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Iran now eyes direct flights to Nairobi

BY NEVILLE OTUKI

Iran is eyeing direct flights to Nairobi as it races to increase bilateral trade and investments between the two countries following last year's removal of economic sanctions on the oil-rich Middle East nation.

Officials from Tehran yesterday met with their Kenyan counterparts and also initiated talks to have Kenya Airways launch flights to Iran.

"We are in negotiations with Airbus and Boeing to get 200 new airplanes. This will allow us to start direct flights to Nairobi," Iran's minister for Industry, Mine and Trade Mohammad Nematzadeh said in Nairobi.

He was accompanied by executives of 12 Iranian companies scouting for deals in infrastructure, oil and gas, cement, home appliances and housing.

The United Nations and the US last year relaxed economic sanctions on Iran.