



# NEPAD NEWS

A monthly publication of the New Partnership for Africa's Development Agency

August 2018

## NEPAD Agency Impact

The NEPAD Agency Rural Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship in Agriculture and Agribusiness project continues to impact lives of rural youth positively.

This was evident during the recently convened NEPAD Agency and FAO organized side event on Creating Decent Rural Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship which took place on the margins of the Youth Employment in Agriculture Conference in Kigali, Rwanda.

The NEPAD Agency Communications team spoke to a few beneficiaries of project.

Below are their stories:

### Centre Regional Multipurpose Youth Empowerment Centre Buea-Cameroon)

#### Background of the Project

The project focuses on promoting decent rural youth employment and entrepreneurship in agriculture and agribusiness



Hannah Enanga Ewoke Kana'a - Chief of the Centre

## *Promoting Decent Rural Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship in Agriculture and Agribusiness*

### In this issue

- Establishment of the West Africa Integrated Vector Management Programme
- Building a pool of experts in occupational hygiene
- Lesotho–South Africa expand cross-border zones for disease surveillance
- Crafting the NEPAD operational master plan

### **How has the support from the NEPAD Agency Rural Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship in Agriculture and Agribusiness project impacted on lives of youth in your country?**

The Center had an agriculture department but it was not effective because the youths were trained as job seekers and not as agripreneurs. The introduction of a funding scheme came as a motivation for the youths. This program has really brought renewed enthusiasm to the institution. Practicals are emphasized and trainees do 80% of practicals and 20% of theory because NEPAD takes care of the incentives of trainers and practical materials.

NEPAD takes care of the fees of trainees, school needs (bags , books , uniforms , overalls , and practical materials ) and the best five are given a start-up capital which motivates the trainees to work hard. Trainees are inspired to go into business and fourteen of the youth within the programme started a cooperative and also received land to start production. . Four (4) graduates already have pig farms. Seven (7) graduates have poultry , One (1) graduate took part in an international exhibition on agro-processing in Kyeossi, South Region of Cameroon sponsored by CEMAC .One (1) graduate has a mushroom farm, one (1) graduate is in snail production , one (1) graduate is processing species and medicinal plants and sixteen graduates (16) are into seed multiplication .

#### **Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, Malawi**



Pearson Jasi-Soko, Assistant Chief Agribusiness Officer, National Project Manager

### **Background of the Project**

The Malawi Ministry of Agriculture of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development started implementation of the Promoting Decent Rural Youth Employment Entrepreneurship in Agriculture and Agribusiness with financial support from African Solidarity Trust Fund through Food and Agriculture Organisation. The project is technically coordinated by NEPAD and Malawi, Benin, Cameroun and Niger are beneficiaries of the pilot phase of the project. It started its implementation in 2017 following appraisal in 2016. The Ministry facilitated contractual arrangement with Small and Medium Enterprise Development Institute, a parastatal which is a Training Institution where vocational and modular training in entrepreneurship and agriculture is being conducted from May, 2017 to 30th September, 2019.

A total of 125 youth agri-preneurs will be trained by end of the project and to-date a total of 43 youths have qualified to venture into various agribusinesses following training from October, 2017 to March, 2018.

### **How has the support from the NEPAD Agency Rural Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship in Agriculture and Agribusiness project impacted on lives of youth in your country?**

- The youths have been empowered to venture into various agribusiness following preparation of business plans
- Some have registered companies with necessary legal authorities
- The general mind set of the youth to take charge of their own destiny has been changed and now understand the importance of entrepreneurship and job creation using their own initiatives. Of course the biggest challenge has been financial sources.
- There is a general awareness creation among the youth to consider farming as a profitable business. In fact some projects are learning from these trainees.
- It is expected that within the next few years the youth will be agripreneurs with a vision and contribute to economic development of their communities.



# **E**stablishment of the West Africa Integrated Vector Management Programme

Representatives from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) member states, met from 15 – 17 August, 2017, in Accra, Ghana, for the establishment of the West Africa Integrated Vector Management (WA-IVM) Programme. After a series of consultative workshops, this meeting was the final stage for the validation of the programme.

