



NEPAD NEWS

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

April 2017

African solutions for Africa's challenges

A **Hartebeesthoek** - Stationed at the Hartebeesthoek ground station in South Africa's Gauteng province, the Space Operations Offices of South African National Space Agency (SANSA), provided the venue for the signing of the memorandum of understanding with the NEPAD Agency on 19 April.

During the MoU signing, the importance of Africa as a continent to find and implement its own solutions to address its challenges was stressed. The MoU that the two institutions have signed is an important step that signals the new focus for Africa that is emerging, one that places confidence in African institutions and capacity to find solutions to the continent's challenges.

Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency commended the collaboration between the two institutions and stated that, "Gaps in policy-making and implementation can, from now on, be filled with real time data and evidence from Africa itself."

South Africa plays a central role in the international space community with an established reputation for accuracy and reliability, of which SANSA is using the benefits of space science and technology to help grow and develop the African region.

"The South African National Space Agency is revisiting its strategic position in leading innovations for space solutions, not only for South Africa, but for the rest of the continent to enable us to make informed decisions," Dr Val Munsami, SANSA's CEO stated.

- continues on page 2



SANSA's Space Operations in Hartebeesthoek, South Africa

Gaps in policy-making and implementation can, from now on, be filled with real time data and evidence from Africa itself -

Dr Ibrahim Mayaki

In this Issue

- Dr Mayaki confers with former South African President HE Thabo Mbeki
- NEPAD Steering Committee Meeting: Strengthening African integration
- Framework for sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture in Africa
- Launch of the Skills Initiative for Africa programme in Cameroon
- Malawi to roll back tuberculosis within five years
- Reviewing implementation of commitments towards Africa's development
- Agreements on Africa Kaizen Initiative and IFNA Secretariat
- Status of land degradation and restoration in Africa
- International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda: 7 April
- Garden miracles in Ha Tšilonyane
- The spectre of recolonisation

- continued from previous page

Dr Munsami also reiterated that Africa is starting to look inward for its own solutions, and added that the MoU signed with the NEPAD Agency will go a long way in redressing challenges in various sectors including agriculture, food security and disaster management.

Other areas of collaboration between SANSa and the NEPAD Agency include: Integrated water resources management; sustainable forestry management; infrastructure; geospatial visualisation and web mapping services, as well as capacity building and knowledge transfer.

The satellite based remote sensing products and services provided by SANSa will play a fundamental role in aiding spatial decision support systems that are required for the implementation of NEPAD's 2025 Vision on the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), which is Africa's policy framework for agricultural transformation, wealth creation, food security and nutrition, economic growth and prosperity for all. The products and services will also play a key role in NEPAD's Action Plan for the Environment Initiative and the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative.



Exhibition of a rocket component that was found in the Hartbeesthoek area

"The achievement of Agenda 2063 requires innovative partnerships that enhance evidence based planning and implementation for real transformation on the continent," Dr Mayaki said.

The space-based solutions will also enable the NEPAD Agency to support the African Union in the monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals, which are aligned with the implementation of the first ten year plan of the African Union's Agenda 2063.

The satellite based remote sensing products and services provided by SANSa will play a fundamental role in aiding spatial decision support systems that are required for the implementation of NEPAD's programmes



Former South African President, HE Mr Thabo Mbeki and Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency

Dr Mayaki confers with former South African President HE Thabo Mbeki

On March 31, the CEO of the NEPAD Agency, Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, held wide-ranging discussions with former South African President, HE Mr Thabo Mbeki, at the headquarters of the Thabo Mbeki Foundation in Johannesburg.

To many, former president Mbeki is considered one of the founding fathers of NEPAD, because while serving as President of the Republic of South Africa he championed both the African Renaissance and the New Partnership for Africa's Development in 2001.

Dr Mayaki opened the discussions with an overview of recent developments at the NEPAD Agency, including the expanding footprint of the Agency covering 52 African countries. The CEO further elaborated on the expanding responsibilities of the Agency related to implementation, which will increase exponentially once the new AU funding arrangement comes into force.

President Mbeki and Dr Mayaki examined in detail the "Kagame Report" on the reform of the African Union, launched in January 2017 at the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The deliberations between the former president and the CEO revolved around issues related to AU Reform and the implications for the African Union, the AU Commission, and the NEPAD Agency. The CEO committed to present the outcomes of this conversation with President Mbeki to the NEPAD Steering Committee at its forthcoming meeting in April 2017. President Mbeki equally will consider the implications of the proposed AU reforms with the Forum of Former Heads of State, of which he is a member.

