



African Economic Platform

Mauritius, 20-22 March 2017



AFRICAN ECONOMIC PLATFORM



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DUMISANI MNGADI
COO OF THE AU FOUNDATION

INTRODUCTION

Dumisani Mngadi COO of the AU Foundation

On behalf of the African Union (AU) Foundation team, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who made the inaugural African Economic Platform (AEP) the great success it was. It took place after years of intense planning from when we received a mandate to organise this crucial event alongside our colleagues from the AU Commission and the government of Mauritius.

Having only been launched on 30 January 2015 during the Assembly's 24th Ordinary Session, the AU Foundation is a young organisation and a significant one to the AU. The AU Assembly took the decision to establish the Foundation in May 2013 following a proposal by the High-Level Panel on Alternative Sources of Financing the AU (Assembly/AU/Dec. 487 XXI). The AU Foundation was established primarily to mobilise resources for Agenda 2063's developmental programmes and to promote partnerships with the African private sector.

The African Economic Platform (AEP) is an annual platform for frank discussions between heads of state, African business leaders, academics and youth

to discuss development across Africa. The first instalment had representation from all five regions of the continent and discussions ranged from industrialisation, intra-African trade, skills development and free movement of people and goods, over two days. All parties came up with extraordinary recommendations for the future of our continent.

This gathering would not have been possible without the leadership of H.E. Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, the former Chairperson of the AU Commission and AU Foundation. A very special gratitude goes to the Chairperson of AU Commission, the Honourable Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat, who provided great leadership shortly after commencing his role. Our deep appreciation also goes out to the government of Mauritius for hosting the inaugural AEP and also extending a warm welcome to Africa to attend the second AEP, set to take place in 2018.

Asante Sana





DR NKOSAZANA DLAMINI ZUMA
FORMER CHAIRPERSON – AU COMMISSION
AND AU FOUNDATION

**Our pledge in Agenda
2063 is to use the diversity
that is our strength as a force
for peace and democracy,
to transform our economies,
and to eradicate poverty and
create a better life for all
Africans.**

PREFACE

Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Former Chairperson – AU Commission and AU Foundation

When Africa adopted its 50-year vision, Agenda 2063: *The Africa we want*, it committed current and future generations to a vision of shared peace and prosperity in an integrated continent. The continent has come a long way, and its fortunes have changed. Vibrant cities across the length and breadth of Africa are an example of development, entrepreneurship, innovation and expansions in infrastructure.

Africa is a continent of great possibilities, a continent endowed with mineral and natural resources. But its most precious resource is its people. We are a continent of a billion people and by 2050 it is estimated that we will be more than two billion. And what characterises this population is that it is a young population.

As the youngest continent, with more than half of the population being girls and women, we can reach for more, do much more, do it faster and more inclusively, to ensure the structural transformation of African economies and make shared prosperity a reality.



It is therefore very important that we invest in this young resource - our people, especially in health and education. We need to skill them especially in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics areas so that they can innovate and drive our transformation. To transform our continent we need to ensure that we can industrialise, add value and benefit our natural and mineral resources. Starting with agriculture, we are going to modernise agriculture but also improve and grow our agro-businesses.

We are going to be industrialising. To industrialise and add value to our natural and mineral resources, we need skilled young men and women. It is the youth and the women who will be driving the transformation of our continent, and entrepreneurship is amongst the skills they will need.

In addition, we need mobilisation of resources so that when our young people have innovated, they can commercialise their innovations, but also those who want

to be entrepreneurs can start their businesses while those who already have small businesses can grow them.

The Summit of the African Union in Kigali reflected on the importance of the Continental Free Trade Area and free movement of people in the context of promoting intra-African trade and investment, industrialisation, tourism, agro processing as well as services, and develop Pan African businesses.

Our pledge in Agenda 2063 is to use the diversity that is our strength as a force for peace and democracy to transform our economies, and to eradicate poverty to create a better life for all Africans.

The inaugural African Economic Platform, (AEP) convened in Mauritius from 20 – 22 March 2017, was a platform for frank conversations between heads of state, African private sector leaders, academics and think tanks on urgent issues of trade, resources, skills, industrialisation, integration and free movement on our continent.

