



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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Senegalese President commits to trans-continental rail project

Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade has announced the resumption of the first phase of the Dakar-Djibouti railway project delegated to him by the African Union.

The trans-continental project, which falls within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), is intended to facilitate land transportation of persons and goods.

"It is apparent that I will not be able to complete the project before my mandate as president of Senegal ends (2012), but I

will at least begin with the Dakar-Bamako link, whose feasibility study has practically ended," President Wade said in a statement.

The trans-continental railway project is among many others that are awaiting implementation within the framework of NEPAD.

President Wade's peers named him three years ago to head the infrastructural aspect which mainly consists of the trans-continental railway network.

Source: www.nepad.org

Chief of Section
Kwabia Boateng

Editor
Yinka Adeyemi

Production Assistant
Meseret Arega

AU focuses on youth development

Youth unemployment has once again come under the spotlight, this time at the Seventeenth Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

The meeting, whose theme was "Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development" explored various options by member countries and development partners in addressing the problem of rampant youth unemployment amongst other issues affecting the continent's youth.

With over 40 percent of the population below 15 years, Africa is by far the continent

with the largest global youthful population. 60 percent of Africa's population is below 24 years. If managed well, this demographic represents Africa's best development asset over the coming decades.

In order for this to happen, it is important to better understand the needs of Africa's youth, the opportunities provided by their ideas, and the sources of innovation and employment at the country and regional level, in order to design and implement the right policies aimed at unlocking the creativity and innovativeness of this group.

In an earlier pre-summit African Youth

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AU focuses...

Forum meeting organized by the African Union Commission from April 1-6 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia over 200 youth representatives from Africa and the Diaspora had set up an Agenda and Programme of Work around the Malabo Summit theme. The major items on the African Youth Forum meeting report focuses on major items and proffers recommendations on what needs to be done by African governments in terms of policy-making and programming.

Two important items in the report relate to creating opportunities for new generation leadership and development in Africa and mainstreaming youth in programmes and priorities for development under which the issue of youth employment falls.

On youth employment, the report notes: "Youth employment issues which include aspects of job creation, unemployment, skill building, formal and informal sectors, access to capital for young people, leadership and entrepreneur skills, rural-urban migration are the key factors when defining the welfare of youth in Africa nowadays."

Indeed the same issues were also identified by youth leaders in Zimbabwe who attended a recent dialogue event organised by the American Embassy in Harare.

The African Youth Forum agenda and programme of work was largely adopted by the Heads of State and Government, including key development partners like the ACBF, UNICEF and the International Labour Organization.

For example, the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) is already working with various governments in North Africa in the

area of entrepreneurship and youth employment.

Earlier this year, civil unrest in parts of this region where largely blamed on a restive youth population that is increasingly agitating for an improvement in its material condition.

Leading up to the African Union Assembly, from June 13 to 14 2011, the Mauritanian Agency for the Promotion of Youth Employment, in collaboration with the ACBF and the Centre Mauritanian d'Analyse des Politiques (CEMAP), held a workshop on "Entrepreneurship and Youth Employment in North Africa" in Nouak-chott, Mauritania.

The workshop, designed to create a platform for dialogue and experience-sharing between stakeholders from North African countries (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia), gathered more than 80 participants, notably national youth associations and young entrepreneurs from North Africa, East and West Africa.

For full story: Africa News, July 7, 2011 Thursday

Upcoming Event

- ECA/UNDP Seminar Serie; APRM as an Accountability Instrument for Accelerating the Implementation of HIV/AIDS Commitments

14th July 2011, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

- Agribusiness CEO Investment Summit and Awards 2011

27 July 2011, Midrand, South Africa

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