenyan Foreign Secretary Alfred Mutua upon his arrival at the Nairobi airport and was later officially welcomed by Ruto at the Kenyan presidential palace.

A 21-gun salute was also performed in honor of the Iranian president and his accompanying delegation,

followed by a meeting between the two presidents.

This is the first time after 11 years that an Iranian president makes a tour of Africa.

Holding bilateral meetings, attending intergovernmental committees and meeting with businesses and economic officials of the three countries are on the agenda of Raisi's visit.

Raisi: 10-fold increase in economic ties on agenda

Speaking at a joint press conference with his Kenyan counterpart, Raisi said Iran and Kenya have great capacities to expand their bilateral cooperation, and paying attention to these capacities can help improve the relations between the two countries.

"A 10-fold increase in the economic relations was put on the agenda," he said, expressing hope that the Tehran-Nairobi relations expand day by day.



“We warmly shake the hands of all the governments of the African continent,” Raisi said. “Africa is the continent of capacities. Iran views African countries as full of capacities, talents, and natural and mineral resources. We also have many capacities. The exchange of these capacities can help the two countries progress.”

He also said Iran has experience in the fields of petrochemicals, agriculture, and science and technology, adding that the two sides can have good cooperation in the field of fisheries.

“This trip, which is a turning point in our relations, can create a good market for Iranian products in Kenya and East Africa. In the exchanges and conversations I had with the president of Kenya, [we agreed that] the two countries should provide the basis for the expansion of bilateral relations.”

The Iranian president maintained that Iran and Kenya’s shared stance on the fight against narcotics can be used to further expand bilateral relations.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Raisi noted that thanks to the Islamic Revolution and the Supreme Leader’s guidelines, Iran has managed to withstand sanctions and threats while

making progress in various scientific, technological, and economic fields.

He also appreciated the warm welcome of the Kenyan government and people, adding, “We will be able to host the President of Kenya in Tehran soon.”

Ruto: Kenya welcomes Iranian investors with open arms

For his part, the Kenyan president said his country welcomes Iranian investors and businesspeople with open arms, vowing to create a suitable environment for them.

He said the two sides agreed that Iran will set up a car assembly plant in Kenya and produce Iranian cars to be sold in the African country under Swahili names.

“I am certain that these projects will not be stopped,” Ruto said.

He also described Raisi’s visit to Nairobi as very fruitful and a wonderful opportunity for his country. He said the trip will strengthen the bonds of friendship and solidarity between the two nations.



Cabinet Secretary (Minister) for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs and Iran’s Foreign Affairs Minister, Hossein Abdollahian during the signing of MoU at State House Nairobi in the presence of Presidents Ebrahim Raeisi and William Ruro



Why President Raeisi's three-nation tour of Africa matters



President Ebrahim Raeisi will begin a three-nation visit to Sub-Saharan Africa on Tuesday for the first trip in 11 years by an Iranian president, aimed at increasing Iran's footprints in a region with an economy of \$600 billion.

Iranians and Africans have traded since times immemorial, the testimony of which is the many inhabitants of the Swahili coast and the nearby Indian ocean islands of Zanzibar, Pemba and Comoros generally known as the Shirazi people.

Modern Swahili people have an oral history embracing both African and Asian roots, including one text which traces the founding of Tanzania's Kilwa to the arrival of a Persian prince.

The self-governing island of Zanzibar in Tanzania, apart from bearing a Persian name, has preserved numerous traces of its historical links with Iran.

Many of its residents, based on oral tradition, are descendants of Iranian merchants from Shiraz, who directly settled various mainland ports and islands on the eastern Africa seaboard beginning in the tenth century, in an area between Mogadishu, Somalia in the north and Sofala in

the south.

A study of centuries-old DNA published in the prestigious journal Nature in March estimated that people of African and Persian ancestry began to have children together in the Swahili coast region around the year 1000 AD.

Iran, after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, embarked on renewing relations with the African people based on Islam's prohibition of racism.

The current Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, paid six state visits to Africa during his two four-year terms as Iran's president, when the country was in a war imposed by the former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

The policy of strengthening relations with Africa continued during the terms of the next Iranian presidents who paid 41 visits to Africa in total.

President Raeisi will travel to Kenya, Zimbabwe and Uganda Tuesday at the head of a delegation after an unexplained eleven-year drought of Iranian presidential visits to Africa during the term of his predecessor.

Trade between Iran and Africa increased between 2005 and 2006, but the Global Financial Crisis and cruel



sanctions imposed on the Islamic Republic under a UN Security Council resolution in 2007 decimated it.

Surveys show Iran's trade with Africa has remained subdued at about \$1.2 billion over the past few years, during which no significant step was taken to restore economic relations.

That is going to change, according to the director general of the Africa Office of Iran Trade Development Organization, who expects Tehran's trade with Africa to hit \$10 billion in the next three years.

Africa is home to 18% of the world's population with an increasing population growth. It is a vital region with some of the fastest growing economies in the world, where countries are now more stable and predictable places to live, work and build businesses.

Africa is rich in natural resources ranging from arable land, water, oil, natural gas, minerals, forests and wildlife.

It is home to some 30 percent of the world's mineral reserves, including 40 percent of the world's gold and up to 90 percent of its chromium and platinum. The largest reserves of cobalt, diamonds, platinum and uranium in the world are in Africa which also holds 65 percent of the world's arable land and ten percent of the planet's internal renewable fresh water source.

