



### **[South Africa to start processing group visa applications for Chinese, Indian tourists](#)**

South Africa will start receiving group visa applications from selected tour operators on behalf of Chinese and Indian tourists in mid-February, an official from the Department of Home Affairs said on Tuesday. Yusuf Simons, Western Cape provincial manager at the Department of Home Affairs, said in an interview with Xinhua that South Africa has selected 65 tour operators from South Africa, India and China for the Trusted Tour Operator Scheme (TTOS) to submit group visa applications by Chinese and Indian tourists to visit the country. The TTOS was announced last year to boost tourism arrivals from China and India, as Chinese tourists account for only 1.8 percent and Indian tourists 3.9 percent of all international visitors to South Africa. CGTN.

### **[Chinese companies to build Tanzania railway line](#)**

Two Chinese companies have won the tender to construct a 282-kilometre standard-gauge railway line between Tanzania and Burundi. Tanzanian Transport Minister, Makame Mbarawa, announced the winning bidders – China Railway Engineering Group Ltd and China Railway Engineering Design and Consulting Group – during the contract signing ceremony recently. The African Development Bank will finance the project to build the railway line, which will connect to the standard-gauge railway that is already under construction for the state-owned Tanzania Railway Corporation. The railway line will link Dar es Salaam with Port Mwanza on Lake Victoria and Port Kigoma (Ujiji) on Lake Tanganyika, closely following the route of the existing metre-gauge railway. Freight News.

### **[Kenya-China partnership accelerates digital transformation, officials say](#)**

Kenya's longstanding partnership with China has played a crucial role in advancing the country's transition to a more inclusive digital economy, senior officials said Tuesday. Kenya has leveraged its cooperation with the Chinese government and enterprises to lay the foundation for a thriving knowledge-based economy, said Harriette Chiggai, who serves in the Office of the Women Rights Advisor to the President. Kenyan President William Ruto signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in October 2023 with Chinese telecom firm Huawei to promote digital transformation in the country. Xinhua.

### **[China National Petroleum Resumes Crude Production in South Sudan](#)**

Dar Petroleum Operating Co. has resumed producing oil from a number of its wells in South Sudan after almost a year, people with knowledge of the matter said. The company, operated by China National Petroleum Corp., China Petroleum & Chemical Corp. and state-owned Nile Petroleum Corp., has reopened four batches of wells, one of the people said, asking not to be identified as they are not authorized to speak publicly on the matter. Bloomberg.

### **[Ghanaian president joins Chinese community to celebrate Lantern Festival](#)**

Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama late Sunday joined the Chinese community in Ghana to

mark the Chinese Lantern Festival, which falls on Wednesday this year. In his speech, Mahama described the festival as a symbol of enlightenment, unity and progress, as the act of lighting and launching lanterns into the sky represents the collective aspirations of the people for peace, prosperity, and a brighter future. He said the celebration serves as a bridge bonding Ghanaians and Chinese together to celebrate and foster unity. "It is resonating deeply with us in Ghana, where the values of family, community, and solidarity are central to our way of life." Xinhua.

#### **Chinese Ambassador to Ghana Tong Defa Meets with H.E. John Dramani Mahama**

On 10th February, H.E. Tong Defa met with H.E. John Dramani Mahama @JDMahama. Recalling 65 years of friendship since the diplomatic ties, both sides agreed to deepen bilateral Strategic Partnership and strengthen practical cooperation on agriculture, infrastructure etc., to better benefit the two peoples. Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The People's Republic of China.

#### **Chinese Ambassador to Ghana Tong Defa Attends the Chinese Lantern Festival Gala**

On 9th February, Ambassador Tong Defa and President John Mahama attended the Chinese Lantern Festival Gala held by the Chinese community in Ghana to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Ghana and the Chinese Lantern Festival. Nearly 4,000 Chinese and Ghanaian friends were present. Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The People's Republic of China.