The key objective of this meeting was to agree on the scope and approach for rolling out the WA-IVM programme with malaria as pathfinder disease and gene drive as pathfinder technology. The meeting also sought to identify the needs and requirements of regulators that would facilitate the operationalization of the IVM programme in the ECOWAS region. It also aimed at determining a governance structure for the programme and aimed at considering for adoption a five year workplan for the programme.

42 representatives, mainly CEOs for Food and Drugs Authorities, and National biosafety Agencies as well as from Ethics Committees of the 15 ECOWAS countries took part in the meeting. It was officially opened by Dr Rufus Ebegba, Director General of Nigeria National Biosafety Management Agency and representing his country that chairs ECOWAS. He stated that “science and technology are the major drivers of economic change and if there are no applications for science and technology, the African continent will not make any significant progress.”

Mrs Mimi Darko, CEO of Ghana Food and Drug Authority and Mr. Eric Okoree, CEO the Ghana National Biosafety Agency, welcomed participants and wished that the different discussions contribute to fine-tune the IVM programme for a smooth and effective implementation on the ground.

Dr Tete Amouh, Officer in charge of Communicable Disease at the West Africa Health Organisation (WAHO), said that “in the work we are doing here, we have to keep in mind that it is to help millions of people in the West Africa region, and beyond that, the whole African continent.”

Dr Jeremy Ouedraogo, Director of the NEPAD Agency West Africa Regional Office in Dakar, also welcomed participants, on behalf of NEPAD Agency CEO and affirmed that the use of emerging technologies was a strong recommendation of the African Union Ministers of Health in addition to other existing technologies for malaria eradication in Africa. How to effectively implement this if the technical actors for the use of this technologies have no proper consultation framework? The integrated approach seems therefore the best for a rational and concerted use and implementation of all these techniques and technologies.”

During the meeting, presentations were made on various topics pertaining to the programme, especially the burden of communicable diseases in the West



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Africa region, the risks/benefits in disease management, an overview of the WA-IVM programme, the tools and approaches in vector control, the existing regional collaborations in vector control, the recommendations of the African Union High Panel on Emerging Technologies.

The meeting also enabled participants to agree on the key components of the WA-IVM programme, including the programme scope and approach, the stakeholder mapping, the roles the health and environment regulators, the roles of ethics committees, the governance structure, training curriculum, the programme workplan and development of guidelines.

From the discussions, it was pointed out that despite the current malaria control strategies going on in West African countries, there is still an increase of malaria incidences in many West African countries. Therefore, there is a clear need to use emerging technologies like the gene drive to contribute to make a significant progress towards eliminating malaria by 2030 in the ECOWAS region.

The meeting also came up with 10 important resolutions, ranging from capacity strengthening for stakeholders and technical working groups to the governance structure adopted for the operationalization of the programme. Among other resolutions are also the need for participants to strengthen their national IVM programmes which will serve as a foundation for the regional platform; the importance of joint sessions between technology developers and regulators in order to enhance understanding of each other's mode of operation and also the science behind the technology; and the need for a communication plan and messaging about the programme and technologies being dealt with.

During the closing ceremony, the meeting report was amended and adopted by all participants. The programme secretariat, run by WAHO and NEPAD Agency, will finalize editing of the documents annexed to this report and circulate to the delegates.

## **B**uilding a pool of experts in occupational hygiene

Prolonged exposure to dust, poor ventilation, and inadequate control of other related hazards pose a risk in work environments. In addressing this burden, the NEPAD Agency organized an intensive short course for occupational hygienists to build a pool of professionals that can anticipate, recognize, evaluate exposure, recommend appropriate measures and ensure adherence to international policies and standards. The short course took place in Kitwe, Zambia from 23 – 27 July 2018.

A total of 18 participants drawn from Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia attended the course. The course outlined broad principles of occupational hygiene as the foundation module of the Occupational Hygiene Training Association (OHTA). After the short course, participants appreciated the value of occupational hygiene and their role as occupational hygienists in ensuring companies adhere to professional ethics.

Mr. Norman Khoza, Senior Programme Officer: Occupational Health and Safety Specialist at NEPAD Agency said the short course will result in participants acquiring an international qualification on basic principles of occupational hygiene after successfully passing the international exam.

