



NEPAD NEWS

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The African Continental Free Trade Area: Another significant milestone towards Africa's integration *By Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, CEO of NEPAD Agency*

As a relatively young Minister in the mid-nineteen nineties sitting with my Organisation of African Union (OAU) peers, I pondered deeply if Africa will pull itself together and forge ahead. At that time, Rwanda was coming out of its genocide and most of West Africa was still experiencing military coups. Central Africa was somewhat calm but some countries there had subtle political tensions, with what is termed the "first Congo war" taking place in the former Zaire now Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Whilst Somali's civil war intensified, Ethiopia in Eastern Africa commenced the developmental-state experiment under Prime-Minister Meles Zanawi and Eritrea gained independence. Northern Africa, pretty much calm with "strong" leaders steering the affairs of state and some of whom played a prominent role in the Israel-Palestinian peace process which resulted into the creation of the Palestinian National Authority. The end of apartheid and the ushering in of a democratic South Africa was the most positive highlight during this period for the OAU as it demonstrated that the OAU, as a Continental liberation movement, had achieved its ultimate goal of politically liberating Africa.

Globally the mid-1990s also saw the rise of alternative and new media, multiculturalism and strengthening of democratic principles; thanks to the internet and satellite television. The world was indeed changing but Africa was still branded as the hopeless continent.

Fast forward, this month in Kigali, at the 10th Extraordinary Session of the AU Assembly, Africa's leaders came together to append their signatures on the establishment of an African Continental Free Trade Area agreement (AfCFTA).

Upon implementation, the agreement will make the continent the world's largest trade zone where goods and services can be traded freely among African Union member states. Of the 55 African Union member states, 44 appended their signatures on the AfCFTA agreement, 43 countries signed the Kigali Declaration and 27 signed the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Right to Residence and Right to Establishment.

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Following the ratification of the AfCFTA by countries, its implementation could increase intra-African trade by 52% by the year 2022. In addition, the agreement will help bring about the removal of tariffs on 90% of goods and also liberalise services and tackle other barriers which hamper trade between African countries, such as long delays at border posts.

I must say it was a proud moment for Africa and for me in particular being in the plenary hall of the Kigali Convention Centre and observing an emotional yet joyous and enthusiastic signing of each African leader or their Minister, of the Agreement, Protocol and Declaration, all under the able leadership of the President of Niger, H.E Mahamadou Issoufou of Niger as the Leader of the AfCFTA, flanked by President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, current AU Chairperson and H.E Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

The gradual end of colonialism in the 1960s and 70s now proves to have brought mixed blessings to Africa. We now have 55 countries; 47 of which are on the African continent and the remaining are island nations. Thus, the end of colonialism gave birth to new multiple states cutting across people's ethnicity, cultures, traditional norms and value-systems.

In 1963 the newly "independent" African countries came together to form an organisation (OAU) that would promote the unity and solidarity of the new African countries and act as a collective voice for the African continent. Notwithstanding this aspirational desire, the same countries also emphasised the importance of the territorial sovereignty of their respective countries and therefore the OAU remained neutral in terms of internal country specific affairs. By the mid-1970s regional economic blocks (now referred to as the Regional Economic Communities) started to emerge.

With the introduction of Regional Economic Communities; RECs as commonly known, African integration began to take two very different paths. The first being a somewhat political path which focused on the eradication of all forms of colonial ways of life and notions by defending the interests of independent countries and helping to pursue those territories that were still-colonised- the OAU path. The second, focused on regional economic integration with the 2 most advanced; Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the East African Community (EAC), signing a number of protocols that called for free movement of goods, services and its peoples within the respective regions. Africa now has 8 African Union recognised Regional Economic Communities, but there are also a number of sub-regional bodies that are actively pursuing Africa's integration agenda.

So despite the forms of integration that Africa or parts of Africa experimented with, by 1991 the Abuja Treaty established the African Economic Community (AEC), the Abuja Treaty proposed that the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as the building blocks of Africa's integration.