According to Mehrad Ebad, a member of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Africa's foreign trade has grown significantly in the last twenty years, but Iran has not been able yet to use the capacity.

"That said, the African market still remains virgin territory and Iran can stake out a share of this market," he told Mizan news agency.

In Ebad's words, the lack of proper presentation of the African market to Iranian businessmen and economic entrepreneurs is one of the reasons why Iran is lagging behind other countries in the continent.

Another reason is the cruel sanctions. For exports to Africa, Iranian traders have to send their goods through neighboring countries such as the UAE, Oman and Turkey, which entails in re-exports and higher export costs.

To increase trade and relationship with African countries, Iran should activate joint chambers of commerce in order to introduce target markets and existing risks, because Iranian exporters generally have little knowledge about the continent.

Africa is a safe and low-risk destination for Iranian traders, with a market for minerals, oil and gas, nano and food products such as pistachio and saffron, as well as polymers, petrochemicals and technical engineering services.

Meanwhile, there is ample capacity in Iran for shipment of goods to African countries by sea, which is the most affordable way to move products all around the world and suited to many business types.

One of the remarkable upsides of Iranian trade with African countries is the distance factor. The distance between Iran and Africa is much shorter than between, let's say, China and Africa. This is a significant advantage which Iran can use to increase trade with the African continent.

President Raisi's visit to Africa is on track to enhance Iran's economic and political relations and pave the way for development of trade exchanges. That will benefit the private sector most.

Exporters and owners of private businesses have tagged along with President Raisi's delegations in his recent foreign visits.

According to Ebad, one of the solutions is to increase and embolden the private sector's role in foreign trade and the accompaniment of private enterprises in the president's foreign visits will benefit Iran's economy at the end of the day.

African markets are diverse, and buying power is growing among consumers across the continent. Iranian economists say the country can carve out a niche with proper planning, emphasizing the role of the private sector and developing joint chambers of commerce.

Iran's trade with different African countries is varied. It has had good economic success with the eastern countries of the continent such as Kenya and Tanzania, but not as much in many others.

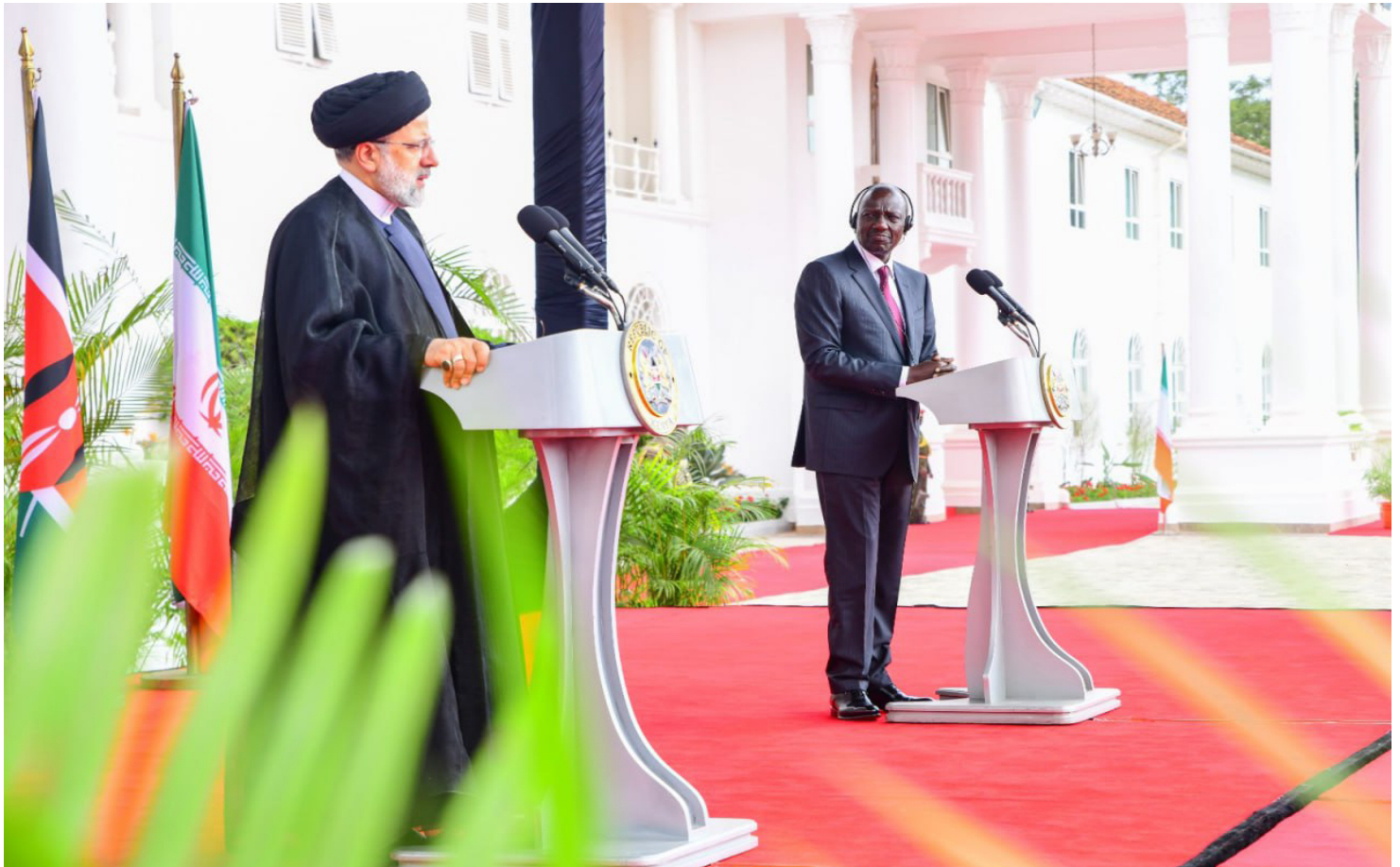
It is time to unleash capacities at full throttle, increasing exports, offering technical and engineering services and investing in some projects which would mutually benefit both parties and build new bridges between their nations.