The meeting concluded with Dr Mayaki extending a formal invitation to President Thabo Mbeki to pay a courtesy visit to the NEPAD Agency headquarters, an invitation to which the former President has agreed.



NEPAD Agency's programmatic outputs and results contribute to the goals and aspirations of Agenda 2063, starting with the first ten year implementation plan

L to R: Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency; Mrs Mrs Gnounka Diouf, Minister-Counsellor in charge of Economic Policies in The Presidency, Senegal; Mr Agbor Ambang, Head of the NEPAD Coordination Unit at the African Union Commission

NEPAD Steering Committee Meeting: Strengthening African integration

Midrand – The 56th meeting of the NEPAD Steering Committee took place at the NEPAD Agency Offices in Midrand, South Africa on 24 April.

Mrs Gnounka Diouf, Senegal's Minister-Counsellor in charge of Economic Policies, co-chaired the meeting and thanked the Government of South Africa for their hospitality, as well as Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, the CEO of the NEPAD Agency and the organisation's team for facilitating the meeting.

Mrs Diouf recognised the presence of key partners including the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), amongst others. She highlighted the key issues for discussion at the meeting, specifically with regards efforts towards the realisation of the enhanced performance of the NEPAD Agency.

Mrs Diouf also stressed the need to strengthen relationships with development partners towards the overall goal of strengthening African integration.

In delivering integrated development results, the NEPAD Agency's footprint is currently in 52 African countries, that is, 95 percent coverage of the continent.

During the meeting, Dr Mayaki presented the programmatic delivery framework which is driven by programmes that feed into the NEPAD Agency's strategic plan.

Dr Mayaki highlighted the continental frameworks that NEPAD is working with, such as the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA); the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture

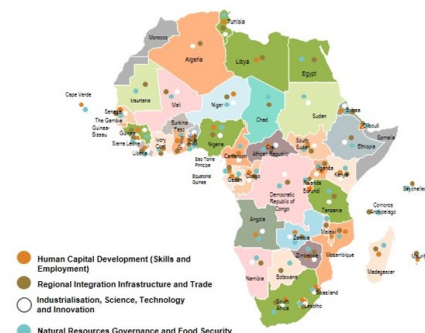
Development Programme (CAADP) and the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA).

"All programmatic outputs and results contribute to the goals and aspirations of Agenda 2063, starting with the first ten year implementation plan," Dr Mayaki said.

Also speaking at the meeting, Nigeria NEPAD CEO, Princess Gloria Akobundu emphasised on the acceleration of empowerment programmes for the youth and women in Africa to alleviate poverty and promote economic growth on the continent.

The NEPAD Agency CEO, Dr Mayaki, elucidated the role of the NEPAD Agency, which is to translate continental frameworks at regional and country levels for implementation towards the achievement of results.

Dr Mayaki also presented the first quarter results of the NEPAD Agency in 2017. He stated that the NEPAD Agency is optimising the corridor development approach, which has more impact on boosting regional integration. In delivering integrated development results, the NEPAD Agency's footprint is currently in 52 African countries, that is, 95 percent coverage of the continent.





The Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa emphasises the wealth created by fisheries and vast opportunities for livelihoods enhancement

Framework for sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture in Africa

Africa has diverse fish resources with immense potential and opportunities for contributing significantly to the socio-economic growth of Africa and improving livelihoods of its citizens.

Significant resources have been committed towards the fisheries sector by many development partners and development finance institutions. However, challenges still remain, such as weak human, institutional and financial capacity which continue to be a key constraint for positive reform of the fisheries and aquaculture sector. This is evident, for example, in the relatively slow pace of aquaculture development on the continent over the last 40 years as a complementary fish production technology. However, the African aquaculture scenario has changed a lot over the last decade. In 2012, for instance, FAO reported that ten of fastest growing aquaculture sectors were in Africa - Egypt, Uganda, Kenya, Zambia, Ghana, Madagascar, Tunisia, Malawi and South Africa.

A key challenge across the fisheries management spectrum is the lack of policy coherence and coordination in the management of the fisheries and aquaculture resources in the 55 AU countries. Surmounting these challenges and unlocking the potential of the sector would require major reforms in the governance of the fisheries and related sectors, in national fisheries administrations and regional arrangements for fisheries management.