Ten years later, in 2001 at the OAU Summit, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) was adopted by African Heads of States and Government as the socio-economic programme that ought to accelerate economic co-operation and integration among African countries. The same OAU Summit recognised the need for close involvement in the formulation and implementation of all programmes of the RECs within the African Union. Additionally, the OAU/AEC Summit in Lomé, Togo adopted the Constitutive Act of the African Union, which formally replaced the OAU in 2002.

Following these important milestones of the African integration discussion and agenda, came the reform process for a vibrant African architecture. And the architecture has re-introduced the integration agenda.

The discussion has generally concluded that due to economies of scale and tiny economies of most African countries, a regional dimension and approach to Africa's transformation is the best way forward.

The sequence of Africa's path to integration as I have outlined, amongst others, place a demand on an urgent need to re-think Africa's priorities and therefore a coherent and consolidated strategy was launched at the 50th Anniversary of African Unity. In 2013 the African Heads of State and Government adopted Agenda 2063 as an expression of the political intentions and aspirations of the Continent, guided by a new vision of an integrated and prosperous continent. The Agenda enunciates Africa's renewed resolve and commitment to pursue sustained socio-economic growth and development. The 1st Ten Year Implementation Plan, running from 2013 to 2023, draws heavily from the experiences in the implementation of the NEPAD programme. While the plan outlines broad development priorities and programmes, there is need to translate Africa's development vision further into concrete actions.

The global view is that business and consumer confidence have generally improved, but investment, trade and productivity have not strengthened as expected. This has a direct impact on both foreign and domestic investments into Africa's development, particularly into Africa's infrastructure. With growth rates in the developed world more-or-less stagnating, Africa although not significant to make a registered impact still reminds the **second fastest growing region**. Therefore, Africa holds much promise to those investors willing to invest time in understanding our local economies, and identifying opportunities presented by the booming middle class who have an endless appetite for consumables.

In the **Africa Report** titled **Africa in 2017**, almost all 55 countries end their forecast by anticipating to implement or commission energy, transportation and other infrastructure projects like seaport-terminals and airports. Our countries continue to appreciate the irreversible need to industrialise by streamlining trans-boundary infrastructure projects as indicted in the **Africa Report 2017**.

However, if Africa is to be successful in increasing the number of regional and domestic infrastructure projects and show impact in advancing sustainable inclusive development, wholesale changes are needed in mind-set and perceptions on the issue of "Investment Risk" in Africa.

The AU-NEPAD Continental Business Network (CBN) is continuing its agenda towards de-risking infrastructure projects as a key element to attract financing. Pension and Sovereign Wealth Funds emerged as the key catalyst to close this financing gap. In September 2017, NEPAD under the guidance of the CBN, initiated a revolutionary campaign that is African-led and African-owned, aimed at increasing the allocations of African asset owners to African infrastructure from its currently low base of approximately 1.5% of their assets under management (AUM) to an impactful 5% of AUM. The CBN has called for a more strategic engagement with domestic institutional investors in support of this campaign. The purpose of the 5% Agenda campaign is to work with Pension and Sovereign Wealth Funds including Ministers of Finance to gradually increase infrastructure investments, using financial resources available on the continent and strengthen public-private partnerships to mobilise financial and global institutional investments.

In conclusion, the AfCFTA, is a monumental step for Africa; another significant milestone in Africa's integration process. I have to however aptly point out that the AfCFTA was signed in Kigali, the capital that experienced complete turmoil some 24 years ago but is now poised to become the futuristic "Wakanda."



Delegates at the African Aviation Stakeholders Laboratory



Mr Raphael Kuuchi, International Air Transport Association, Vice President for Africa, shaking hands Ms Kisa Nkhoma from NEPAD Agency

The importance of air transportation in Africa cannot be overemphasised, nor can the issues that surround air transport bottlenecks be overlooked.

MoveAfrica to set the tone for Regional Aviation Master Plans

Abidjan, Cote d' Ivoire, March 5, 2018 - Currently, 80 percent of air traffic in Africa is carried by non-African airlines. African airlines carry less than 3 per cent of the global air traffic, even though the continent constitutes over 17 percent of the world's population. In addition, though Africa contributes to only 1 percent of global air cargo, this figure also accounts for 35 per cent of the value of goods transported to the continent. Moreover, 85 percent of Africa's tourism market depends on air transport. Given this scenario, the importance of air transportation in Africa cannot be overemphasised, nor can the issues that surround air transport bottlenecks be overlooked.