President Ebrahim Raisi and President William Ruto at State House Nairobi



Iran's contribution to the African economy should increase



President Ebrahim Raisi and his Counterpart President William Ruto during a press briefing at State House Nairobi

While emphasizing on increasing Iran's share in the African economy, the president said: "Some people have a colonialist view of Africa, but the view of the Islamic Republic of Iran on this continent is human dignity and synergy."

According to IRNA 's government reporter , Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi on Wednesday morning and before leaving for the three African countries of Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport about the goals of this trip, saying that this trip was at the official invitation of the presidents of Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe. He stated: The relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the African countries after the victory of the Islamic Revolution have been good in various fields, but over time, some relations have been interrupted, especially in the last decade, due to this huge wealth and

resources. Natural and mineral that exists in Africa today, due to the many talents in African countries, the exchange of capacity between the two countries can take place.

The President stated that African countries have expressed interest in communicating with Iran and added: African countries are among the areas where good measures can be taken to communicate with Iran today.

He emphasized: Some have a colonialist view of Africa, but the view of the Islamic Republic of Iran on this continent is the view of human dignity and synergy.

Ayatollah Raisi added: There are good fields for cooperation in the field of land cultivation and agricultural work and protein materials in Africa. Very good work can be done in the field of science and technology in African countries. Our science and technology offices can be activated in these countries.

The president said: There is a good field for the export



of technical engineering services.

Stating that Iran's share in African trade and economy is very low, he clarified: Today, the share of African economy is 1200 billion dollars, and Iran's share is not more than 1 billion 200 million dollars.

The president emphasized: Today, communication with African countries is one of the areas that is a priority of foreign policy. The neighborhood policy and relations with Muslim and Muslim countries are among the subjects of the government's attention.

Ayatollah Raeesi Al-Ghadal expressed hope that good steps will be taken in various political, economic, commercial, scientific, technological and cultural fields during this trip.

According to IRNA, the official welcome to Ayatollah Raisi, the bilateral meeting of the presidents, the holding of joint meetings of the high-ranking delegations of the two countries, the signing of cooperation documents and

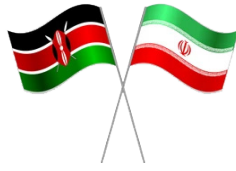
the explanation of the results of official consultations in the joint press conference are part of the plans of the president during his trip to Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe. .

During these trips, the president will also hold meetings with the presence of businessmen, business activists and economic officials of Iran and the host countries in order to introduce the economic and commercial capacities of Iran and these countries.

This is the first visit of an Iranian president to the entire African continent after 11 years, which is carried out in line with the comprehensive, balanced and convergence-based foreign policy at the same time as the economic multilateralism of the 13th government, with the aim of increasing Iran's presence in the economy of about 600 billion dollars of the African continent.



President Ebrahim Raeesi and his Counterpart President William Ruto at State House Nairobi during a State visit to Kenya for bilateral talks



Iran to set up motor vehicle industry in Mombasa – President Ruto



President Ebrahim Raisi chatting with President William Ruto at State House Nairobi

President William Ruto has announced plans by the Iranian government to set up a motor vehicle industry in Mombasa to produce indigenous Iranian motor vehicles.

Speaking after talks with his visiting Iran counterpart Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi, President Ruto expressed optimism about the project, terming it as 'good news' for stakeholders in Kenya's mechanical and automotive sectors.

He said the project has already been given a Swahili name, kifarū (rhino).

"I am confident that the project will be unstoppable as the name suggests," Ruto said.

"I have also informed President Raisi that we have eliminated taxes on the manufacture of medical equipment and pharmaceutical products...Iran to take advantage of

the opportunity and set up medical facilities in Kenya."

President Ebrahim Raisi, arrived in Kenya for his scheduled state visit early Wednesday, July 12 morning.

He was received by the Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Alfred Mutua, at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA).

He proceeded to State House in Nairobi where he was received by President Ruto.

The two Heads of State held a bilateral meeting before holding a joint press conference at 9 am.

Kenya and Iran delegates signed five MoUs on agriculture, ICT, education, tourism and mining.



Iranian-made drones in Africa to assist agricultural progress



President Ebrahim Raisi at Iran House of Innovation and Technology (IHIT) located along Dennis Pritt Road, Nairobi during his State Visit to Kenya.

Drones manufactured by Iranian knowledge-based companies have been unveiled in the presence of President Ebrahim Raisi in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi with the aim of marketing them for agricultural projects in the African country.

The unveiling ceremony was held on Wednesday during the visit of President Raisi to Iran's House of Innovation and Technology (iHiT) in Kenya.

