

Iran calls on BRICS to play role in stopping Israeli crimes



Tehran's age-old bicycle repair shop keeps tradition rolling 8>



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## African markets await Iranian business ventures

## PERSPECTIVE E X C L U S I V E

Africa has ample untapped opportunities, with Iranian businesspeople seemingly missing out on the vast agricultural and commercial potential of the continent. Given its equatorial location and favorable climate. Africa has excellent agricultural prospects. Therefore, by not only exporting agricultural machinery, seeds, fertilizers, and animal vaccines but also sharing technical knowhow, Iran could improve its value proposition by establishing agricultural processing industries in African nations.

The concept of extraterrestrial cultivation is not far-fetched. While some agreements have been inked with certain countries, there is a pressing need for streamlined and transparent laws and regulations in this arena. The mineral wealth of Africa stands as another lucrative commercial asset. With abundant resources spanning Mendeleev's periodic table and substantial reserves of precious metals and gems like gold and diamonds, African nations offer plenty of opportunities for sourcing minerals crucial to Iran's mining sector, including iron ore, copper ore, manganese, cobalt, lithium,

chromite, uranium, bauxite and more. Joint extraction ventures or outright mine ownership could significantly bolster Iran's industrial sectors.

Despite the continent's mineral bounty, inadequate infrastructure, including roads and railways, poses challenges in transporting extracted resources to seaports. African nations, often in a phase of development, present a ripe environment for carrying out infrastructure projects, offering a gateway for Iranian technical and engineering firms to export expertise and construction materials. Iranian companies with a rich history in oil and gas exploration,

extraction and processing stand to benefit from Africa's energy sector woes. As African countries grapple with energy deficiencies, Iran's proficient energy firms could lend their expertise in electricity production and power plant development.

Addressing the healthcare deficit in Africa presents yet another avenue for Iranian knowledge-based entities. Venturing into hospital construction, medical equipment exports, and dispatching medical professionals could bridge the healthcare gap in these nations. The Iranian Red Crescent is already active in some African countries.

In terms of commodities, opportunities abound for exports in sectors like iron, steel, bitumen, automobiles, auto spare parts, agricultural machinery – including combines, tractors and sprayers – drones, plastic and polymer products, carpets and rugs, construction materials, household appliances and more.

Contrary to prevailing perceptions, many countries in Africa are safe for economic ventures and investments, presenting a conducive environment for fostering economic ties. The Islamic Republic of Iran appears to be hell-bent on securing an economic foothold in this continent.

## Yazdani back to training in a bid for Olympic glory



Iran's Hassan Yazdani made his long-awaited return to the wrestling mat this week in a bid to win a third successive Olympic medal in the upcoming Paris Games.