

NEPAD commended on key infrastructure achievements

The 33rd NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation meeting gathered African leaders on Saturday morning, 13 June 2015, at the Sandton Convention Centre. Jacob Zuma commended NEPAD on its work and accomplishments so far.



"The continent is now reaping the benefits of responsible macro-economic management and deepening integration into the world economy," Zuma said.

He underscored that investments in infrastructure programmes, regional integration and intra-African trade is Africa's solution for sustainable growth and development.

Critical synergies

African Union chairperson and president of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe, applauded NEPAD's breakthroughs in project conceptualisation and implementation on the continent.

"NEPAD has provided critical synergies between and among African institution, thereby enhancing a much needed continental integration," said Mugabe.

He urged the agency to play a lead role in capacitating Regional Economic Communities to fast-track Africa's quest for industrialisation and value addition of its vast mineral resources.

"Surely the African people cannot continue to be hewers of wood and drawers of water, while others delight in their resources, in our resources. With unwavering courage and collective determination, Africa can also industrialise in the same manner other regions have achieved industrialisation within the shortest period possible," Mugabe said.

Key achievements

Newly elected President of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari, was welcomed to the HSGOC. As a founding member of NEPAD, Nigeria emphasised its continued commitment to championing NEPAD programmes and projects, said Ambassador B.Z. Lolo, permanent secretary of Foreign Affairs, reading a speech on behalf President Buhari. The ambassador highlighted commenced work on the trans-Saharan gas pipeline from Nigeria to Algeria, as well as the trans-Sahara highway linking several African countries as key achievements of NEPAD. He referred to the NEPAD Agency as a strategic body for Africa's structural transformation.

The 20-membership NEPAD HSGOC met ahead of the 25th AU Assembly, to provide leadership to the NEPAD process as well as to set policies, priorities and the programmes of action.

Regional integration

Chair of the NEPAD HSGOC and president of Senegal, Macky Sall, underscored the achievements made by NEPAD in advancing regional integration through infrastructure and capacity development projects. He noted the need to tackle illicit financial flows from Africa and to enhance the capacities of African member countries to negotiate mining and oil contracts for the social benefit of African people. President Sall also commended the NEPAD Spanish Fund for African Women's Empowerment, in line with this year's summit theme.

NEPAD Agency CEO, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, reported back on concrete results made for the period January to June 2015.

"We have achieved 313 results that each has had quantifiable impacts: 20 at the continental level, 30 at the regional level and 264 at the national levels. All the impacts demonstrated are geared towards the industrialization of the Continent," he said.

Some of the key achievements Dr Mayaki highlighted included the establishment of an Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance aimed at reaching out to 25 million farmers by 2025, the launch of a Continental Business Network for Infrastructure financing in Africa, and providing access to clean water and sanitation to 9,656 women in Benin and Togo.

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