**It is therefore very important that we invest in this young resource -
our people, especially in health and education.**

Opening Session

The opening of the inaugural African Economic Platform, 20 March 2017, in Port Louis, Mauritius



AFRICAN ECONOMIC PLATFORM REPORT



**African
Economic
Platform**

Mauritius, 20-22 March 2017





H.E. MOUSSA FAKI MAHAMAT
CHAIRPERSON OF THE AU COMMISSION

The African Economic Platform is one of 13 flagship initiatives of Agenda 2063.

Address by the H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the AU Commission

The African Economic Platform (AEP) is an initiative driven by Africans to provide policy space for Africans across sectors to set their own agenda and explore realistic continental and global opportunities and options for implementing Agenda 2063.

The AEP is one of 13 flagship initiatives of Agenda 2063. This platform brings together heads of state and government, business, academia and youth, to have frank engagements on how to tackle Africa's developmental challenges.

Our key objectives include undertaking constructive multi stakeholder dialogues around common themes for Africa, led by Africans and to influence continental policy by engaging directly with African leaders on matters of mutual interest.

Africa is still divided into 55 markets which are weak, despite having abundant natural resources. It is high time for us to unite, work together to develop our continent. Our people cannot continue to live in poverty. It is unbearable and a shame to see women and children dying of hunger in such a rich continent. It is high time we take matters in our hands, and not leave our destiny to others.



We need to establish multi-country and multi-sector priorities and plans for common action with clear mechanisms for follow up as outlined in Agenda 2063. Working together with African leaders, we should strive to remove policy obstacles for doing business in Africa, increase intra-African investments, implement strategies for economic diversification and industrialisation.

Unity in the continent will ensure better communication and allow for movement of goods and services and people across Africa; create common platforms for articulating common African positions and increase global awareness of Africa's emerging role in world affairs.

The AEP has taken off! It is the heartbeat of Agenda 2063. While Agenda 2063 remains a vision, the AEP is one of the platforms for its implementation.

The problem has been diagnosed and doctors have been identified. Time for rhetoric and speeches is history; we need to take action! To achieve our common goals, governments must create conducive conditions required by both the private sector and academia. Such action also requires participation from all sectors, especially the youth and women.

We have the means and resources to succeed in Africa.

A very special thank you to the organisers; Mauritius, the AU Commission, the AU Foundation, security personnel, the press, interpreters. To everyone, thank you for a successful inaugural platform. It was indeed a great success!

Our key objectives include undertaking constructive multi stakeholder dialogues around common themes for Africa, led by Africans and to influence continental policy by engaging directly with African leaders on matters of mutual interest.



**H.E. PRAVIND JUGNAUTH
PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS**

**The “Made
In Africa” slogan must
be our new motto and be
proudly carried across
the continent.**

Address by H.E. Pravind Jugnauth Prime Minister of Mauritius

The African Economic Platform (AEP) brings together top minds to advance this gathering as the premium business forum in Africa. We must move the continent towards our common goal of an integrated and prosperous Africa for all Africans, especially women and youth, as declared in Agenda 2063.

The AEP is a step in this direction, as it allows for the involvement of all stakeholders to assist in moving Africans towards self-reliance. ‘If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go with others.’ However, in achieving our goals we need to go together and go fast, with unity of action and unity of purpose in mind.

Together we must ensure that we take actions which support us all. We need to help each other and work with our neighbours. We also need to be inspired by lessons drawn from our regional value chains as we integrate globally.

Africa is a land of limitless opportunities and resources yet we still export raw materials. Therefore, we need to manufacture high quality and high standard African products, boost intra-Africa trade, remove trade barriers and promote easier cross-border movement. We must seek to make “Made in Africa” a big deal.



The “Made in Africa” slogan must be our new motto and be carried across the continent.

A Continental Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) can create a single and receptive African market for african goods and services. The CFTA will help us unleash our African trade potential and give us a good foothold in fighting poverty.

The youth and women are a major strength for Africa. Leaders have a duty to take this continent forward by nurturing our youth and create opportunities for women to excel. Poverty must not have a face or a place in Africa, not of women nor the youth. No development can be sustained when some are left behind. Inclusivity is a necessity.

