



Economic Commission for Africa

A service of the UN system-wide support to the African Union and its NEPAD Programme

# Special Edition NEPAD TODAY

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**N**EPAD Today mourns the death of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, the visionary and energetic proponent of NEPAD as the development framework of Africa. From the beginning of NEPAD in 2001, up till his untimely death on 20 August 2012, the Prime Minister was known for his unrivaled ability to sustain interest and credibility in the NEPAD framework through his vocal support and endorsement of its various strategic plans at global forums, including the G8, G20 and the general Assembly.

He pushed consistently for Africa to own its own development agenda and was uncomfortable that NEPAD projects were not sufficiently owned and funded by Africans. In January of 2012, during the meeting of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC), which he chaired, Prime Minister Zenawi gave what has now become his last directive to ECA and the NEPAD Agency.

Speaking on a submission by President Hifikepunye Pohamba of Namibia, Mr Zenawi said "We ask the NEPAD Agency to work with the Economic Commission for Africa on the issue of domestic resource mobilization for NEPAD projects and submit a report to the HSGOC."

The study is ongoing and is expected to be submitted to the AU Summit in January 2013. We regret that Mr. Zenawi would not be alive to receive the report. But we take comfort in the fact that he left equally determined and committed colleagues in the HSGOC. The best tribute to Prime Minister Zenawi would be a strong NEPAD whose projects are owned, directed and funded by Africans.

May the Prime Minister rest in peace and may the continent he worked so hard to serve continue to prosper.



*Late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi*

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## World leaders pay tribute to Meles Zenawi



*Late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi*



### ***President Barack Obama (United States)***

praised Meles for his "unyielding commitment to Ethiopian poor and for his desire to lift millions of Ethiopians out of poverty through his drive for **food security**".

### ***President Goodluck Jonathan (Nigeria).***

Meles was "a nation builder and a great servant of the Ethiopian people. He will be remembered for his vision and integrity. He held strong convictions about establishing a just and prosperous society for his people."

### ***Former Nigerian President Olusegun***

***Obasanjo:*** "(Meles) has shown his sterner stuff that he is made of in fighting for his

country's emancipation from the rudderless, despotic military dictatorship to bringing his country up in development terms as one of the beacons of Africa. I have seen his performance at the African Union and it is because of his brilliance that leaders of Africa and I decided to hand over the AU NEPAD programme to him."

### ***Former UN Secretary-General Kofi***

***Annan:*** I hope that his successor will continue to be a driving force on a wide range of issues, from brokering peace negotiations to shaping development relationships.

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## Janneh, Mayaki condole Ethiopians on death of Meles Zenawi

The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Mr. Abdoulie Janneh in a letter to Ethiopian Acting Prime Minister, Mr Hailemariam Dessalegn, expressed condolences over the death of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, whom he described as a

"dedicated and committed pan-Africanist" In the letter, a copy of which was made available to NEPAD Today, Mr Janneh said Meles was a visionary, dynamic and dedicated leader of Ethiopia and indeed the entire African continent.

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## **Janneh, Mayaki...**

“His commitment to eradicating poverty in Ethiopia and the transformation of its economy was manifested in the success of social programmes and high growth rates that have lifted millions of people out of poverty. His legacy is evident throughout the length and breadth of the country particularly in the first rate infrastructure that is being constructed in virtually all sectors and the fact that Ethiopia was not found wanting during the last humanitarian emergency in the Horn of Africa,” he said.



*The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Mr. Abdoulie Janneh*

In Midrand, the seat of NEPAD Agency, CEO Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki said Prime Minister Zenawi had worked towards the realization of the African Union vision of an integrated prosperous and peaceful continent through his direct contributions to African integration.

“The late Prime Minister was a staunch



*Late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi*

believer in the NEPAD Vision and Agenda. We will miss his intellectual insights, strategic leadership and guidance as well as his demonstration of unwavering support for the NEPAD Agency and its mandate”, he said.



*NEPAD Agency, CEO Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki*



## **Public deserves more information on NEPAD's achievements, challenges - officials says**

The Director of the Economic Development and NEPAD Division ECA's has said that officials and experts working on the implementation of NEPAD owe the public clear explanations on what the initiative has achieved in the 10 years of its existence.