The Iranian drones, namely Pelikan and Dorna, are to be used in agriculture projects for spraying pesticides in farms and for monitoring purposes in the lands.

The iHiT in Kenya is an important center for showcasing

the products of 35 Iranian knowledge-based companies, including products used in medicine, agriculture, construction and other fields.

On Wednesday morning, the Iranian president arrived in Nairobi and was officially welcomed by his Kenyan counterpart William Samoei Ruto at the presidential palace.

Kenya is the first leg of President Raisi's three-nation tour of Africa. He will also travel to Uganda and Zimbabwe.



Africa's new chapter in Iran foreign relations



Iranian President's visit to three African countries, namely Kenya, Zimbabwe and Uganda, is considered a new chapter in the foreign relations of Iran and promises to create new opportunities, especially for economic progress.

The African continent with an area of about 30 million square kilometers, about a fifth of the world's landmass and about 1.4 billion people has nearly half of the world's gold and a third of the world's minerals. 12% of the world's oil and 8% of natural gas reserves of the world are in Africa. Fertile lands for agriculture, a large population of consumers, and an important geographical location are other parts of the wealth of this continent.

African people suffered for many years during the British and French colonial period and experienced difficult conditions. After independence, they are looking for independent partners who do not want to colonize these countries. Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran

is considered a progressive country with rich economic resources and a rich cultural heritage. About 50 countries out of 54 African countries are seeking to establish a new order as members of the Non-Aligned Movement, along with Iran, based on multilateralism. At the same time, 30 African countries have more than 50% of the Muslim population, and this capacity is doubly important from the perspective of cultural cooperation.

The three countries of Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe, which are the destinations of Mr. Raeisi's trip, have particular importance. Zimbabwe is one of the progressive countries and one of the active members of the non-alignment movement, which fought against the apartheid regime in South Africa for years and was one of the frontline countries in the fight against racial discrimination. During the era of "Robert Mugabe", the relations between the two countries reached a very good level and the summit of the Non-Alignment Movement was held in this country, and



in this regard, Ayatollah Khamenei the supreme leader visited this country during his presidency. Due to the good market and the existence of mines and natural resources, good opportunities can be obtained in the fields of trade and investment in Zimbabwe.

Kenya is one of the advanced countries in the center of Africa, it has access to the sea and the ocean, and in terms of sea transportation, it can be one of Iran's good partners and a link between our country and African countries. This country is also interested in using Iran's transportation lines to reach Europe and Asia. Kenya will be a good market for Iranian goods and due to having water resources and fertile lands, it can be one of Iran's targets for extraterritorial cultivation.

Uganda is a progressive country and one of the pioneers of the non-alignment movement and the fight against unilateralism. This country, which is located next to Kenya and the Nile River originates from it, is developing, and its good market and rich resources can be an opportunity

for Iran.

Fortunately, the private sector in Iran is familiar with Africa and these three countries, namely Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe, and the presence of a private delegation next to the government delegation can make this sector active in these three countries as well. The government, as a platform builder, should encourage the private sector to operate in these three countries by providing incentives such as discounts on transportation issues or granting credit for presence in Africa.

In general, the Islamic Republic, as a progressive and non-Allain country, can be a true friend and partner of the people of Africa, and it is hoped that good agreements will be reached during the president's visit to this continent to secure common interests.



Iranian delegates at State House, Nairobi during the State visit of President Ebrahim Raeisi to Kenya



Iran envoy brands Kenya as gateway to East Africa



Dr Jafar Barmaki, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nairobi

The Iranian Ambassador to Kenya emphasized the significance of engaging with the East African country as a prime opportunity for accessing the countries in the region.

On the eve of President Ebrahim Raeisi's visit to Kenya, Jafar Barmaki, in an interview with ISNA, underscored Kenya's strategic position as a gateway to East Africa, alongside Tanzania, presenting favorable prospects for political and economic cooperation.

The Iranian envoy highlighted Kenya's robust economic standing in Central Africa, ranking second after South Africa. The country's well-developed infrastructure makes it an ideal conduit for landlocked nations in the region, offering Iran a valuable avenue to reach other East African markets.

The ambassador said that in East African society, countries have established preferential trade among themselves, and Kenya, along with other countries, is a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), which consists of 22 members.

Moreover, the African country benefits from preferential trade agreements with countries like the United States and the United Kingdom in certain areas, Barmaki said, adding, "Kenya's position provides us with the opportunity to access other markets in the region".

The ambassador stressed Kenya's diplomatic significance in East Africa, serving as a reference point for some neighboring countries. By expanding bilateral relations in various sectors, Iran aims to bolster its presence in the East Africa region.



Trade volume

Ambassador Barmaki also highlighted that official statistics indicate the trade volume between Iran and Kenya to be approximately \$100 million. However, unofficial figures suggest a higher amount, such as Iranian “bitumen” exports to this country exceeding \$50 million.

The Iranian ambassador to Kenya discussed his country’s policies to encourage Kenyans to expand their trade interactions with Iran, including areas such as importing tea, coffee, lamb, and exporting agricultural machinery, among others.