The private sector plays a pivotal role in economic transformation. Let us provide the business community with the necessary tools to play their part and allow them to work alongside us.

We should ensure good governance, transparency and accountability to include everyone. The AEP is a great institution and mechanism, and Mauritius is willing and ready to host this forum in the future.

2018 will mark Mauritius’s 50th Independence Anniversary, and Mauritius is looking forward to hosting the second AEP.

Africa is a land of limitless opportunities and resources but we still export raw materials. Therefore, we need to manufacture high quality and high standard African products, boost intra-Africa trade, remove trade barriers and promote easier cross-border movement.



Remarks by H.E. Dr Louisa Diogo, Deputy Chairperson of the AU Foundation

H.E. DR LOUISA DIOGO
DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE AU FOUNDATION

As we renew our commitment to the continent, we must remember that the road to African transformation starts in the community, and that unity and acceleration of economic integration must be done together.

The African Economic Platform (AEP) sits on the crossroad between the private sector and the African Union (AU).

The leadership of the AU has committed itself to ensuring that Africa develops by learning from the challenges it has faced. We have a lot of untapped resources across the continent and we must all contribute fully to transform Africa's development agenda, together.

Health and education are integral to the development of Africa. Therefore, we must safeguard African lives. We hope the African Centre for Disease Control can become a key mechanism for saving lives and advancing health care on the continent.

The AU Foundation will work with the private sector to tap into the continent's resources for its development. We must all contribute towards sowing the seeds from within Africa to raise funding for our own development.

The AU Foundation is here to ensure that we work together towards achieving our objectives. We must strive towards improvements in science, technology and agriculture. Youth will no doubt play a pivotal role in advancing science and technology.

The urgency to find African solutions is gathering momentum and this gathering shows that we have the will-power to create a better life for every African.

Our narrative must be built on the data of who we are and where we are going. African institutions, men, women and youth in attendance here, are committed to making this work.

**Health and education are integral to the development of Africa.
Therefore, we must safeguard African lives.**



Remarks by H.E. Dr Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Swaziland.

REMARKS BY H.E. DR BARNABAS SIBUSISO DLAMINI, PRIME MINISTER OF THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND.

Africa has been on the sidelines for far too long. We need to identify and address key areas to drive Africa's agenda for inclusive growth and development, as stated in Agenda 2063.

The foundation of any development agenda is knowledge. Knowledge and skills are critical if we are to achieve our ambitious goals. Therefore, there is an urgent need to redefine our academic curriculum and educational policies to fit the requirements of industry. We must revolutionise all training to be purposeful. Skills required in new industries must have vocational training that is tailored and responsive.

For Africa to achieve Agenda 2063 goals, we need to collaborate and take out tension and mistrust which are some of the invisible barriers between the private and public sectors. The private sector is an integral part of Africa's development and we can do more together.

Africa's future development depends on us coming together in forums like the AEP that bring together the public sector, private sector and CSOs to form a formidable team that can advance the implementation of Agenda 2063.

Africa's private sector is already active in Africa's development. For example, Africa's private sector contributed up to US\$35m towards the fight against Ebola.

The issue of unemployment affecting the youth, is real and very significant. Africa's youth needs our support to unleash their potential. We have to tackle it head-on.

Integrated and inclusive growth is the way forward for Africa. Free movement of goods and people is needed urgently. Hence the call for a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA).

The foundation of any development agenda is knowledge. Knowledge and skills are critical if we are to achieve our ambitious goals.



MR. TONY ELUMELU
FOUNDER: TONY ELUMELU
FOUNDATION (TEF)

**“Poverty anywhere
is a threat to everyone,
everywhere.”**

Remarks by Mr. Tony Elumelu, Business leader and founder of Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF)

As one of the pioneers of the AU Foundation, it is fulfilling to see the African Economic Platform (AEP) take root. As a representative of the African private sector, I am here to reassure you that we are ready to play our part and support the vision of an integrated and prosperous Africa.

The emphasis on resources cannot be underated, but Africa is much more than its resources. The answer to Africa’s developmental challenges is in our hands.

Business leaders are aware that as Africa develops, it needs all its people to play their part. As a result, the African private sector must play a more critical role as a starting point towards a better Africa.