In 1999, the Yamoussoukro Declaration was adopted to provide for full liberalisation of market access between African countries: Free exercise of traffic rights; elimination of restrictions on ownership and full liberalisation of frequencies, fares and capacities. It represented the most important air transport reform policy initiative by African governments. This was followed by the historic event at the 30th African Union in Ethiopia, in January 2018, where the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) was launched.

The SAATM is the first African Union Agenda 2063 flagship project, which aims to create a single unified air transport market in Africa, to liberalise civil aviation on the continent and to advance Africa's economic integration agenda. This will enhance the movement of people, goods and services, thus promoting trade facilitation.

Following the launch of the SAATM, the African Development Bank held an African Aviation Stakeholders Laboratory the themed, "Reducing Fares and costs of travel by 50% to achieve air traffic double-digit growth rates in Africa by 2023 under the Single African Air Transport Market Initiative." The NEPAD Agency through MoveAfrica, African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, held a Core Team Meeting on 5 March on the margins of the Aviation Stakeholders Laboratory in Abidjan, Cote d' Ivoire. The meeting reviewed the status of the regional aviation projects in the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa's first phase (PIDA Phase 1).

During the discussions, the Director for Infrastructure and Energy at the African Union Commission Mr Cheikh Bedda pointed out that the successful implementation of SAATM will require important aviation infrastructure projects that will address current deficiencies in safety and security standards as well bring to the fore capacity building requirements.

He also pointed out that collaboration between NEPAD Agency and AfDB will allow for incorporation of these aviation projects into the second phase of PIDA, which until now had very few aviation projects. In addition, a comprehensive study of aviation infrastructure needs to be conducted to feed into the development of the Master Plan.

Mr Symerre Grey-Johnson, Head of Regional Integration Infrastructure and Trade at the NEPAD Agency recalled various exchanges between Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO NEPAD Agency, and the ICAO Council President, Dr Olumuyiwa Aliu. These exchanges led to the decision to revisit the NEPAD projects to adequately reflect aviation needs as a logistics matter and for ICAO to assist Regional Economic Communities and Member States with capacity building in aviation, as well as to provide support in the implementation of SAATM.

He further explained that although aviation projects constitute less than 1 percent of the 400 PIDA projects, it is expected that information to be shared on the Aviation Master Plans of Regional Economic Communities will be used to inform the outcomes of the meeting and help define the way forward for the Continental Aviation Master Plan, which will in turn, determine the Aviation capacity needs towards PIDA PAP 2020-2030.

It was therefore agreed that the focus for the short term projects from 2018 – 2020, should be the development of a roadmap towards regional aviation master plans. To this end, NEPAD Agency will take the lead in establishing a Sub- Core Team on SAATM Infrastructure and work with ICAO and IATA to build capacity at regional level for these master plans.

The discussions also looked into the development of a harmonised and coordinated satellite-based air navigation system for the African continent. They also included capacity building needs and requirements for policy makers and practitioners in the aviation sector and the market space, bearing in mind that 20 years ago the market share for African airlines was 50 percent, with a current drop to below 50 percent.



The continental transmission network will link Africa as whole to Europe, Asia and the Gulf States. It will also enable any country in Africa to source its energy from the most competitive supplier and create a mega size energy trade market within Africa and with other continents and regions.

Ministerial meeting endorses NEPAD proposal for a Continental Transmission Network

Nouakchott, Mauritania, March 23, 2017 - In Nouakchott, Mauritania, the NEPAD Agency submitted recommendations for the endorsement of the Continental Transmission Network to the Specialised Technical Committee Ministerial Meeting. The continental transmission network will link Africa as whole to Europe, Asia and the Gulf States. It will also enable any country in Africa to source its energy from the most competitive supplier and create a mega size energy trade market within Africa and with other continents and regions.