Addressing an expert group meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Prof. Emmanuel Nnadozie said that the production of a landmark report by ECA on how the continental initiative has fared 10 years later has heightened and renewed public enthusiasm in the initiative. He said that the report and the Ten- Year Capacity Building Program for the African Union that had been invigorated by the development of a comprehensive work program to back its implementation have combined to heightened demands from the public for concrete results, according to ECA's Information and Communication Service (ICS). "After the high-profile activities marking the 10th anniversary of the Program, the question is being asked, build capacity to do what?" he reported.

To seek a comprehensive answer to that question, participants at the Addis Ababa expert group meeting have been addressing issues such as what the main achievements of NEPAD are; the challenges that continue to hamper the implementation of NEPAD; what can be done to better accelerate its implementation; how the capacity building program could better support efforts to accelerate that implementation process; and the role that Regional Coordination Mechanism of UN system support to AU and its NEPAD program (RCM-Africa) can play in addressing the challenges to the implementation of NEPAD. The report under review provides a better understanding of the challenges to the implementation of NEPAD", Nnadozie added.

Providing ideas to lead the discussion, he

cited events such as the NEPAD Colloquium and Congress held in March this year in Addis Ababa, and the Regional Dialogue on Enhanced Coordination towards NEPAD Implementation, held last June in Durban, saying they have contributed immensely to improving our understanding of what needs to be done to overcome the bottlenecks to the implementation of NEPAD.

He recalled that the Declaration on "Enhancing UN-AU Cooperation: Framework for the Ten- Year Capacity Building Program for the AU" that was signed in November 2006 had been conceived as the UN overall platform for cooperation with the AU".

He announced that the 12th Session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM-Africa) recommended the extension of its membership beyond the African Union Commission to other members of the AU family including NPCA, and Regional Economic Communities.

"This is significant as NPCA and RECs are key actors in the implementation of NEPAD. It is therefore your task to explore how to harness the Ten Year Capacity Building Program for the AU in an efficient manner to build capacity of African regional and sub-regional institutions for the optimal implementation of NEPAD", he told the participants.

After the opening session, participants went straight into the discussion session on the overall performance of NEPAD, acknowledging that the body had executed its assigned tasks rather creditably, although many challenges still lie in ambush.

"The report and the ensuing discussions have been very useful in that they provide

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## Public deserves...

answers to some of the questions which keep coming up at country-level meetings on NEPAD", said Mr. Maurice Forbinake, a veteran journalist and NEPAD champion from Cameroon.

During the discussions it became clear that the greatest successes registered by NEPAD have been in the area of infrastructure development, agriculture and food security, the African biosafety network of experts, partnership for African fisheries and governance. In the infrastructure sector, participants observed that African Presidents are spearheading the construction of roads and railways, optic fibre networks and gas pipelines across the continent.

Another area with remarkable success is that of agriculture and food security where the Comprehensive Agriculture Development Program, CAADP set up by NEPAD is considered as one of its most successful.

Another area of remarkable success has been in the building of regulatory capacity in biotechnology for enhancing food and nutritional security and socio-economic development of Africa with the putting in place of the NEPAD African Biosafety Network of Experts, (ABNE) in Burkina Faso on April 10, 2010.

There is also the Partnership for African Fisheries Program (PAF), another NEPAD initiative which has created working groups across Africa to address trade and market access, good governance and illegal fishing and aquaculture development. A 60-million US Dollar seed fund has been established in West, Central and Southern Africa as part of this program.

Governance, especially the launch of the African Peer Review Mechanism in 2003 by the African Union is another important milestone for NEPAD. It has been acceded to by 30 countries, 14 of which have been actually peer-reviewed.

Thanks to NEPAD, African countries now have an improved platform for collaboration among themselves and with development partners, based on a shared vision of the continent's development.

The body has played a critical role in developing common African positions in global events with the recent forum on aid effectiveness in Busan, Korea and the Rio climate change conference.

But in spite of these numerous challenges, the dark spots are summarized into structural, political and economic constraints. But the experts agreed that these constraints are not of a nature to negate the huge successes registered by NEPAD.

Participants in the meeting are drawn from NEPAD Country Offices, African Union Commission, NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, Regional Economic Communities; the UN system, academic community as well as from the civil society.

*Source: African Press Organization*

## Upcoming Event

- AU/NEPAD Science & Technology Policy Workshop, 1- 5 Oct 2012, Nairobi, Kenya
- NEPAD Briefing at the UN General Assembly 16 Oct 2012, New York, United States
- African Development Forum (ADF VIII), 23-25 October 2012 "Governing and Harnessing Natural Resources for Africa's Development", Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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