We must create broad-based development with industrialisation, shift our focus to inclusiveness and transformation as well as prioritisation of local value additions.

We must industrialise Africa! Continued development of Africa’s private sector is key to unlocking economic development. Investing in Africa is profitable.

African capitalism is here and we must grow it the African way with private sector players stepping up and



playing their part. As a businessman operating around the world, the role of the private sector is as critical as that of government. We need institutional reform of the 21st century to encourage entrepreneurship, and to build prosperous and secure communities.

African capitalism is here and we must grow it the African way with private sector players stepping up and playing their part. As a businessman operating around the world, the role of the private sector is as critical as that of government.

The Tony Elumelu Foundation has committed to creating 10 million jobs in the next few years to boost private sector business growth.

We will be committing US\$100 million towards empowering African young innovators.

The foundation has directly supported the development of local businesses and young entrepreneurs are creating the jobs that Africa seeks.

Our beneficiaries, who are young business people, have reported growth in the agricultural sector. Therefore, the potential is unlimited in the agro-industry.

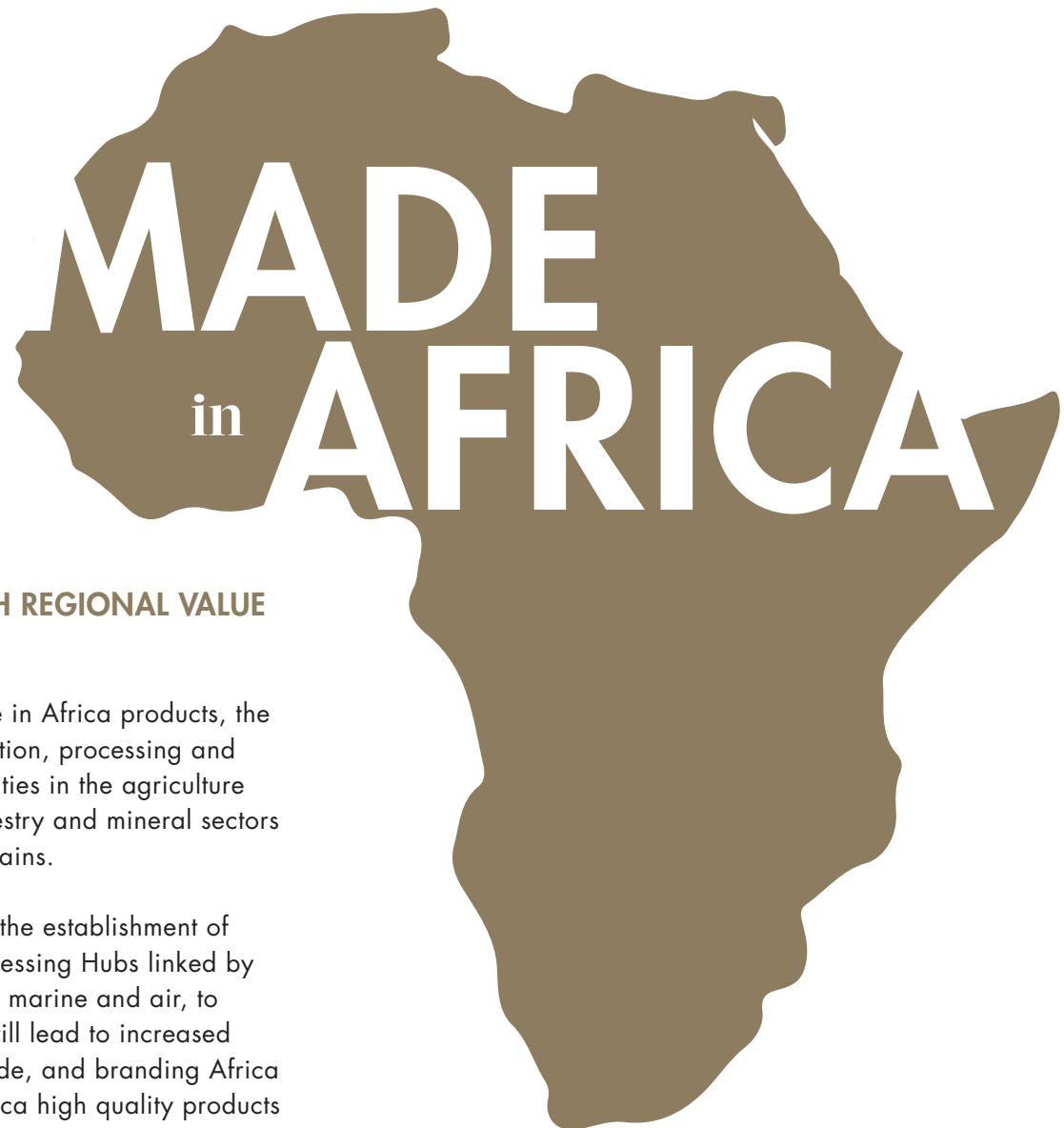
We must enable local youth to explore new territories and be innovative and support them financially, physically and environmentally. African youth need us more now than ever before.