It is for this reason then that the African Union Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa was formulated, with the purpose of facilitating coherent policy development for the sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture resources in Africa.

Driven by the NEPAD Agency, AU-IBAR and strategic partners, the Policy Framework provides guiding principles on:

- Increasing fisheries and aquaculture productivity,
- Improving profitability of fish enterprises,
- Enhancing sustainability,
- Wealth generation,
- Social welfare, nutrition and food security, and
- Regional collaborative management and strengthening south-south cooperation as well as the “African Voice” on international policy dialogue which has implications for African fisheries governance.

The Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa emphasises the wealth created by fisheries and vast opportunities for livelihoods enhancement, underpinned by the recognition that the sustainability of fisheries depends on better governance.

One of the principles of the strategy is concerned with the development of small scale fisheries to contribute to poverty alleviation. The role of women in the fish sector is also acknowledged. The framework also provides guidelines on how countries should better capture the wealth of fisheries, reduce poverty, increase food and nutritional security and ensure equitable distribution of the benefits particularly for the poorest, marginalised and most vulnerable in society, such as women.

The Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa is strongly aligned with Agenda 2063. Aspiration 1 of Agenda 2063 calls for a *Prosperous Africa Based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development and Africa's Blue Economy*, recognising the sector as a major contributor to continental transformation and growth.

The NEPAD Agency, together with African countries and partner organisations, is working to advance knowledge on marine and aquatic resources, in order to develop marine and inland fisheries and aquaculture on the continent.



L to R: HE Mr Zacharie Perevet and Mrs Estherine Fotabong during a media briefing

Implemented by the NEPAD Agency, the Skills Initiative Programme will contribute to the significant reduction of poverty, the fight against unemployment and underemployment of young people

Launch of the Skills Initiative for Africa programme in Cameroon

Yaoundé - The Skills Initiative for Africa Programme was launched in Cameroon on 7 April.

During the launch, His Excellency, Mr Zacharie Perevet, the Minister of Employment and Vocational Training of the Republic of Cameroon maintained that the Skills Initiative for Africa is a timely intervention.

“I am very glad because this programme led by the NEPAD Agency is endowed with an instrument that, once implemented, will contribute to the significant reduction of poverty, the fight against unemployment and underemployment of young people,” the Minister said.

According to the Minister, the programme will contribute to the improvement of the country’s statistics in the labour sector, as its approach is to support the development of practical skills by focusing on entrepreneurial and professional skills.

“Given the adverse impacts of unemployment on the continent, such as poverty and inequality, as well as the negative spin-offs that these socio-economic challenges could bring in the form of discontent, especially amongst the youth population, the case is compelling for increased opportunities for the youths, to build desired skill capabilities and enhance their employability in a globally competitive and rapidly modernising labour market,” remarked Mrs Estherine Lisinge-Fotabong, Director of Programme Coordination and Implementation at the NEPAD Agency.

Mrs Fotabong maintained that the Skills Initiative for Africa programme complements the NEPAD Agency’s support to the 2017 African Union theme of *Skills and Youth Employment: Yielding Demographic Dividend through investing in Youths*.

The launch in Cameroon also provided an opportunity for the NEPAD Agency to gain insights on what the country’s priorities are, in view of the value chains that the programme could support. The value chains include: Rehabilitation and equipping of existing training institutions with state of the art facilities; encouraging entrepreneurial innovative projects amongst youths; bursaries on vocational training; information, communication and technology, and; mentorship on entrepreneurship.

The meeting was attended by various stakeholders from both private and public sectors, including: representatives from German Embassy in Cameroon, members of the diplomatic corps, women organisations, the civil society organisations and media.





Procurement of modern laboratory equipment has commenced in Malawi under the SATBHSS project to help improve detection and treatment of tuberculosis

Malawi to roll back tuberculosis within five years

Lilongwe – The National Tuberculosis Control Programme (NTP) of Malawi has initiated implementation of the Southern Africa Tuberculosis and Health Systems Support (SATBHSS) project with procurement of modern equipment and refurbishment of existing laboratories to improve detection and treatment of TB, conducting project awareness and sensitisation campaigns and creating miners and ex-miners groups in the target communities to improve disease diagnosis and surveillance.

The Malawi component of the project was declared effective by the World Bank on 1 December, 2016.

