



Economic Commission for Africa

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

NEPAD TODAY

Every Wednesday

The articles published in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of UNECA or NPCA

NEPAD and NBF sign MoU to develop Africa's private sector

The NEPAD Agency and the NEPAD Business Foundation (NBF) have signed a memorandum of understanding, aimed at solidifying the relationship between the two organisations.

While the NEPAD Agency and the NBF have worked closely since the inception of the NBF in 2004, this agreement marks a new chapter for both organisations, focusing on unlocking the potential for the development of Africa's private sector. The MOU will enhance business potential within the continent through joint projects by accessing the resources, experience and expertise of both the NEPAD Agency and the NBF. This formal understanding will focus on building the African private sector to facilitate trade, training, skills development, technology and facilitating public private partnerships (PPPs). The latter is one of the most effective ways to undertake infrastructure development in Africa and a number of countries are exploring these vehicles for development.

"NEPAD provides unique opportunities for African countries to take full control of their development agenda, to work more closely together, and to cooperate more effectively with international partners," says Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, the CEO of the NEPAD Agency.

"The NBF and the NEPAD Agency partnership will encourage project implementation and networking of private, public and civil society organisations to accelerate economic development in Africa. In addition, the NEPAD Agency and the NBF will also promote infrastructure development and regional integration while providing input and support to the continental framework of infrastructure requirements. The concept of development corridors throughout Africa is receiving much needed support from

Continued on page 2

Zuma reiterates support to NEPAD

During his recent State of the Nation Address, President Jacob Zuma, for the second year running, reiterated his support to NEPAD.

"We will continue to participate in the revitalisation of the NEPAD with specific focus on the implementation of its infrastructure programme, of which we champion the North-South infrastructure development corridor", said Zuma.

A key area that has been identified by the African leadership for improved delivery is infrastructure. It is in this regard that eight African countries on the NEPAD Heads of

Continued on page 2

Chief of Section
Kwabia Boateng

Editor
Yinka Adeyemi

Production Assistant
Meseret Arega

Continued from page 1

NEPAD and NBF sign MoU to develop Africa's private sector

African Heads of State, culminating in President Zuma's promise to champion Infrastructure development in Africa – focussing specifically on the North South corridor which runs between Durban and Dar es Salaam in Tanzania," adds Lynette Chen, Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Business Foundation.

"Through the NEPAD Programme, the NEPAD Agency, as the technical development Agency of the AU, works to improve the lives of families, communities and countries through a range of wealth creation and poverty eradication initiatives that cut across issues of health, agriculture, infrastructure, ICTs, education and other areas of intervention," says Dr. Mayaki.

"It is in this regard that we welcome this strengthening of partnership with the NBF through the signing of this MOU. We believe that our joint work with the NBF will help us to bring together all the organisations and partners involved in Africa's private sector – to help them voice their needs and to co-ordinate their work in support of the NEPAD agenda."

In signing this agreement, both organisations have pledged to continue supporting the development of agriculture and food security in Africa for this sector to become a growth driver for the continent.

Another joint focus of both organizations will work towards the enhancement of human capacity and skills through the

NEPAD Africa-wide Capacity Development Strategic Framework (CDSF) and through the NBF African Leadership Programme which concentrates on enhancing capacity and leadership potential of African top managers from the public and private sectors as well as NGOs.

"Our joint efforts are based on the consideration that the private sector in Africa can and should take ownership of the development process in Africa," said Dr. Mayaki.

Source: www.nepad.org

Continued from page 1

Zuma reiterates support to NEPAD

State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) are working to champion regional and cross-border infrastructure projects in order to attract investments and enhance regional integration.

This Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative is based on the AU NEPAD African Action Plan (AAP) and the Programme for the Infrastructural Development of Africa (PIDA).

At the 24th meeting of the NEPAD HSGOC which was held recently at the margins of the 16th AU Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia the leaders of Ethiopia, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, DR Congo, Lesotho, Sudan, Benin, Gabon and the AUC welcomed President Jacob Zuma's chairmanship of the NEPAD High-Level Sub-Committee on infrastructure and the progress being made to identify projects for implementation.

Source: www.nepad.org

Please let us hear from you

How useful do you find NEPAD Today? Are there other issues you would like us to address? Please send an email to: marega2@uneca.org