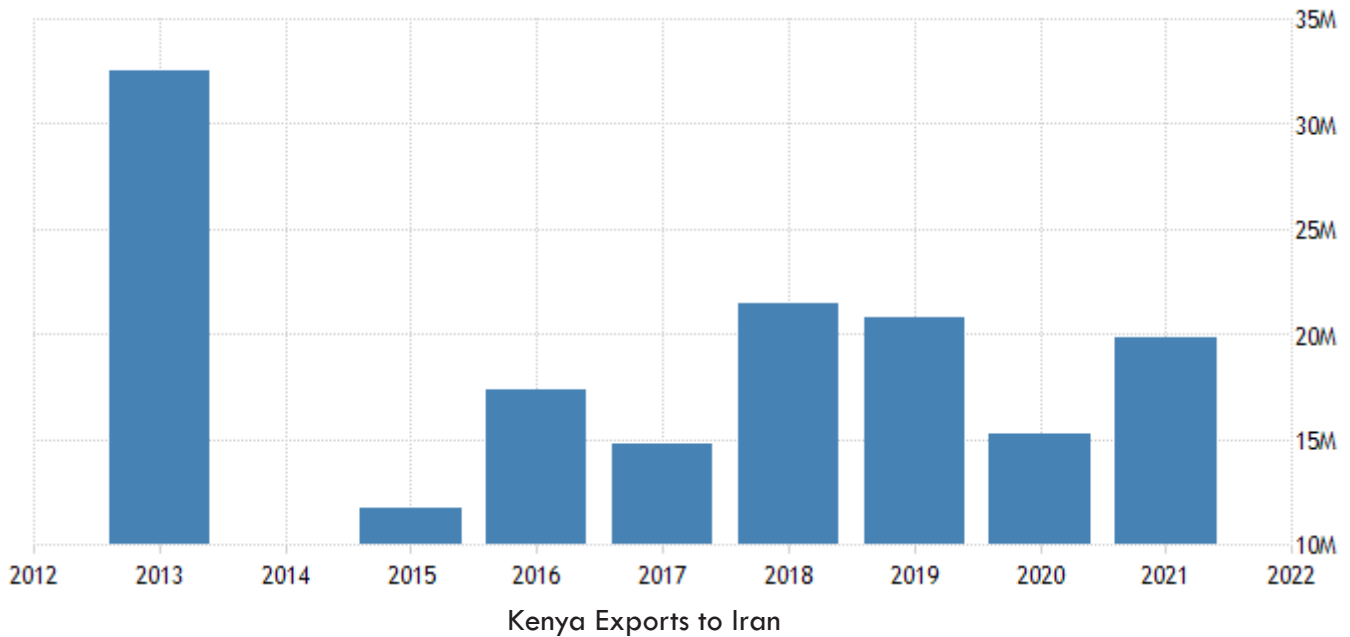
the two countries, and if it reaches a conclusion, it will provide good facilities for the travel of citizens of both countries, he said.

Highlighting the considerable interest of Kenya’s Muslim population, including Shia Muslims, in visiting Iran, Barmaki emphasized there are considerable capacities in Iran in relation to health and pilgrimage tourism, and the launch of direct flights connecting the two countries would play a pivotal role in strengthening these ties by reducing travel distance and costs.

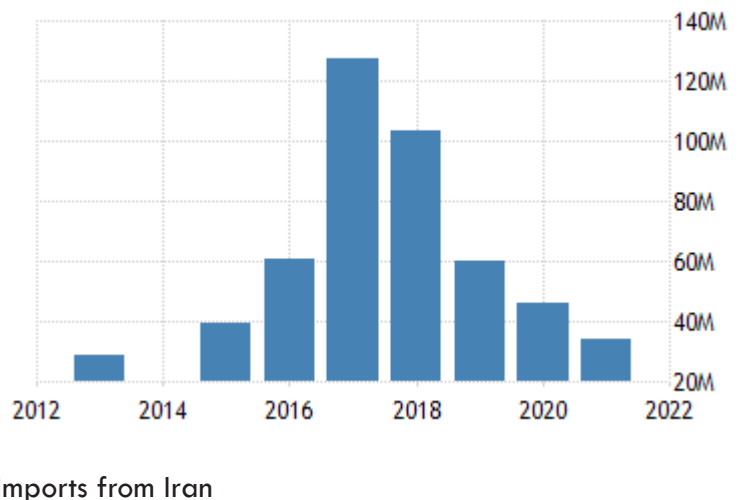
According to Barmaki, approximately 120 Iranians reside in Kenya, including individuals engaged in economic activities in technical and engineering fields, as well as those contributing to specialized UN agencies operating in the country.

Visa waiver

In another part of the interview, the Iranian envoy said that his country is pursuing the waiver of visas to facilitate travel between the two countries. This matter will probably be discussed in the upcoming joint commission meeting of

