



Economic Commission for Africa

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

NEPAD TODAY

Every Wednesday

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NEPAD, French agency sign ICT development grant

NEPAD has signed a Grant Facility Agreement (GFA) with the French Development Agency (AFD), towards investing in the development of Information, Communication Technology (ICT) back bone.

The AFD, a specialised development financial institution, funds sustainable development projects carried by government local authorities, public companies, and the private and associative sectors on five continents - with primacy given to Africa.

According to NEPAD, the grant of Euros 1,350,000 is made available to it by the European Union Infrastructure Trust Fund

(EU-ITF) a European donor coordinated fund, through the AFD, towards the financing of the NEPAD ICT broadband infrastructure network for West, Central and North Africa project.

The project is part of Umojanet, a terrestrial network that will link every African country to its neighbours and will connect to Uhuru-net to realise the dream of the cross-border continental NEPAD Network.

The grant completes the initial funds of 850,000 Euros granted by the AFD to the NEPAD secretary to support the initiative.

The signing ceremony took place at the

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ECA official highlights links between social protection and poverty alleviation

A senior official of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) said in New York today that social protection schemes are important for poverty alleviation, economic growth and development in Africa, citing conclusions of two regional studies recently conducted by ECA.

Mr. Yinka Adeyemi, Senior Regional Advisor at ECA's Economic Development and NEPAD Division (EDND), who was

addressing the 50th Session of the Commission for Social Development, highlighted the Commissions enduring efforts to assist African nations through analytical studies, advisory services and knowledge management.

According to ECAs Information and Communication Service, Mr. Adeyemi explained ECAs contributions in bringing social protection to the forefront of the development discourse in Africa and hailed the systematic

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NEPAD, French...

NEPAD Agency offices, Midrand, in South Africa. The GFA was signed by Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency and Mr. Yves Boudot, Director of the sub-Saharan Africa Department of AFD.

"This is an opportune moment for us both, AFD and NEPAD, to focus on ICT as a crucial element in developing infrastructure in Africa and welcome this support to NPCA as the development Agency of the African Union" said Mayaki at the signing of the GFA.

Source: *This Day (Lagos), February 5, 2012 Sunday*

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ECA official...

integration of social protection concerns in national development frameworks in the continent.

He said that the first of the two studies conducted by ECA was on the scope for social safety nets and social protection schemes to advance progress on the MDGs in Africa in which cases in Algeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa and Tunisia were studied.

The second study was on strengthening capacities to promote gender-sensitive social protection policies in African countries: A synthesis, focused on Cameroon, Gabon, Ghana, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, South Africa, Tunisia, and Uganda, Adeyemi announced.

These studies examined the various social protection schemes within development plans and strategies in each country, and analyzed their outcomes on poverty and gender inequality, he said.

The studies also show that social protection

schemes that take into account the gender dimension go a long way in mitigating poverty and empowering women. Apart from directly impacting on the redistributive effects of economic policy, the gender dimension promotes women's capabilities to serve the economy and increase production. It also contributes to the rights of women and stability of societies and communities, the studies show.

Commenting on African ownership of ECA-supported social protection schemes, Mr. Adeyemi explained African Ministers of Social Development endorsed these schemes at their conferences held in Namibia in 2008 and in Khartoum in 2010.

The Social Policy Framework for Africa which describes social protection schemes as policies and instruments which enhance the capacity of poor and vulnerable people to escape from poverty and enable them to better manage risks and shocks is now being progressively integrated into national and regional development strategies.

The framework extends the role of social protection schemes beyond the narrow confines of protective measures to enhancing productivity and promoting equitable distribution of wealth and services.

Source: *Special to ECA , States News Service, February 2, 2012 Thursday*

Upcoming Events

- High level NEPAD Colloquium and Congress, 28 March 2012, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Young People, Farming & Food: The Future of the Agrifood Sector in Africa, 19 -21 March 2012, Ghana
- 5th Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, 22-27 March 2012, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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