



# NEPAD NEWS

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## **G**ood governance and infrastructure development 2018 PIDA Week

**Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, November 27, 2018** - "Africa needs to unite and work hard to reverse colonial infrastructure systems which promoted the extraction of profitable agricultural and mineral wealth for export at the expense of local communities and the continent," Zimbabwe's Transport and Infra-structural Development and Transport Minister, Joel Biggie Matiza said as the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) Week opened on 26 November in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, buoyed by gathering momentum.

Speaking during the opening session of the 2018 PIDA Week in Victoria Falls, Mr Matiza said for Africa to fully develop and integrate, there was need for the continent to focus on infrastructure development, in particular transboundary projects, to ensure it was competitive enough to make a difference.

"Historically African countries inherited underdeveloped infrastructure geared towards exports-imports transportation rather than focusing on transforming and improving local production capacity as well as promoting intra-Africa trade. This is rea-son for us to reverse this legacy and as a continent we have crafted a new trajectory through PIDA, a turning point we should follow to ensure we transform the current state of affairs," he said.

Mr Matiza hailed PIDA for its efforts in trying to bridge Africa's infrastructure deficit. He said PIDA Week offered a valuable opportunity for policymakers, project developers, private sector, civil society, and academia to exchange views and proffer solutions towards the implementation of regional infrastructure projects on the continent. - *continues on the next page*

**"Transformational decisions have to be taken if we are to move ahead. Africa must deal with political bottlenecks that hamper its development,"**

**Honourable Raila Odinga, the High Representative for Infrastructure Development in Africa**

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The official opening of PIDA Week in Victoria Falls town, Zimbabwe

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CEO of the NEPAD Agency, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki said Africa needs to accelerate the development of transboundary infrastructure projects if it is to fully integrate. He said a lot of progress has been made since African leaders adopted PIDA in 2012.

"We recognise that optimal solutions for continental problems lie in regional integration. We are getting there progressively, but we need to accelerate implementation if we want regional integration. It's not a question of lack of financial resources, it is a question of lack of bankable projects and sound rules. So we need to do our homework," said Dr Mayaki, adding that local, national and regional governance was key to the success Africa seeks in closing its infrastructure deficit.

The African Union Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, Dr Amani Abou-Zeid said the current low levels of infrastructure on the continent posed one of the biggest challenges to Africa's industrialisation and development agenda, which is having a negative impact on Africa's competitiveness and participation in the global markets.

According to the World Bank, the state of infrastructure in sub-Saharan Africa in respect of its electricity, water, roads and ICT, reduces national economic growth by 2 percent annually and reduces productivity by as much as 40 percent. The financing gap in Africa for infrastructure development is estimated at between US\$130 -170 billion per year.

African Union's High Representative for Infrastructure Development, Honorable Raila Amollo Odinga, said Africa needs to move away from the conference and feasibility study syndrome and move to implement agreed projects if it is to successfully integrate and achieve sustainable development and change the lives of its citizens for the better.

"Transformational decisions have to be taken if we are to move ahead. Africa must deal with political bottlenecks that hamper its development or we shall never compete," said Mr Odinga. "We must also overcome the habitual of feasibility study after feasibility study without implementation. We must change."

Ms Carla Montesi, European Commission's Director for Planet and Prosperity and a representative of COMESA Secretary General, Ms Chileshe Kapwepwe, also spoke in the opening session in support of Africa's desire to invest in infrastructural development that will support Africa's growth. Ms Montesi said the EU will continue to support Africa in its quest for an integrated infrastructure that generates jobs for the youth; helps reduce poverty; and supports regional integration.

Mr Xiao Weiming, Director-General of the Belt and Road Unit, National Development and Reform Commission, the People's Republic of China, said his country will continue to work with African nations to help build their infrastructure capacity.

The 2018 PIDA Week theme was '*Realising Africa's Integration through Smart Infrastructure and Good Governance*'. It built on the relative achievements and the momentum created in the previous three events to continue to engage stakeholders on the effective delivery of infrastructure on the continent. The event welcomed more than 400 participants brought together through an impressive line-up of top-level government representatives, influential industry leaders, private sector, leading thinkers from international institutions, government, academia, business and finance.



Mrs Estherine Fotabong, NEPAD Agency's Director of Programmes

## **R**ecognition of African female development experts

Mrs Estherine Fotabong, NEPAD Agency's Director of Programmes, is a recipient of the Africa Female Development Expert of the Year Award, bestowed upon her by the committee of the All Africa Women Summit.