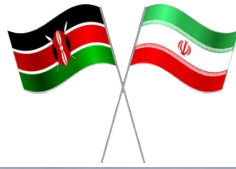


Data from Trade Economics 2023



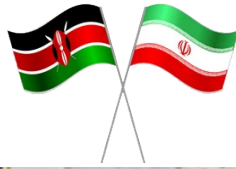


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Airport - Nairobi







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State House-Nairobi







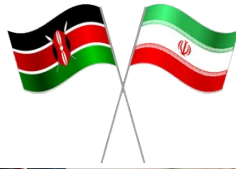
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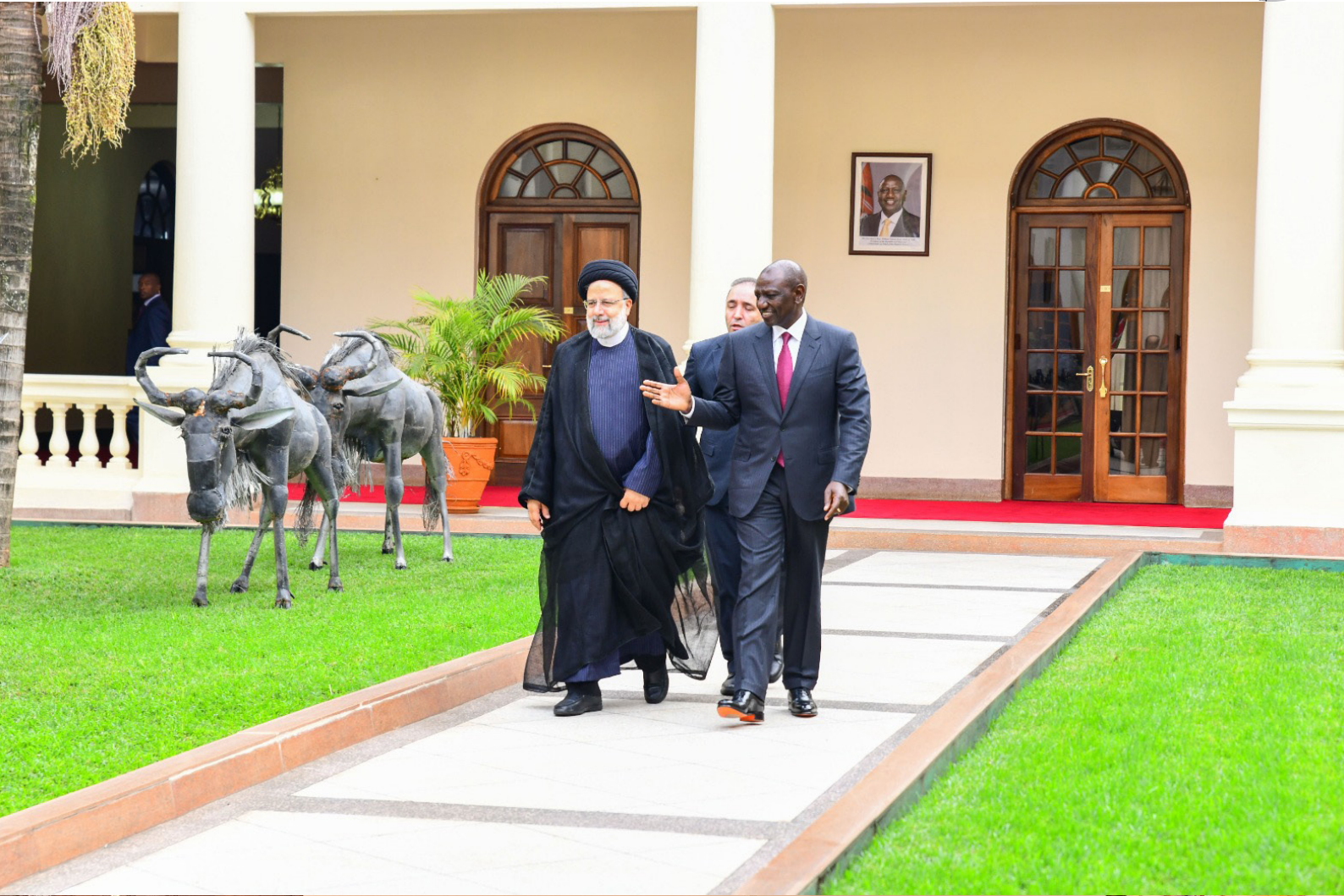
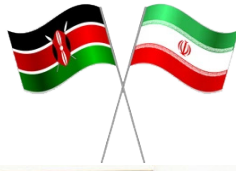