“At the end of the training we would like to have a 100% pass rate, participants should be able to understand the basic principles of occupational hygiene, to start discussing establishing the national occupational hygiene association or chapters,” Mr Khoza said.

Furthermore, this initial group of participants is taken as a cohort until a point where they will be fully registered and internationally recognized as occupational hygienists. Project countries will then use them as trainers and mentors for the new aspiring occupational hygienists. The course was provided under the Southern Africa Tuberculosis and Health Systems Support (SATBHSS) project as a partnership between NEPAD Agency, Workplace Health Without Borders (WHWB), government of Zambia (Ministries of Health, Mining, and Labour), University of Witwatersrand School of Public Health, and the South African National Institute for Occupational Health (NIOH).





The course facilitators represented different organizations in their own rights. The course director, Mr John Jacob is the president elect of IOHA, and Ms Claudina Nogueira is the vice-president of ICOH while Mrs. Goitsewang Keretsetse is a registered occupational hygienist with the Southern African Institute for Occupational Hygiene (SAIOH) and a Lecturer at the Wits School of Public Health.

During the course, participants shared information and experiences that will enable harmonization of approaches in the region. Occupational hygiene is a transboundary field that requires contributions from mining, labour, and health, as well as across countries. The course came in at the right time with emerging diseases and the introduction of technology in mining.

Participants in the course enhanced their knowledge in professional ethics and the management of occupational hygiene programmes, as well as their understanding of the various range of hazards in the work place (both physical and chemical). Participants also benefited from knowledge on different methods of controlling exposure, hazard recognition techniques including sources and potential routes of exposure and exposure evaluation, assessment and measurement processes.

## **L**esotho–South Africa expand cross-border zones for disease surveillance

Since 2017, the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa have jointly established two cross border zones for disease surveillance in Thabo Mofutsanyane, Leribe and Butha Buthe and Thabo Mofutsanyane and Maseru respectively. In an effort to expand and strengthen disease surveillance, the two countries have established a 3rd cross border zone in Mafeteng, Mahale's Hoek and Wepener and Zaztron districts. This was achieved during a joint four (4) day meeting from 13 – 16 August 2018 that took place in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

The 3rd cross border zone will be useful in coordinating cross-border surveillance for diseases in the



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districts, as well as conditions and events of public health importance using the One Health Approach. The inaugural meeting of the 3rd cross border zone was attended by a total of 32 participants of varied disciplines from the two countries and these included personnel responsible for surveillance, animal health, immigration, customs, laboratory, clinicians, environmental health, Health Inspectors, port health, police and epidemiologists.

The cross border zones are being established with support from the Southern Africa Tuberculosis and Health Systems Support (SATBHSS) project. During the 3rd cross border zone meeting, it was observed that communication for outbreaks and other events of public health importance follows the official channel which in some cases delays response and actions at the local level. In addition, the participants noted the limited cross-border disease control and surveillance capacity at designated crossing points. Furthermore, it was observed that although emergency preparedness and response plans were in place, these were disease or condition specific and they have not been regularly tested.

In response to addressing some of these challenges, the participants discussed, developed and/or adopted the instruments and tools that will make the cross border zone operational and these include the Terms of Reference (TORs) and the joint 2018–2019 annual work plan. In addition, the participants also conducted a Table Top simulation exercise.

At the end of the meeting, participants agreed to implement four (4) recommendations. Firstly, to conduct regular quarterly cross-border meetings to address issues of common interest with particular emphasis on disease surveillance and outbreak management, based on the One Health model. It was proposed that the first meeting should take place in November 2018. that the first meeting is proposed for November 2018. Secondly, to establish information sharing platforms that are in line with both countries' data and information sharing policies and procedures. Thirdly, to adopt the TORs that shall govern the functionality of the cross border zone and fourthly to adopt the propose committee membership.

## **A**frican Landscape Forest Restoration 100 (AFR100) initiative 3rd Annual Partnership Meeting signals the continuing drive across Africa to bring back productivity to its land.

Twenty-seven nations across the continent have now committed to restore more than 96 million hectares of degraded land as part of the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) and the Bonn Challenge – spurring climate resilience, economic growth and more. The AFR100 is a country-led effort to bring 100 million hectares of land in Africa into restoration by 2030.