The AU must be more than a routine gathering for African leaders and bureaucrats. It should be a forum for shared ideas between all stakeholders in developing Africa.

Africa's destiny will be achieved only when we work together. My African dream is to see everyone on the continent, irrespective of gender affiliation, given an opportunity to realise their dreams. Let us work together to transform our Africa.

PLENARY 1 20 MARCH 2017





MADE IN AFRICA, THROUGH REGIONAL VALUE CHAINS

In establishing a market for Made in Africa products, the first step is to promote value addition, processing and beneficiation of Africa's commodities in the agriculture and Agro processing sectors; forestry and mineral sectors and link them to Global Value Chains.

Secondly, we need to encourage the establishment of Regional Manufacturing and Processing Hubs linked by the infrastructure corridors, land, marine and air, to promote industrialisation which will lead to increased intra-African and inter-African trade, and branding Africa globally through the Made in Africa high quality products of public service and labour.

PANELISTS



H.E. Anastase Murekezi, Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda

His Excellency Murekezi also served as Minister of State in charge of Industry and Investment Promotion, Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources as well as Minister of Public Service and Labour.



Dr Kelvin Kemm, Chairperson of the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (Necsa)

A member of the Ministerial Advisory Council on Energy (MACE) in South Africa, Dr Kemm also sits on various environmental and nuclear energy boards in the US and Europe.



Professor Mabel Imbuga, Vice Chancellor of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

A Professor of Biochemistry with over 33 years of teaching and scholarly experience, she is a key resource in strategic management and leadership from the Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI) and president of the Africa Women in Science and Engineering.



H.E. Abdeslam Bouchouareb Algerian Minister of Industry and Mines

A dental surgeon by trade, Mr Bouchouareb is a former business executive and Algerian politician who also served as Minister of Industry and Restructuring. He was also Commissioner to the Head of government for the promotion of youth employment in 1998. In 2000 he was made Employment Commissioner.



DISCUSSIONS

Made in Africa

The people of Africa want a better life and the call for change is upon us as Africans. Africa has the largest global reserves of most minerals and other valuable resources. We must give value to our minerals by beneficiating them locally in high quality before exporting them. This will allow us to compete against global imports. We need to intensify the use of ICT in driving industrialisation and development.

We can make the African industry work better by actively strengthening regional value chains for the transformation of proudly African products such as diamonds, gold, cobalt, petroleum, coffee, sorghum, etc. All this needs to happen fast, and we need to do it together.

To achieve this, we need skilled labour to assist in product beneficiation in order to cut costs and become competitive. We need to train Africans to locally produce and manufacture goods which are needed in Africa and avoid high cost imports.

Developing Energy for Africa

Electricity supply is key for driving manufacturing in Africa, therefore we must increase electricity output, dramatically.

Every economy needs reliable electricity supply to power its industries and drive development. Currently, over more than half of Africans do not have access to enough electricity. This must change.

Africa needs to develop its own solutions that are not customised in Europe or in the USA and we must stop taking their recommendations as gospel truth and as best practices. Although green energy is good, it is a farce that Africa must only develop green or renewable energy sources without giving credence to other viable sources such as nuclear energy which has been under severe criticism from anti-nuclear campaigners.

According to them, nuclear energy is dangerous and deadly. However, it is clear that they are not sharing all the information about nuclear energy's safety. When professionally handled, nuclear is safe. A new Nuclear University was established in Zambia that includes studies on nuclear legislation in its curriculum.