The activities of the project are aimed at improving coverage and quality of TB and occupational lung disease services in 9 districts; Balaka, Blantyre, Kasungu, Karonga, Lilongwe, Mzimba North, Mzimba South, Nsanje and Rumphi in an effort to fight the scourge of TB.

This was disclosed during the joint country visit by NEPAD Agency and East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC) from 5 – 6 April 2017 that was aimed at reviewing and identifying areas in the national work plan that require Technical Assistance.

NTP Manager, Dr James Mpunga said that Malawi is satisfied with the coordination the project is receiving from NEPAD Agency and ECSA, given the regional nature of the project, as well as the experience and technical expertise the two organisations have in managing similar projects.

“The implementing countries have to move together in order to go further in the implementation of this project and consolidate the gains for shared success in fighting the scourge of TB,” said Dr Mpunga.

The project is funded by the World Bank with technical support from NEPAD Agency and ECSA-HC as coordinating partners at regional level. The joint country visit led to the alignment of the Malawi national work plan with the regional work plan and identified the kind of technical support required with clearly defined roles, responsibilities and timelines for successful implementation of the project.

NEPAD Agency and ECSA also champion regional learning and innovation among the four participating countries: Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia to improve regional capacity for effective management of TB across borders.

Malawi received USD 17 million out of the total USD 122 million dedicated to the SATBHSS project. The implementation of the project is coordinated by the Ministry of Health and has taken a multisectoral approach which includes the Ministry of Labour, Youth and Sports, and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining. All these stakeholders were consulted in the alignment of the Malawi national plan with regional work plans.

Malawi is satisfied with the coordination the project is receiving from NEPAD Agency and ECSA, given the regional nature of the project, as well the experience and technical expertise the two organisations have in managing similar projects



AGENDA 2063 The Africa We Want

Aspiration 1

A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development

Aspiration 2

An integrated continent, politically united and based on the ideals of Pan Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance

Aspiration 3

An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law

Aspiration 4

A peaceful and secure Africa

Aspiration 5

An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics

Aspiration 6

An Africa where development is people-driven, unleashing the potential of its women and youth

Aspiration 7

Africa as a strong, united and influential global player and partner



Reviewing implementation of commitments towards Africa's development

Midrand - In view of the enormous development challenges facing Africa and the need to ensure progress across the economic, social and environmental sectors of sustainable development, the timely implementation of commitments for development becomes important. This is in the context of the continent's efforts towards achieving the aspirations and goals of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Agenda 2063 is Africa's shared vision and strategic framework for socio-economic transformation, inclusive growth and sustainable development.

The commitments towards Africa's development arise from among others, UN Conferences and Summits in the economic, social and related field, and the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals and in particular the continent's shared vision - The African Union's Agenda 2063 culminating to the "The Africa we Want" Ten Year Implementation Plan 2014-2023.

In 2012, the United Nations adopted the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism (UNMM) to review commitments made towards Africa's development and designated the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) to serve as the Secretariat for the review in coordination with relevant entities of the UN system.

The NEPAD Agency and OSAA co-organised an African stakeholders' consultative meeting on the 2018 UN Secretary-General's report on The Review of Implementation of Commitments made towards Africa's Development. The consultation was convened at the NEPAD Agency's offices in Midrand, South Africa, on 20 -21 April.

In his opening remarks, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency, highlighted the fact that although official development assistance (ODA) to Africa is declining, resources on the continent can still be garnered if illicit financial flows are curbed through improved governance, especially in commercial activities such as mining which accounts for 70 percent of the illicit flow.

Dr Mayaki also pointed to the fact that improved documentation and information generation on the continent will go a long way in effectiveness towards implementation of commitments made towards Africa's development.

Speaking at the same meeting, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates, HE Mahash Saeed Alhameli reaffirmed his country's commitment to remain one of Africa's development partners in the Middle East.

The objective of the stakeholders' consultative meeting is to have broad and structured discussions with relevant stakeholders including governments, academia, civil society organisations and the private sector, on the themes of the 2018 United Nations Secretary-General's Biennial Report, specifically on 'The review of the implementation of commitments made towards Africa's development.'

The discussions were on priority issues and commitments in the following areas: Inclusive growth and sustainable industrialisation and regional integration; health, water and sanitation; climate change, and; finance and partnerships.

The meeting in Midrand was attended by representatives from several African governments, regional economic communities, UN agencies, embassies, civil society, think tanks, private sector and academia.