During this year's third AFR100 Annual Partnership Meeting held in Nairobi, AFR100 member country representatives, its technical and financial partners in implementation, agreed once more that the initiative is a powerful lever to bring forest landscape restoration to scale.

“Indeed of all the Bonn Challenge's regional platforms, AFR100 is the most successful, contributing over half of the current global commitment of 170 million hectares. Ideas can only take root if they are owned and while many have contributed to this momentum we must recognize the fundamental role that NEPAD has played in making this an African led and owned initiative, and particularly the inspiring work of Mamadou Diakhite and his team.” stated Stewart Maginnis of IUCN.

Restoration is widely understood as a key pathway to meet climate change, desertification, biodiversity and sustainable development goals in Africa, and to secure vital food, water, and energy resources.

“In times of ever-increasing pressure on the resources land, water, and biodiversity, the restoration of degraded forests and lands is more urgent than ever. Bringing back trees into the land offers multiple benefits for sustainable development, the fight against poverty and hunger, for conserving biodiversity and for adaptation to climate change. Restoration is spectacular in that every \$1 invested reaps \$27 in return and seeing communities who restore reap a share of their restoration proceeds is an honour.” said Mamadou Diakhite, Sustainable Land and Water Management (SLWM) Team Leader at the NEPAD Agency, home to the AFR100 Secretariat.





Participants of the third Annual Partnership Meeting also endorsed the motion to have UNGA declare a “Decade of Ecosystem Restoration”, as proposed by several African Ministers of the Environment.

Wangjira Maathai of World Resource Institute and the GreenBelt Movement said “Meaningful community engagements is a key factor to restore degraded land across Africa. Governments alone can’t do it.”

The AFR100 is the mechanism by which the Bonn Challenge is implemented in Africa. It is made up of financial and technical partners that provide support to governments to assess, design and implement FLR at scale. These types of partnerships are crucial for Forest Landscape Restoration to succeed, because restoration requires multiple strategies, experiences, capacities and stakeholders.

The AFR100 Secretariat also participated in the International Climate Initiative (IKI), the Global Landscapes Forum conference (GLF Nairobi 2018) and held its executive committee meeting among the engagements in Nairobi.

## **C**rafting the NEPAD operational master plan



More than 30 NEPAD staff representing the different NEPAD programmes and service units met in Durban, South Africa, from 20-24 August 2018 to craft an Operational Master Plan (OMP) in line with the newly established African Union Development Agency (AUDA).

Organised by the NEPAD corporates Services and Business Center, the OMP retreat aimed at:

- Ensuring that the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency strategy, vision and operational plan is deployed at all levels of the Organization.
- Strengthening the corporate services and business center approach to better serve internal customers, programs and ultimately help NPCA to create sustainable impacts for our member states



- Ensuring buy in and alignment in terms of execution methods and performance evaluation at all levels.
- Identifying process improvements activities to be undertaken to enhance the NEPAD Agency's delivery methods.
- Build internal capacity within Corporate Services Business Centre to track and monitor projects implementation via living and real time support to programs and projects/departments within NPCA.
- Agree on operational review methods relevant to drive the organisation and departments priorities and delivery in order to report to senior management team and propose appropriate corrective actions.

Speaking at the retreat, Mr Amine Idriss Adoum, Director of Corporate Services Business Centre, emphasised the need to ensure the outcomes of the retreat are implemented. "Without implementation

we will not have the desired effects of the outcomes of this retreat. This retreat will provide us with the ability to measure our progress hence we will spent the necessary time to create measures and targets, defining key performance indicators and spelling out the expected impacts that each of the action we would undertake would have both on our organisation and on our stakeholders."

We all should view this retreat as a platform for significant cross-departmental dialogue as plans created by one part of the organization inevitably have implications for Corporate Services Business Centre, which will in turn affect other programmes and NEPAD's output."

The retreat also included team building exercises to improve employee motivation and building trust among the employees, thereby ensuring better communication, success, and, improved team performance and productivity.