"I am immensely honoured and humbled to be conferred 'The Africa Female Development Expert of the Year' award by the committee of the All Africa Women Summit," Mrs Fotabong said.

Mrs Fotabong further stated that she looks forward to contributing towards the mentorship programme.

"Personally, I am passionate towards helping prepare young girls for the workplace. I look forward to sharing my experience and knowledge," she said.

Africa female development experts were recognised by the African Women Leaders Network, an action-oriented initiative that seeks to enhance the leadership of African women in bringing transformative changes focusing on peace, security and development in the continent.

The Network further aims to harness the wealth of African women's experiences of leadership, build on other existing and emerging networks of women leaders, as well as develop new partnerships to strengthen the capacity of women, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the AU Agenda 2063, a visionary framework for the socio-economic transformation of Africa.

At the Second Women Leaders Forum for Africa's Transformation, hosted by the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in April 2018, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka made the following remarks:

"We are here to mark the start of this African Women Leaders Network. This Network has a vital mission: to have African women take their vital place in transforming Africa and the world."

As an open-ended platform and space for women leaders in Africa, the Network creates opportunities for gender equality and women's empowerment through global strategic agenda such as Planet 50/50 by 2030, AU Agenda 2063, Sustainable Development Goals and the G7 Forum for Dialogue with Women.



The NEPAD Agency microgrid team on their way to Brong Ahafo region in Ghana

The NEPAD Microgrid programme extended its reach to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) region, covering Ghana and Mali during the period 19 to 22 November 2018.

With the first stage of the NEPAD Microgrid programme being successfully completed, 2019 will see the NEPAD Agency action plan developed to assist the four countries visited thus far - Zimbabwe, Malawi, Ghana and Mali, with the realisation of their identified microgrid projects.

## **N**EPAD microgrids reach Ghana and Mali

The NEPAD Microgrid programme extended its reach to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) region, covering Ghana and Mali during the period 19 to 22 November 2018.

Led by Prof Mosad Elmissiry and Prof Diran Makinde, the NEPAD Agency team visited Ghana between 18 and 19 November to assess the status quo of the selected microgrid projects in the Brong Ahafo area in the North East Volta Region, about 8 hours' drive from Accra followed by a boat ride to the island.

The microgrid project in Ghana involves the setting up of hybrid solar micro grid station of 100 kW on the island and a 75 kW similar station on the lakeside, to serve the communities on the island and as well as the nearby communities on the lakeside.

The NEPAD Agency team was met by officials from the Ministry of Energy, who included the Deputy Director for Renewable Electricity, Engr Seth Mahu; Deputy Director, Bioenergy, Mrs Gift Tetteh; Deputy Director, Nuclear and Alternative Energy, Dr Robert Sogbaji and Executive Administrator Ms Doris Akorfi.

Ghana's projects are unique in the sense that the country is being studied to serve as a benchmark for the other pilot countries as energy access in Ghana is now ranging between 84% to 86%, with rural access at 70% and urban access at 90%. The country boasts five functional mini-grids of about 50kW each with a cost of \$2,5m. Currently, the Ministry of Energy is conducting sensitisation activities to the communities and studies on using GIS to mark lines, testing powerhouse capabilities, environmental and socio-economic, dynamics of the selected communities with studies on sustainability and tariff structures. The studies are expected to be completed in early 2019. The aim is to transform islands and lakeside villages by increasing generation capacity using solar and hybrid systems.

With regards sustainability, it is worth noting that there is a policy framework for micro/mini-grids in place, with plans to mainstream mini-grids into the main grid. The government also covers investment and on completion hand over to power utility to operate and maintain the station.

The NEPAD Agency team visited a site in the south east region on the Volta Lake, to see an existing microgrid of wind, solar and diesel in parallel, that became functional in 2016. A planned site at Alorpen also was visited close to the Volta Lake estuary. The mainly solar project will serve about 960 people with a school of about 255 students. It will also serve agricultural activities that include sugarcane and vegetable production and processing.

The NEPAD Agency team then headed for Bamako in Mali, to assess the status quo of the 900 kW microgrid wind project in the Gao area, north of Mali and the area of intervention by NEPAD. Currently, Gao runs on 5 MW diesel engine. The feasibility study of the Gao wind project was done in 2004 and needs to be updated. The site previously identified for the Gao wind project has been used for development of the town and a new site will be identified soon.