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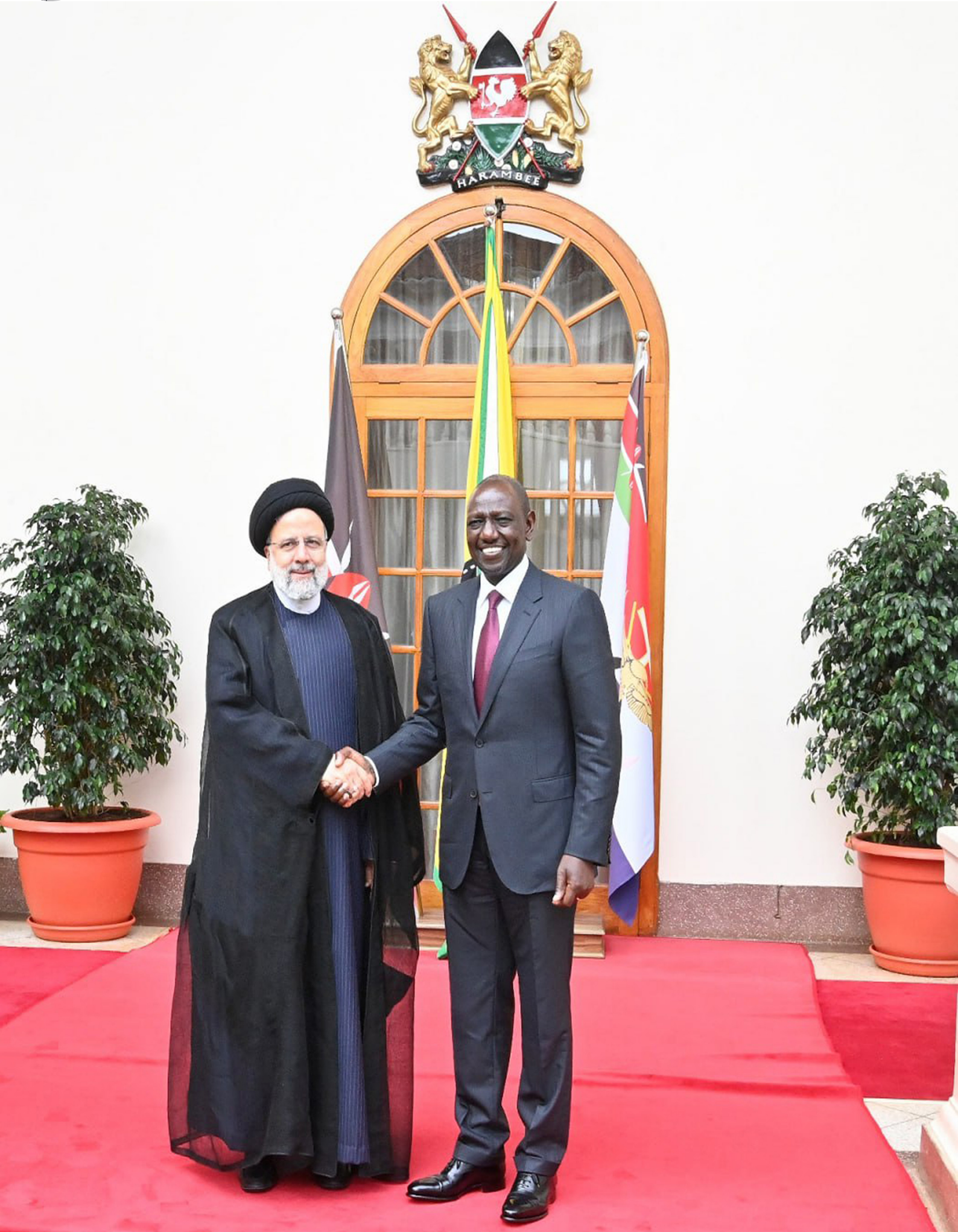




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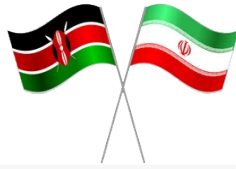