The meeting also helped fine tune the priorities of the Corporate Services Business Centre, namely:

- Strengthen the NEPAD governance systems and architecture to promote compliance and efficient delivery therefore helping smooth the transition from the NEPAD Agency to AUDA.
- Driving capacity enhancement both internally and amongst stakeholders to deliver with impact
- Investing in technology to become a data driven organisation

As a way forward three teams were created and with drivers who will define and create the projects, and activities that need to be undertaken under each priority area.



# **N**EPAD Agency staff begins internal roll-out of the Kaizen Principle



The NEPAD Agency Kaizen Core Team hosted in its Midrand offices, on the 28th August, a brown bag session on implementing the Kaizen Principle within the NEPAD Agency.

The main objective of this first session was to acquaint NEPAD Agency staff on the basic technical know-how of 5S in Kaizen towards its implementation in their daily performances. This included the outlining of the 5S in Kaizen, namely Sort, Set (in order), Shine, Standardise and Sustain. The session also created a platform for experience sharing on how these 5S can be easily implemented. Kaizen is a Japanese word for Change for better or improvement. When applied within an organisational context, the term can be loosely translated to ‘Management Best Practice’. It is an approach to creating continuous improvement based on the idea that small, ongoing positive changes can reap major improvement. The principle is typically based on cooperation and commitment and stands in contrast to approaches that use radical changes or top-down edicts to achieve transformation. If implemented effectively, Kaizen eliminates waste, boosts productivity, encourage worker’s purpose and accountability, and promote innovation.

“The Kaizen principle is a long-term approach to achieve efficiency in the way we do business. The 5S, if implemented properly will result in effective systems implementation and mindset change which will ultimately result in positive results, increased productivity/efficiency, boost staff morale and dedication to the implementation of the NEPAD Agency mandate” said Prof Diran Makinde, the Africa Kaizen Initiative Focal Point at NPCA.

It was highlighted during the session that it is crucial for NEPAD Agency to roll out the Kaizen principle internally while also focusing on assisting member states to embrace this principle. “Charity begins at home,” according to Simon Kisira Head of SKM.

Staff were encouraged during the session to propose ways in which they think Kaizen can best be implemented within the NEPAD Agency. “Improved working processes and quick response times to pending requests, improved systems such as the online tools needed used daily by staff members, regular training and skills development” suggested some staff members in the group work.

After the robust engagement session it was emphasized that positive mindset change among staff members is crucial in order for Kaizen to succeed in NEPAD Agency.

## NEPAD Agency stories in Pictures



NEPAD Agency CEO, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki hosted the Ambassador of Uganda, H.E. Kintu Nyago for a courtesy visit in the NEPAD Agency Offices in Midrand, South Africa



The NEPAD Agency delegation led by Mrs Estherine Lisinge-Fotabong and Mrs Fati Nzi-Hassane met on the sidelines of the Youth Employment in Agriculture Conference, with the Rwandan Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, H.E Geraldine Mukeshimana to discuss the NEPAD Agency led ATVET Women Programme and its planned implementation in Rwanda



The NEPAD Agency Finance Division has embarked on an "Employee of the Month" initiative. Each month, staff members vote for a staff member that they believe has gone the extra mile in delivering their outputs while also aligning themselves with the Core NEPAD Agency values. Congratulations to Robert Sithole, Finance Assistant who has been nominated as the Employee of the month of August.



