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## Top stories this week



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## Towards an integrated Africa through infrastructure development

**Nairobi, July 19, 2017** - The Lamu Port (Kenya), South Sudan, Ethiopia Transport Corridor (LAPSSET) Corridor Programme is Eastern Africa's largest and most ambitious infrastructure project bringing together Kenya, Ethiopia and South Sudan.<sup>1</sup> The regional project between the countries has the aim of linking them to each other, as well as their neighbours in eastern Africa.

A NEPAD Agency mission was recently undertaken to Kenya, led by David Niyonsenga, PIDA Infrastructure Expert, to facilitate the technical structuring of Lamu-Isiolo-Juba Highway Project, the 1800 km trunk road, as one of the pillars of the LAPSSET Corridor Development. Deliberations on this project were held with representatives from Kenya, South Sudan and the East African Community (EAC). The focus was on joint project implementation coordination, project design, harmonisation and resource mobilisation.

The deliberations also involved the following:

- An overview of the LAPSSET Corridor Development
- A review of the progress and status of the Lamu-Isiolo-Juba Highway (1800km)
- An overview of Kenya Highway Design and Construction Standards
- An overview of South Sudan Highway Design and Construction
- An overview of EAC Road design standards for corridor highways
- Stocktaking of the lessons learnt from implementation of EAC multinational road projects
- Consideration of possible challenges to the LAPSSET corridor implementation

The LAPSSET Corridor mega project is a corridor under speedy development and that is being tracked by all the countries involved. It is also one of the 51 main continental PIDA programmes covering transport, energy, ICT and logistics based infrastructure.



### EAC-LAPSSET Regional PIDA meeting: The EAC-South Sudan-Kenya Report signing

The corridor aims at creating seamless connectivity between East African countries (Kenya, Ethiopia and South Sudan) by connecting a population of 160 million people in the three countries, with potential to impact the wider Eastern and Central African regions. In addition, the LAPSSET Corridor is part of the larger land bridge that will connect the East African coast from Lamu Port to the West coast of Africa, at Port of Douala in Cameroon.

<sup>1</sup>The LAPSSET mega project consists of seven key infrastructure projects starting with a new 32 Berth port at Lamu (Kenya); Interregional Highways from Lamu to Isiolo, Isiolo to Juba (South Sudan), Isiolo to Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), and Lamu to Garsen (Kenya), Crude Oil Pipeline from Lamu to Isiolo, Isiolo to Juba; Product Oil Pipeline from Lamu to Isiolo, Isiolo to Addis Ababa; Interregional Standard Gauge Railway lines from Lamu to Isiolo, Isiolo to Juba, Isiolo to Addis Ababa, and Nairobi to Isiolo; 3 International Airports: one each at Lamu, Isiolo, and Lake Turkana; 3 Resort Cities: one each at Lamu, Isiolo and Lake Turkana; and The multipurpose High Grand Falls Dam along the Tana River: <http://www.lapsset.go.ke/>

## NEPAD Agency conducts training on Science, Technology and Innovation policy mapping

**Harare, July 25 2017-** The NEPAD Agency Science, Technology and Innovation Programme, with the Research Council of Zimbabwe conducted a training session for innovators in Science and Technology (STI).

The four-day workshop focused on equipping trainees with the necessary skills to align their STI policy instruments to their governments' national development plans on Science, Technology and Innovation.

The session also aimed to guide participants on the best methods of promoting cohesion in policy implementation.

Held in Harare, Zimbabwe, the workshop brought together representatives from government ministries, private sector and experts in the field of science, technology and innovation.

Speaking during the opening ceremony, Dr Tichaona Mangwende, NEPAD Agency Head of Research and Statistics Cluster indicated that needs assessment exercises are necessary in order to set clear objectives which can be aligned to countries' national development plans.

"It is therefore crucial that as experts in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation, you know and understand your country's development plans on innovation in Science and Technology," he said.

Reports and findings from previous needs assessment exercises conducted in Maputo and Mozambique were presented to the participants. The reports are crucial in the implementation of the *Science Granting Councils Initiative*, a five-year programme aimed at strengthening Africa's innovation systems by enhancing the capacities of Science Granting Councils (SGCs).

In her opening remarks, Executive Director of the Research Council of Zimbabwe, Mrs Suzan Muzite reminded participants about the critical role that the SGCs play in designing research programmes based on robust science, technology and innovation indicators.

"The skills and knowledge training session you are undertaking today is important as it will feed into the activities of the Science Granting Councils Initiative in areas of administration and research coordination," said Mrs Muzite.

Prior to this training session, the NEPAD Agency STI Programme held a needs assessment workshop from 12-14 July in Maputo, Mozambique. That session focused on training representatives from Science Granting Councils to better advocate on investment in Research and Development.