The NEPAD team held consultations with various microgrid stakeholders in Mali, including those from the Ministry of Energy and Water) and the Electricity Regulatory Commission, among others.

"It is estimated that Mali will need a total of 2000 MW by the year 2020. This additional energy is expected to be generated from renewable sources," said Prof Elmissiry.

With the conclusion of both the Ghana and Mali missions, the NEPAD microgrid team left with a clear understanding of the countries' microgrid projects, their status quo and the sort of interventions for NEPAD Agency where there will be clear value addition in driving these projects forward, making clean energy available to Africa's populations. With the first stage of the NEPAD Microgrid programme being successfully completed, 2019 will see the NEPAD Agency action plan developed to assist the four countries visited thus far - Zimbabwe, Malawi, Ghana and Mali, with the realisation of their identified microgrid projects.

# The role of the New Partnership for Africa's Development is changing

## NEPAD Agency's CEO, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki's interview with *African Business*

Launched amid much fanfare by President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa and other continental luminaries in 2001, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) promised a fresh era of progress through a dynamic agency freed from the constraints of Africa's tired leadership structures.

With lofty goals to "eradicate poverty, promote sustainable growth and development, integrate Africa in the world economy, and accelerate the empowerment of women," the agency capitalised on the excitement of an international community transfixed by the UN's Millennium Development Goals.

"We are essentially saying that surely the time has come that as the African continent we should say [there must be] an end to the underdevelopment of the continent, an end to the poverty and there must be an end to conflict," Mbeki boldly proclaimed in 2002.

Today, NEPAD's Planning and Coordination Agency – soon to become the African Union Development Agency – is attempting to carve out a new role for itself in a very different landscape. With Mbeki and other high-profile backers retired from the scene, chief executive Ibrahim Mayaki, a former prime minister of Niger, faces a battle to prove NEPAD's relevance on a continent where multi-billion dollar infrastructure schemes and the private sector are seen as the crucial drivers of development.

"The idea is to have an entity which takes care of the implementation processes regarding development," Mayaki tells *African Business* in New York. "When we agree on a common strategy in infrastructure, with priority projects, the role of this agency should be to look after how those projects are being implemented. Take the Lagos-Abidjan corridor – our role is to support ECOWAS in building a specialised entity, which will manage the corridor, facilitate the way its going to work by providing expertise, and linking them to potential financiers, particularly in the private sector."

If that role seems diminished compared to the aspirational initial goals of NEPAD, it's because results-based implementation focused on bankable projects has supplanted the utopianism of one-stop schemes to guide Africa's development. Mayaki says the role of NEPAD has been gradually changing over time to accommodate this new reality, and argues that the transition of the agency to the African Union offers an ideal funding structure to pursue its renewed mission.

"Up to now, 80% [of the budget] was funded by donors. That ratio is going to change... what the AU has been giving us has been multiplied ten-fold. We will need to be more accountable vis-à-vis member states. Previously we were accountable to donors... [but] the ball game is changing and giving us more autonomy to decide our own priorities and operations."

Armed with new funds, Mayaki says that one of the organisation's key roles will be to work with member states and the continent's regional integration organisations to initiate cross-border infrastructure projects.

But as well as focusing on countries with a pipeline of bankable schemes, NEPAD will also have to encourage investment in nations where planning remains rudimentary.



# NEPAD TRANSFORMING AFRICA

"These projects need to be bankable, they have to be going through feasibility studies. But now you have a political dimension – we are using members states' money and member states want a geographical equilibrium of projects. We can't say we are going to ignore Central Africa and choose East Africa because they have more bankable projects." With such huge funding demands – the African Development Bank estimates an infrastructure shortfall of \$92bn per year on the continent – NEPAD's most important role will be facilitating the arrival of the private sector. In essence, it will have to convince investors that regional projects offer a decent return on a safe investment.

"Up to now we knew how to do national infrastructure projects but we hardly knew how to do regional projects because the management systems are different, and coordination between countries is new. Building public private partnerships on cross-border projects is radically different. So we're in a learning curve. But evidently you will move towards private money and public money, a kind of blended finance. Our role is... to lead them to financial close."

With limited private funds chasing a large number of potential projects, NEPAD is attempting to unlock new project financing. In an event on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, the agency convened African sovereign wealth funds and pension funds in a bid to persuade them to deposit a greater proportion of their estimated \$1 trillion in assets under management in African projects. NEPAD has set a modest target of 5%.

