

Kenya PM says massive port project taking shape

NAIROBI: Kenya's Prime Minister Raila Odinga says that a planned massive port project and transport corridor linking the country's coast to Ethiopia and oil-rich South Sudan is slowly becoming a reality.

"Kenya's plan for a second port in Lamu which has remained a dream for more than 40 years is steadily moving towards reality," Odinga's office said.

The port which is to be constructed at the coastal town of Lamu will be Kenya's second along the Indian Ocean coast after Mombasa. It is expected to be three times the size of Mombasa port.

Kenya invited tenders in 2010 for the first phase of the new port, which include the construction of three berths to accommodate 100,000 dwt (deadweight tonnes) container ships, 30,000-dwt general cargo ships and 100,000-dwt bulk cargo carriers.

South Sudan, locked in a furious oil dispute with Sudan, last month signed an agreement to build an oil pipeline to Lamu, potentially freeing it from reliance on its northern neighbour's pipeline and refineries.

China is to help finance the construction of the port. Kenya will officially inaugurate the port's construction on March 2.

Source: AFP