## Upcoming Events

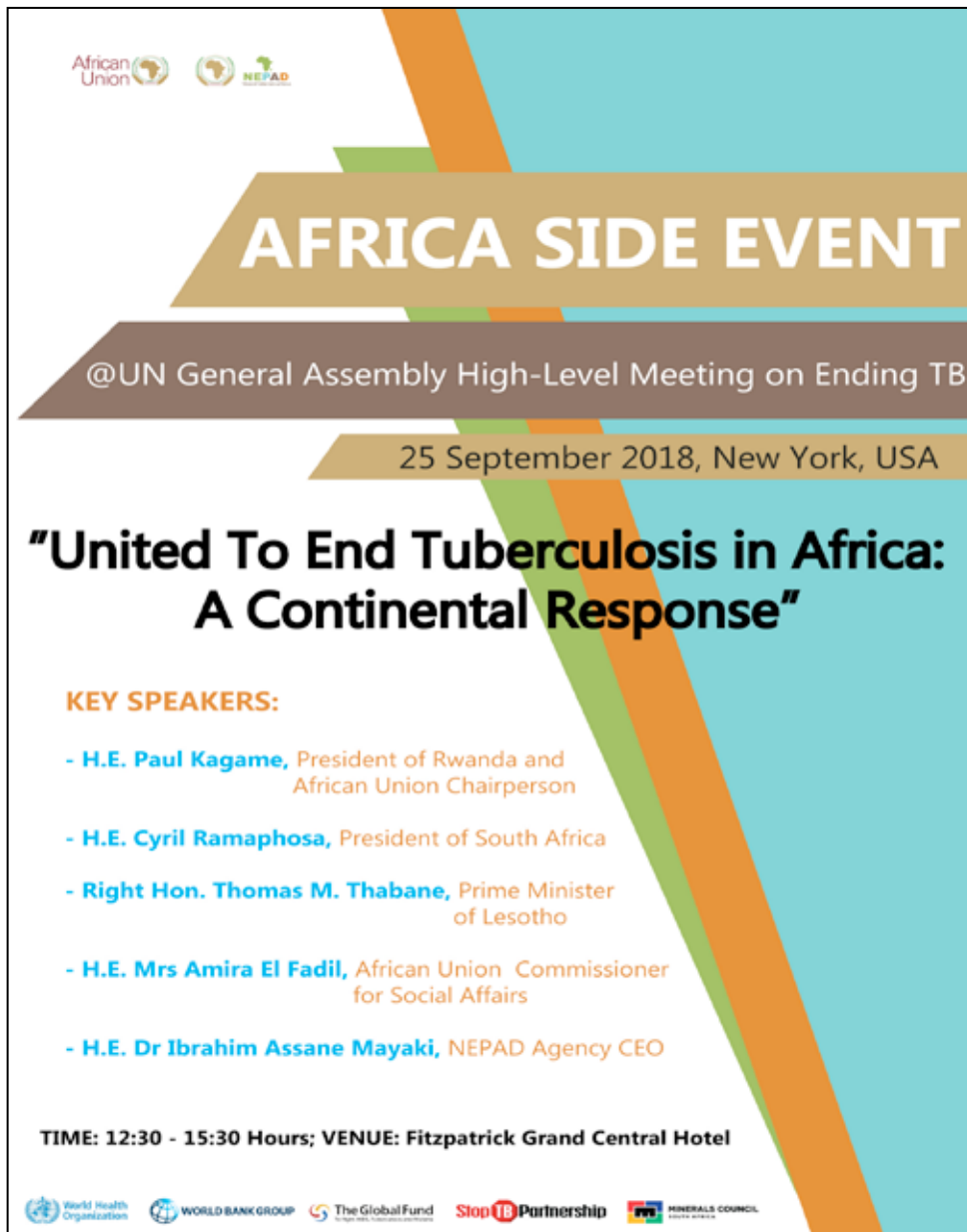
- 5-8 Sep 2018: *The African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF), Kigali Rwanda*
- 20 - 21 Sep 2018: *1st Africa Environment Partnership Platform. Nairobi, Kenya*
- 25 Sep 2018: *Side event at the UNGA – “United to end Tuberculosis in Africa: A continental response”, New York, USA*

For more events visit: [www.nepad.org/events](http://www.nepad.org/events)

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## Announcements



African Union NEPAD

# AFRICA SIDE EVENT

@UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Ending TB

25 September 2018, New York, USA

## “United To End Tuberculosis in Africa: A Continental Response”

**KEY SPEAKERS:**

- H.E. Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda and African Union Chairperson
- H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa
- Right Hon. Thomas M. Thabane, Prime Minister of Lesotho
- H.E. Mrs Amira El Fadil, African Union Commissioner for Social Affairs
- H.E. Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, NEPAD Agency CEO

**TIME: 12:30 - 15:30 Hours; VENUE: Fitzpatrick Grand Central Hotel**

World Health Organization WORLD BANK GROUP The Global Fund Stop TB Partnership MINERALS COUNCIL

## Proverb



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