

Majaliwa pledges to end investments challenges, review of unfriendly laws

By Henry Mwangonde

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday assured investors that the government will make everything possible to end challenges affecting investments in the country including reviewing unfriendly laws to make the country the best destination for doing business in the region.

Speaking when he toured the GFA assemblers industry in the Coast region, PM Majaliwa said the country's top leadership is determined to ensure investors enjoyed investing in various sectors in the country.

He said most of the challenges that were affecting investing in the country have been addressed adding that currently the government was working on addressing the few remaining.

"You should feel free to tell us when you have some burning issues because we as a government have opened doors for discussion and addressing the challenges that you face," he said.

The 12bn/- industry is designed to assemble various makes and models of light and heavy commercial trucks with a current capacity of 2500 units per annum.

The director for the industry Aljawad Karimal said the 12bn/- factory will be constructed in phases whereby the first phase about 4bn/- has been injected.

He said the factory has so far employed about 100bn/- people but decried delays in release of imported materials by relevant custom bodies.

"The automotive industry is growing but there are setbacks including delays of clearance of materials by some government entities which make the process to assemble take some time," he said.

He also requested the PM to help in addressing the electricity challenge which the factory was facing as there was power shortage. In response PM Majaliwa directed the electricity generation company Tanesco to address the

matter immediately.

The investor also requested the PM that the government should favour local investors by protecting them legally through tendering processes which will put locally made products as priority.

In his remarks, Regional Commissioner for the Coast Region Evarist Ndikilo said the region has 1,438 industries that have been constructed in the last five years and created 50,000 direct jobs.

The RC said the industries have contributed to the increase in revenue from 65bn/- per year in 2015 to 147bn/- in 2020.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan has recently ordered relevant authorities to be friendly in their engagement with local and foreign investors so as to regain their lost confidence.

The head of state lifted a lid on the hope foreign investors have in her administration, saying those who closed shop and left are willing to come back.