Representatives from the NEPAD Agency and JICA

The NEPAD Agency remains committed to the implementation of both the Kaizen Initiative and the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa

Agreements on Africa Kaizen Initiative and IFNA Secretariat

Midrand- The NEPAD Agency signed two Letters of Agreement with the Japan International Cooperation Agency on the Africa Kaizen Initiative and the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA) on 21 April. The signing ceremony took place in the NEPAD Agency offices in Midrand, during a briefing session between the two institutions.

The signing of the Letter of Agreement on IFNA serves as a follow up to the agreement made between the NEPAD Agency and JICA at the occasion of TICADVI in August 2016 to set up an IFNA Secretariat to be housed within the NEPAD Agency offices.

Besides the administrative services that the NEPAD Agency will provide for the Secretariat, the Agency will also provide technical advice, support and coordinating services to create linkages between IFNA and African governments.

JICA will be responsible for the funding of the key activities undertaken by IFNA including deployment of international experts, and these will exclude those already covered by the NEPAD Agency based on the agreement.

IFNA aims to establish a framework for collaboration with African governments to fast-track the implementation of their food and nutrition security policies on the ground, with a view to contributing to a comprehensive improvement in the nutrition status of the African continent. This vision is in line with the Second Sustainable Development Goals and the Malabo Declaration.

Regarding the Africa Kaizen Initiative which was also materialised through the occasion of TICADVI, the agreement aims to promote and disseminate KAIZEN throughout Africa. In this partnership, NEPAD Agency works together with JICA to mainstream Kaizen in Africa through an Africa Kaizen Initiative whereby centers of excellence will be designated in each of the five regions of the continent.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, the NEPAD Agency CEO, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki indicated that the NEPAD Agency remains committed to the implementation of both the Kaizen Initiative and IFNA.

“We want to ensure that our programmes on industrialisation and nutrition can benefit from these two initiatives and we are fully conscious about NEPAD’s responsibility in fulfilling the expectations outlined in the agreement,” Dr Mayaki said.

Kaizen is a Japanese word that, in its most general sense, means “continuous improvement”. As used internationally, kaizen is a method to improve quality and productivity by continually making small efforts that add up to a big result.

“The NEPAD Agency remains a key development player on the African continent and JICA continues to align itself with this vision. The Japanese government has identified the crucial role that NEPAD plays in mobilizing African governments and this is important for us for the countries to embrace the Africa Kaizen Initiative and IFNA. We are excited about the setting up of both initiatives’ Secretariats in the NEPAD Agency Office and looking forward to continued collaborations,” said Mr Toshiyuki Nakamura, JICA HQ Director General for the Industrial Development and Public Policy Department.

Status of land degradation and restoration in Africa

Ouagadougou - Land degradation and desertification are among the biggest environmental challenges of our time. According to the United Nations Convention on Combatting Desertification, in the last 40 years we lost nearly a third of the world's arable farmland due to erosion, unsuitable land practices and inadequate policies just as the number of people to be fed from it almost doubled.

On April 12 and 13, the NEPAD Agency and its Strategic Investment Programme (SIP) partners on Sustainable Land and Water Management (SLWM); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) held a two-day workshop to produce a policy report on *'The Status of Land Degradation and Restoration in Africa.'* The aim of the report is to provide guidance for future investments and help guide actions for the Regional Economic Communities and their member states to better address land degradation challenges and restoration opportunities, while implementing the SLWM agenda in 30 TerrAfrica member countries south of the Sahara.

"This report will provide an opportunity for Africa and its partners to collectively work together toward ensuring the sustainable use and management of land," said Mamadou Diakhite in his remarks on behalf of the CEO of the NEPAD Agency.

The report highlights key conclusions, which inform investments by Regional Economic Communities and member countries for SLWM scaling up and mainstreaming, including improved understanding of land degradation issues, and how to address these through a wealth of adapted technologies.

"Holistically harnessing sustainable land and water management is key to successfully address the root cause of the multiple development challenges in Africa," Adam Bouhari from UNEP SIP stated.

The Strategic Investment Programme has created opportunities for countries to explore innovative options for SLWM financing and country strategic investment frameworks are expected to be essential tools for future cross-sectoral planning and aid harmonisation.

The document will be continually updated to showcase ongoing country level restoration work.



Kigali Genocide Memorial: Resting place for more than 250,000 genocide victims

International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda: 7 April

Message from Dr Ibrahim Mayaki

In making strides towards the goal of transforming our continent into "The Africa We Want" - a peaceful, strong and united Africa, reflection on the 1994 genocide in Rwanda reminds us that we cannot take our peace and security for granted.