The African Union, in collaboration with Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania organised the First Ordinary Session of the Sub Committee on Energy of the African Union Specialised Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism. The first meeting of the Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Energy was convened on 21-22 March, followed by STC Ministerial Meeting on 23 March.

The main objectives of the STC sub-committee on energy were to take stock of the action plan agreed upon in Lomé, Togo, in March 2017- the outcomes of the July 2017 Summit on the implementation of the energy action plan and to deliberate on an M&E system to follow up on the 2017-2019 energy action plan. The outcomes of the STC subcommittee on energy and its recommendations were forwarded to the STC Ministerial meeting for consideration and endorsement.

Prof Elmissiry represented the NEPAD Agency in the STC sub-committee on energy and gave a speech on behalf of the Agency's CEO, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, during the STC Ministerial Meeting opening session.

NEPAD Agency responded to the roles assigned to it under the STC action plan agreed upon in Lomé in 2017 with an update on the progress made thus far. The main highlights of the NEPAD Agency's achievements under Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa's Priority Action Plan (PIDA PAP) in 2017 include the Zambia-Tanzania-Kenya interconnector, the Batoka Gorge, the Ethiopia – Sudan transmission line and Inga III.

Current status of remaining PIDA PAP energy projects was also given, as well as NEPAD Agency's energy action plan for 2018/2019 and how it will directly contribute to the implementation of the STC action plan on energy.

In addition, the meeting was briefed on NEPAD Agency's programme for implementation of Africa's high priority renewable energy projects under the Renewable Energy for Rural Access Project and its achievements in The Gambia, Madagascar, Tanzania and Rwanda. The meeting was also briefed of NEPAD Agency's achievements within M&E of PIDA projects and in particular the Virtual PIDA Information Centre (VPiC) and Infrastructure Management. In addition the Service Delivery Mechanism for the provision of technical assistance to develop projects was also expounded on, with recommendations made to support it.

Prof Elmissiry ended the presentation with the vision for the development of a master plan for the establishing of a continental transmission network that will link all the 55 African countries

The Ministerial Meeting, which was chaired by the Minister of Energy and Petroleum in Mauritania and also attended by a number of African Ministers, was pleased with the NEPAD Agency's submission and endorsed recommendations for the development of a master plan for a continental transmission network ,under section 33 and 34 of *The Report of Experts Meeting, 21-22 March 2018*. It went further and called upon development partners to assist in the development of the master plan. It also called upon regional economic communities to fast track the connections of the remaining countries within their regions.





Under the auspices of nurse leaders in South Africa and Botswana, together with the NEPAD Agency, a project was launched to address the shortage and lack of highly skilled nurses and midwives in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Making a difference in the DRC through education and training

Education and training are the vehicles for social and economic progress. Such evidence is illustrated by the fact that the fastest growing countries, for example, China, Japan, Malaysia and Singapore, in a given period typically had higher than average levels of investment in the development of human resources through education and training. Such strategic and systematic day-to-day interventions tended typically to speed up growth performance. Such lessons could provide the reasoning behind the imperative of investing in human resource development through education and training in Africa to make it a priority.

It means, therefore, that education and training should be understood to be the two fundamental and critical processes that have to be implemented for development and transformation of Africa. Such processes would not be implemented haphazardly, in overnight experiences, quick fix, or in short term approaches; but carefully, strategically, systematically and scientifically executed to guarantee the effect and sustainability. The education and training of health professionals is an example that will demonstrate how to be engaged in this journey.

Under the auspices of nurse leaders in South Africa and Botswana, together with the NEPAD Agency, a project was launched to address the shortage and lack of highly skilled nurses and midwives in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Baseline studies were conducted to determine the health needs of the country.

The University of the Free State, School of Nursing, was one of the universities that responded to the challenge by partaking in developing a Masters' Degree Programme for nurses in the DRC. The DRC education system was not yet geared towards offering such a Programme.

The Project aims were to ensure the sustainability of this Education-Health Intervention through building capacity in order for the host institution to take over the offering of the Programme in future. Additionally, to ensure that the human resources remained in the country by implementing a career path for specialist nurses in the health care services. Finally, building an international focus and capacity in Southern African universities was envisioned.