"How can we work together to invest more than 1%? We will need to do our homework by bringing bankable projects in environments where doing business is good. That will allow you to think differently about risk – you might have a little more risk, but higher returns," he insists. Another potential source of funds is provided by China, whose promises of \$60bn for Africa at this year's FOCAC pricked up the ears of NEPAD. "Our role as an AU development agency is to go to the Chinese and say OK, you've put \$60bn on the table, so how do we implement that?" he asks.

"We are pushing the Chinese in three directions, the first is beyond thinking national and bilateral and to think regional. The second is that we have to be very careful with debt. You have to reflect very well to which usage you will put that debt. Point three, all African countries are convinced that we do not want our interaction based on taking raw materials, we need transfer of technology."

Whether the Chinese are interested in consulting NEPAD is one of the many open questions that could determine the relevance of the organisation as it transfers to the AU. But while challenges lie in wait, Mayaki is convinced that NEPAD has a new lease of life.

"It will not be a revolution. I don't think from one day to another we'll suddenly turn ourselves into an excellently working organisation. We have to be cautious, it's an arduous process, a construction process and we need to have solid foundations. It's a shift from a VW to a kind of Ferrari. We're shifting to another level of implementation."

**David Thomas**

Published at: <https://africanbusinessmagazine.com/sectors/finance/interview-with-nepad-chief-executive-ibrahim-mayaki/>



Given the current global and regional contexts, development communicators need to shift their mind-sets and perspectives on Africa, as the current discourse is now more on co-operation and partnerships for investments.

## **A**genda 2063 and development communications

**Paris, November 22, 2018** - Effective communications and public engagement have never

been more important. In a complex political environment, development communicators need to rebuild public trust in international cooperation. In a rapidly evolving media landscape, they need to mobilise citizens into action for development.

The above view is what shaped the backdrop of the annual meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Communication Network in Paris, France, in which NEPAD Agency was invited to participate.

During a panel session called 'Development Communications: Our Vocation in Transition' which was moderated by Lucy Lamble, Executive Editor for Global Development at The Guardian, Mwanja Ng'anjo, NEPAD Agency's Senior Communications Officer elaborated on Africa's development narratives.

She gave her input through the lens of the continent's agenda for transformation - Agenda 2063 and its nexus with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"Given the current global and regional contexts, development communicators need to shift their mind-sets and perspectives on Africa, as the current discourse is now more on co-operation and partnerships for investments," Ms Ng'anjo said.

She went on to explain that the development narratives in Africa now tend to focus on African-led and African-owned initiatives, citing the African Union's Agenda 2063 as a good framework within which more development communication needs to take place.

"This is because the long-term vision for Africa followed a bottom-up approach in its design, by capturing aspirations for 'the Africa We Want,' which speak directly to the development discourse as well as the SDGs, around which citizens are mobilised for development action," Ms Ng'anjo said.

The OECD Development Communication Network (DevCom) is an international platform where governments find better ways to engage with citizens for sustainable development. Established 30 years ago, DevCom brings together communications and public affairs experts from the public, private and non-profit sectors to learn from one another and identify good practices.

The DevCom annual meeting brought together senior-level participants, including heads of communication in government departments, heads of corporate social responsibility and/or communications in businesses, leading campaigners specialised in gender equality, senior communications and policy experts from multilateral organisations, foundations and CSOs, and media experts on public attitudes to sustainable development.

At the end of the meeting, it was agreed by OECD DevCom and NEPAD Agency that the two institutions should work more closely in the area of communication, starting with the sharing of relevant news, stories and good practices on development, on a more regular basis.



Congratulations to H.E Professor Alpha Condé, President of the Republic of Guinea and *Champion of Fisheries and Aquaculture for the NEPAD Agency*, for the "Excellence in Fisheries & Aquaculture" award by the African Union Commission on 27 November 2018.

## Upcoming events

- 1 Dec 2018:** *Building on Madiba's Legacy: Eradicating Hunger and Malnutrition on the African Continent.* Johannesburg, South Africa
- 10 - 13 Dec 2018:** *African Society for Laboratory Medicine Conference.* Abuja, Nigeria.
- 10 - 14 Dec 2018:** *Official Launch of AMRH Week.* Kigali, Rwanda.
- 20 - 21 Mar 2019:** *3rd Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance: Annual Forum.* Dakar, Senegal.

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## Proverb

We live by hope, but a reed never becomes an Iroko tree by dreaming.

~ Nigerian Proverb



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