Current and past events in African and around the world, as evidenced by the high number of people displaced by war, conflict or persecution, which now stands at almost 60 million, builds a strong case for prevention of conflict to come to the fore in all that we do. Prevention has become an essential aspect of foreign policy due to the nature of today's conflicts, their growing complexity and the fact that conflicts are more intra-state than inter-state. Moreover, the presence of powerful non-state actors and violent extremists all make it necessary to strengthen early warning and preventive diplomacy mechanisms.

On the African continent, efforts for peace are on the increase, as demonstrated by an ever growing number of peaceful transitions of power, with recent examples being Nigeria, Ghana, Cape Verde, to mention but a few. At the beginning of the 1990s, there were approximately thirty ongoing conflicts, but now they have been reduced to about a dozen. In addition, we are also witnessing Africa's integration through regional and continental efforts, under a direct manifestation of the "ownership principle" that is the cornerstone of an African prevention and development policy embedded in the African Union.

Reflecting on Rwanda today, the words of Wole Soyinka ring true:

"Given the scale of trauma caused by the genocide, Rwanda has indicated that however thin the hope of a community can be, a hero always emerges. Although no one can dare claim that it is now a perfect state, and that no more work is needed, Rwanda has risen from the ashes as a model of truth and reconciliation."

Together with Africa's 1.2 billion people, the NEPAD Agency commemorates the International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda, in order to eventually see a continent where all guns are silenced, a continent in which its people flourish in a culture of human rights, democracy, gender equality, inclusion and peace.



Malikeleli Malefo in her vegetable garden

Thanks to keyhole gardening, Malefo is now able to grow enough to feed her family, keeping hunger at bay

Garden miracles in Ha Tšilonyane

Maseru— Whenever the rains fell, ‘Malikeleli Malefo, 86, would beg her neighbours to provide cattle to plough her fields. Every time she would struggle to get help. Sometimes help would only come at the very end of the ploughing season.

“People who have money would start ploughing their fields first and later tell me that there is no time,” says Malefo, from Ha Tšilonyane in Makhoarane, on the outskirts of Maseru, Lesotho. She says because of her age, she would also have a tough time getting the right type of seeds which are more resilient to drought.

That had been Malefo’s ordeal for years. Malefo lives with her two grandchildren. The three survive on her M500 monthly pension from the government. Every three months, they also get a M360 grant under the Child Grants Programme, the government’s flagship social safety net programme.

That was until the Catholic Relief Services (CRS), a social programme run by the Catholic Church, intervened three years ago. To fight hunger and poverty in Lesotho, the CSR introduced the keyhole gardening concept in Malefo’s village of Ha Tšilonyane. Thanks to the project, Malefo is now able to grow enough to feed her family, keeping hunger at bay.

A keyhole garden is a circular raised garden, about a metre off the ground, with a key-hole shaped indentation on one side. The keyhole garden is ideal for intensive growing of vegetables. The vegetables are placed closely together to maximise production. The gardens are also easier to maintain.

Malefo is among scores of villagers who have benefitted

from the project through the CRS’s programme of Sustainable Poverty Reduction through Income, Nutrition, and access to Government Services.

Chairperson of the Makhoarane Community Council, Tsekiso Mpafi, says the keyhole garden project has lifted many villagers out of poverty. It has also reduced the number of individuals who depended on food hand-outs from donors. Mpafi says due to the persistent drought that Lesotho experienced over the last few years, keyhole gardening has provided a successful way out of poverty and hunger for many families.

“When this project was brought into our area, we all breathed a collective sigh of relief,” asserts Mpafi.

Keyhole gardening has lifted many villagers out of poverty. It has also reduced the number of individuals who depended on food hand-outs from donors

He says when the project was introduced three years ago, most farmers in the area were reeling from a sharp drop in crop production due to prolonged drought brought about by climate change. Mpafi says the project was initially introduced in the villages of Matsieng, Mahloenyeng, Ha Tšilonyane and Ha Toloane. It has since been expanded to most villages in the area.