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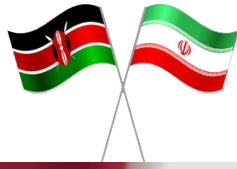
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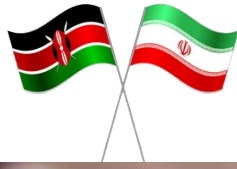
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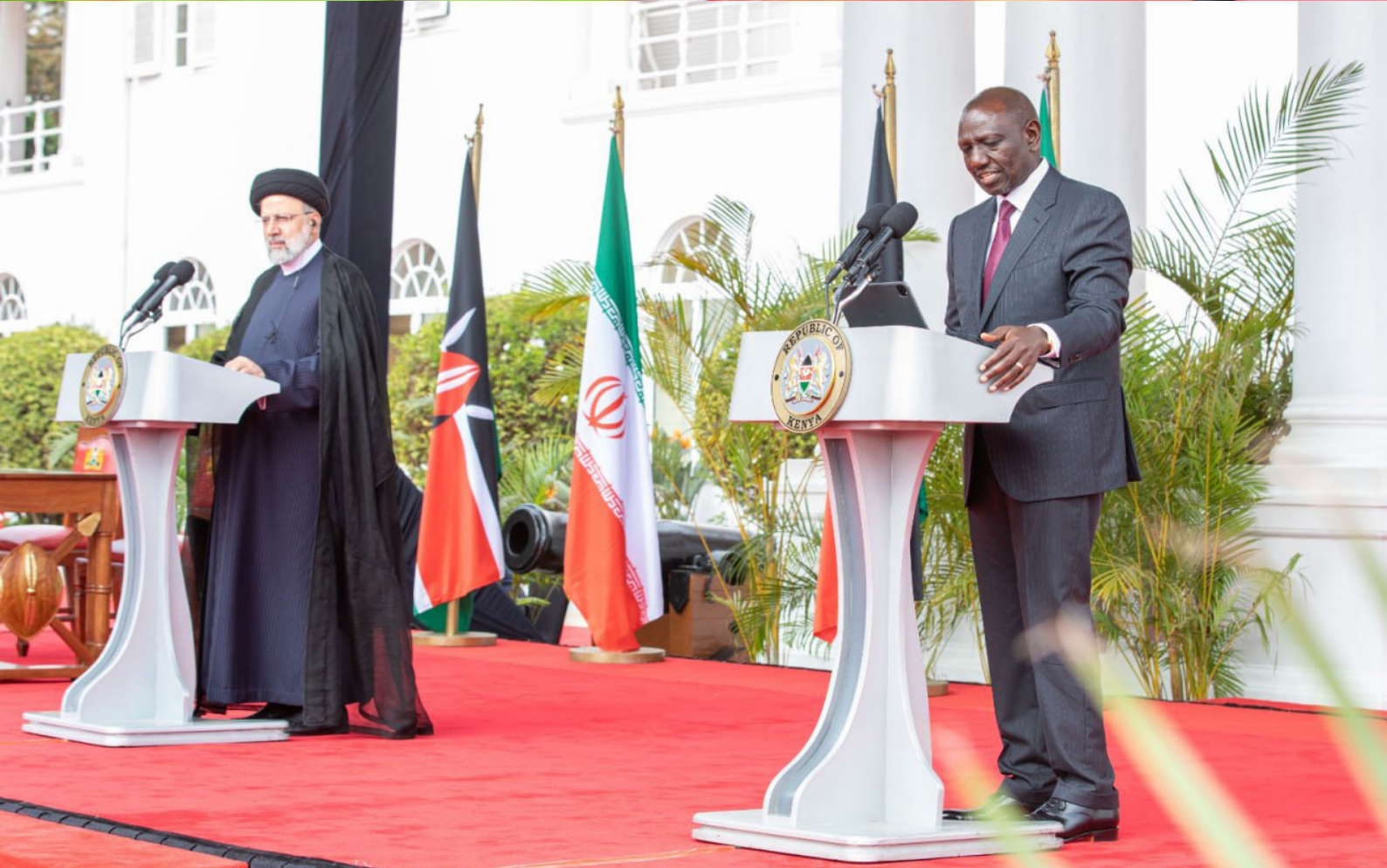
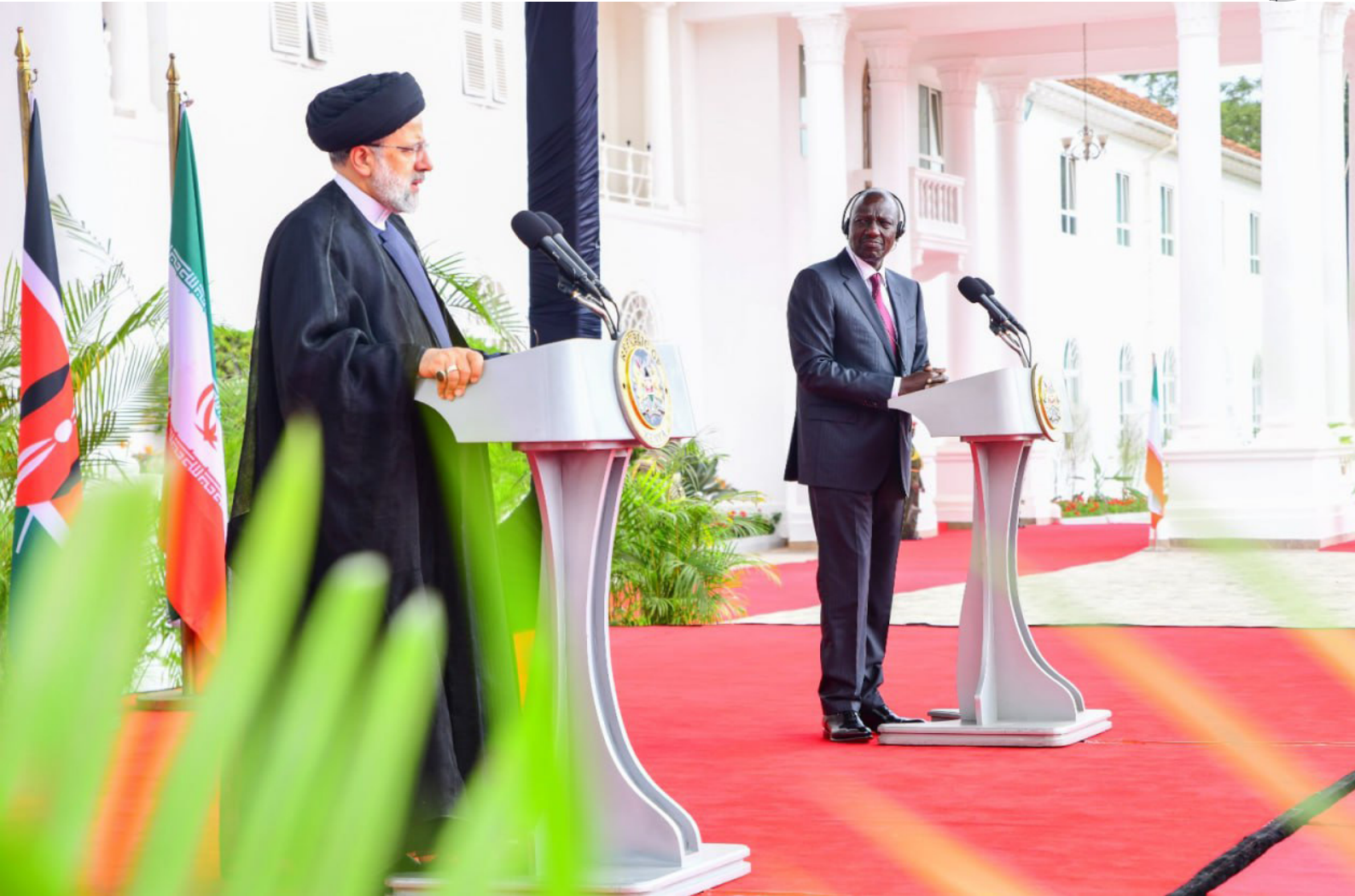


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Jomo Kenyatta Musoleum





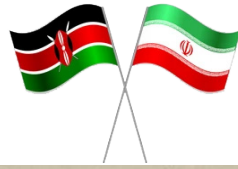


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Kenyan Shia Leaders



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Kenyan Shia Leaders