Training session underway in Harare, Zimbabwe

## Sustainable land management in Malawi

**Lilongwe, July 19, 2017** — The Government of Malawi collaborated with the NEPAD Agency in organising the TerrAfrica Partners' Joint Mission in the country from 17-19 July. The objective of the TerrAfrica joint mission was to take stock of and get a full understanding of the ongoing work and status of Sustainable Land Management in Malawi. It was also to see how best to coordinate TerrAfrica partners' efforts to provide comprehensive support for the implementation of identified Sustainable Land and Water Management (SLWM) priorities in Malawi.



Assisted natural regeneration in Kapirimutu, one of the seven hills in Dedza, Malawi, adopted by the community

Rudo Makunike, NEPAD Agency's TerrAfrica Project Manager, pointed out that land and restoration represents a driving force for transformation and development in Malawi. She also emphasised the importance of building synergies with other related on-going initiatives such as the UNCCD's Land Degradation Neutrality target setting processes, AFR100, CAADP and REDD+ processes, so as to avoid any overlaps.

The technical meeting held in Malawi attracted participants from various government ministries and departments such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development (Department of Land Resource Conservation), Ministry of Natural Resources Energy and Mining (Department of Forestry), Environmental Affairs Department as well key partners including, UN Environment, UNDP and FAO.

The participants all highlighted the critical need to firstly prioritise the revision of Malawi strategic investment framework taking into account the Land Degradation Neutrality target setting and other related initiatives such as AFR100, in line with TerrAfrica's vision of building a harmonised and coordinated approach for all SLWM related initiatives. This is done by identifying country priority areas for SLWM interventions and aligning resources for implementation of identified priorities. In turn, this will also help build capacities through demonstrating best practices and practical tools, with a specific objective of generating and initiating work on sustainable land management and restoration in Malawi to address desertification, deforestation and climate change.

The NEPAD TerrAfrica team also had the opportunity to pay courtesy calls to the Permanent Secretary II and Chief Director of Environment, Dr Yanira Ntupanyama, and representative of Permanent Secretary of Agriculture, Mr Gray Nyandule Phiri. The deliberations during the courtesy visits were on the importance of the SLWM and restoration agenda in the country, with commitment received to involve all key stakeholders of SLWM and restoration issues, including NGOs and the private sector in Malawi.

## Upholding procurement standards for Internal Procurement Committee members and project managers

**Midrand, July 21, 2017** – Following the Executive Procurement Training that was conducted at the NEPAD Agency in February this year, a certificate award ceremony was held for the Internal Procurement Committee, project managers and staff that undertook the training.

Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency and Chairperson of the African Union Tender Board, extolled staff for appreciating the value and important role of procurement in the organisation, as well as the AU Procurement Regulation Standards.

“Without training and proper structures, procurement in the organisation would not be up to standard,” Dr Mayaki said.

Martin Bwalya, Chairperson of the Internal Procurement Committee said that the training conducted in February was well received. He went on to explain that while the training was also part of the induction for the new members of the Committee, it was also held at the time when the new African Union procurement manual was launched.

“The training was aimed at creating awareness of procurement regulations and guidelines for project execution and delivery,” said Vincent Moola, Head of Procurement. “It was aimed at equipping Internal Procurement Committee members to make informed decisions,” he added.

NEPAD Agency already started making use of the AU Procurement Manual in November, 2016, in line with the appointment of the new Internal Procurement Committee. It was also recommended that the new committee members undergo training before they are ushered into office.

Staff who received their certificates for the Executive Procurement Training were made aware of:

- The high levels of responsibility and accountability in their individual capacity.
- The procurement regulations, standards, tools and procedures, based on the new AU Procurement Manual
- The roles and responsibilities of procurement, including the functioning of the NEPAD Agency Internal Procurement Committee
- Strategic procurement planning; strategic procurement sourcing and contract management, as well as the complete process cycle of procurement meeting international standards.

The strategic procurement management approach being used is key for the successful acquisition of goods, services and works for the timely implementation of projects.

Below are some of the pictures from the certificate award ceremony:



## The African Integrated High Speed Railway Network

The continental Integrated High Speed Rail network is one of the flagship projects of Agenda 2063 that forms the backbone of the continental strategy. While supporting the development of infrastructure, the African high speed railway project aims to promote the integration of Africa.



To learn more, watch NEPAD Agency's Senior Advisor, Mr Adama Deen's interview on CNBC Africa on the following link:

<https://www.cnbc africa.com/videos/2017/07/26/an-integrated-high-speed-rail-network-earmarked-for-africa/>

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