Story submitted by Majara Molupe



Chinese capital investment into Africa, up to July 2016, had increased by 515% from full-year 2015 figures, with more than \$14bn invested in Africa by Chinese companies

The spectre of recolonisation

Dr Ibrahim Mayaki CEO, NEPAD Agency

Among the many challenges facing Africa, there is one that cuts across them all and with painful echoes of our recent history, the possible recolonisation of the continent. There has been a disturbing sense that foreign actors are taking hold of the assets and the growth of the continent.

This fear is multifaceted, there is the fear of not being able to respond to the challenges of 21st Century Africa in autonomous fashion, the fear that it is the last chance to give the continent a push with the help of international partners, and simultaneously it is felt that this is *the* moment to stop the depletion of Africa's natural resources. This fear, which is more or less rational and justified, translates a crisis of confidence creating doubt as to the basis for a clear pathway to sustained and long term development.

This state of affairs is dangerous because it can lead to withdrawal. We have recently seen a number of African countries threaten to leave the ICC. The ICC was founded with the idealistic goal of trying the perpetrators of the world's worst atrocities and premised on the idea that nations must work in harmony. But the perception that the Court has been targeting Africa, at a time when the continent is asserting its political and economic independence, has not been well received.

Mistrust is settling in, not the least from Uganda in the case of Dominic Ongwen, a Ugandan Rebel Leader abducted as a child. The ICC is going through an existential crisis and the outcome of this case will set an important precedent for international criminal justice and determine the allegiance of African countries.

The question of recolonisation also arises through the presence of the United States, China, India, France, Britain, Germany, Japan on the continent, powerful countries which all have important and increasingly competitive stakes on our lands. China, in particular, has a strong presence on the continent, with one million Chinese nationals and a burgeoning economic presence in Africa.

Chinese capital investment into Africa, up to July 2016, had increased by 515% from full-year 2015 figures with more than \$14bn invested in Africa by Chinese companies. China acquires the raw materials like oil, iron, copper and zinc that it urgently needs to fuel its own economy but builds and improves infrastructure such as roads, railways and telecom systems which are necessary to Africa's manufacturing sector. This can be a win-win situation only if Africa governments are in a position to negotiate the deals in a way that makes financial, legal and economic sense for their respective countries.

In our dealings with foreign countries, there has often been a weak enforcement of environmental laws to our detriment, through illegal logging depleting our woodlands, unregulated and overfishing of our seas by other countries and the poaching of protected species of animals.

Growing multinational investments in industrial plantations are also contributing to deforestation. Are we still supplying goods such as cocoa, sugar and tea to the West to the detriment of our own environment? Is the abundance of land, lax regulations and cheap labour, that we are too easily prepared to trade off, working against our ability to determine our own destiny?

The independence we acquired around 50 years ago requires ongoing nurturing in the tough questions we need to ask ourselves over the price we are willing to pay for accelerated development.

Upcoming Events

- 3 - 5 May 2017: World Economic Forum on Africa: Durban, South Africa
- 3 May 2017: MoveAfrica Community Session at the WEF 'Connecting Markets - Moving People Goods and Services': Durban, South Africa
- 3 May 2017: AMRH: Transforming Pharmaceutical Regulatory Landscape for Increased Investment in Africa: Durban, South Africa
- 3 May 2017: Grow Africa: Improving the investment environment for African agriculture - Interactive working session: Durban, South Africa
- 3 May 2017: Grow Africa Steering Committee Meeting: Durban, South Africa
- 3 May 2017: Grow Africa: Growing Robust and Resilient Food Systems - Interactive Dinner Session: Durban, South Africa
- 15 May 2017: Media 'Meet and Greet' Evening on *The Africa We Want*: Midrand, South Africa
- 23 - 25 May 2017: 2nd NEPAD Regional Conference on Arts Education in Africa: Cairo, Egypt
- 31 May - 2 Jun 2017: 13th CAADP Partnership Platform, Kampala, Uganda

See also: www.nepad.org/events

Contact Us

NEPAD Communications

Tel: +27 (0) 11 256 3600

Email: info@nepad.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/nepad.page

Twitter:

www.twitter.com/nepad_agency

www.nepad.org

Proverb

“You do not beat a drum with one finger”

Meaning: It is through collective effort that something beautiful and meaningful is produced



E-LEARNING CENTRE

Visit <http://www.nepad.org/elearning> to view the courses



Copyright © NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA)

All content of the NEPAD Newsletter is the exclusive property of the NEPAD Agency. No part of the material may be quoted, photocopied or reproduced without prior permission from the NEPAD Agency, 230 15th Road, Randjespark, Midrand, South Africa