Throughput: Master Studies

Sixteen students registered for the structured Masters' Programme at the University of the Free State. All students successfully completed the theoretical and practical modules.

Prof Lizeth Roets acted as co-supervisor and mentor of 15 students to assess in preparing the research proposal as well as the writing of the final research reports of all students.

Prof Leana Uys and Prof Lizeth Roets, were able to contribute to the successful planning, development and implementation of this Masters' Programme to be offered by the Institut Supérieur Des Techniques Médicales De Lubumbashi, ultimately contributing to the sustainability of this Programme in the DRC.

The final results of this masters' programme were:

- 16 students enrolled
- 10 students passed the masters' degree in 4,5 years
- 5 students obtained an advanced diploma in midwifery
- 1 student discontinued after the first year due to personal reasons

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Observations

The following observations provided a platform for the implementation of the Project in other African countries:

- 1) The conditions under which teaching and learning took place were rudimentary. But the will and dedication of students was extraordinary. They all wanted to achieve under the difficult circumstances.
- 2) Language was not an impediment. Although they struggled at times to understand English, they managed to carry on in their studies. In future, it would be absolutely necessary to have French speaking African teachers for efficiency and smooth communication.
- 3) All the students did not possess an undergraduate degree. They had to undertake a one year bridging course for them to be accepted into the Masters Degree Programme.
- 4) A humane relationship existed between the lecturers and the students. Such a relationship could form a basis for developing Ubuntu as a theoretical base on the implementation of the Project in other African countries.
- 5) The visit to the implementing institution for clinical practice was an eye opener and a huge encouragement to the students.
- 6) While classroom teaching was important, clinical attachment, clinical teaching and proven clinical competence was seen as critical and crucial.
- 7) Research capacity building was seen as essential at Master's degree level; therefore, a research methodology course and a research project was required from each student.
- 8) Because of the research or baseline studies conducted on the health needs of the country the focus on the Curriculum was on Maternal and Child Health.

To be able to sustain the programme, it was of utmost importance that these novice educators, who will be the supervisors of new Master's students in the programme, be mentored and supported. These novice researchers will also need mentoring to publish their research results and to ensure that they in future will be able to mentor others.



NEPAD Agency graduate training of trainers in Kolwezi

Way Forward

This Master's Degree programme was launched in 2008, with the aim of preparing the students for the five essential roles of a nurse specialist-scientist; clinician, researcher, leader, administrator and educator. To be able to sustain the programme, it was of utmost importance that these novice educators, who will be the supervisors of new Master's students in the programme, be mentored and supported. These novice researchers will also need mentoring to publish their research results and to ensure that they in future will be able to mentor others.

A Programme to support and mentor these novice educators and supervisors needs to be developed and implemented if this scholarship development initiative is to be sustained. If financial support for such a programme can be accessed a doctoral programme could be developed.

Collaboration among higher education institutions, where resources are shared, could assist in the professional upliftment of health workers in Africa.



Training of trainers in the DRC

Upcoming Events

- 9 April 2018: *Launch of the Agenda 2063 Media Network and #TheAfricaWeWant Campaign*
Johannesburg, South Africa
- 12 –13 April 2018: *2nd Meeting of the Steering Committee on regulatory systems and strengthening harmonisation initiatives in Africa*
Johannesburg, South Africa
- 25 – 27 April 2018: *14th CAADP Partnership Platform Meeting*
Libreville, Gabon

For more events visit: www.nepad.org/events

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Announcement



Africa needs 'integrated approach' to economies

Trade is essential for Africa's development and liberalising it is key. But is a Free Trade Area the answer?

Sceptics say it's an addition to the African Union's flagship Agenda 2063 and that Africa has too many programmes and protocols.

The BBC's Lerato Mbele met with Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency, to find out if all of these programmes will add value for businesses and bring prosperity to ordinary people. To watch the interview visit: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06230yn>

Proverb

A fight between grasshoppers is a joy to the crow

~ *Lesotho proverb*



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