We have unique challenges. The pace and energy needs of our African economies require that we tailor our needs and develop our energy sources fast. South Africa is planning to develop a 9600 MW new nuclear power station to meet its demand at a reduced cost. It will cost ZAR 0.83 cents to produce 1kW of nuclear energy.



**H.E. ROBERT MUGABE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF ZIMBABWE**

**We need to pursue
policies which will make
us one and further the
common good of all
of us.**

Comments from H.E. Robert Mugabe, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe

Our founding fathers thought that if we unite, together we would be able to serve our people better. Nonetheless, we need to go further.

The process of our unity only cannot further our socio-economic interests because the entity (continent) is too large and diverse for it to come together. We are not a United States of Africa (USA). It was suggested that we have regions or RECs, and work through these.

This can help to keep us together as we pursue common goals. These regional organisations are working together to further the interests of our people. However, it has not been as straightforward as it was envisioned because it has not been that easy to be in sync with each other. In the SADC region for instance, we have South Africa as our big boss because it is a much more developed economy.

There is also a factor of the erstwhile colonisers, it is a factor which continues to bug us right through. There are too many patterns that continue to show reliance on former colonisers. Some countries rely on them for their security and stability and some even rely on them for their social and cultural development (e.g. education).



The political factor has been such that there are political scenarios. The factor of democracy is with us and it was agreed that this is the way to go. However, democracy has meant that we have so much interference by outsiders; sometimes direct, especially through hundreds of NGOs. There is hardly any country in Africa without these NGOs. We have not been left to ourselves. Sometimes, we are told that trading with each other is less beneficial than trading with external partners.

We need to pursue policies which will make us one and further the common good of all of us. We must eliminate illiteracy, build connecting infrastructure and ensure that our people's lives are improved. With regards to barriers to trading with each other, we must encourage cross-border mobility among our nations. As governments, we have a lot to do to ensure that we are all good enough to receive external investment. Internally, within our countries, we must stop the infighting and intra-party fights, and unite. Challenges such as those we see in the DRC must be addressed by Africans. Will the DRC ever be stable? Who is destabilising it?

We must continue to produce enough food for the sustenance of our people. With the private sector and investors, we don't always think alike as we visualise

the lives of our people. We don't always have the same ambitions, goals and objectives. Can we ever think as one? I don't think so. It will take us some time. Let us not lose hope, we have good leadership across Africa. One day we may have a more united Africa with an Africa-wide authority to run our continent. We hope that this will come in the lives of our children. We should at least ensure that our children are not growing in a state of ignorance about the challenges that surround them.

Where we can work together immediately, let us do so, even in cultural areas. We must ensure that we industrialise some of our businesses so that our children earn a lot more than us and have a better life. The more advanced countries like South Africa must continue to lead us. They should not resist the fact of our development by not opening themselves up to goods that we are capable of exporting to them.

They must not seek to lead perpetually; we must know that whatever we do we are able to export into South Africa. This can ensure that we are truly partners in every way, and can help each other.

RECOMMENDATIONS

African governments should among others:

- a.** Increase investment in energy (solar, wind, geo thermal, bio gas, electricity etc.) and explore investment in nuclear energy as it is a prerequisite for accelerated industrialisation;
- b.** Focus attention on regional value chains as main drivers for industrialisation and integration;
- c.** Adopt and implement policies at national, regional and continental levels aimed at the reduction of cost of production of goods and services;
- d.** Ensure that African products are patented with copyrights protection;
- e.** Explore the cloning of cells of plants and introduce tissue culture in agriculture;
- f.** Make agriculture attractive to young people in order to enhance their involvement; and,
- g.** Increase budgets to address the needs of the agriculture sector at the national level.

The African Private Sector should among others:

- a.** Ensure high quality “Made in Africa” products through adherence to quality standards; and,
- b.** Working in Partnership with Governments, increase investment in energy (solar, wind, geo thermal, bio gas, electricity etc.) and explore investment in nuclear energy as it is a prerequisite for accelerated industrialisation.

Academia should among others:

- a.** Improve the quality of education, with emphasis on skills acquisition through technical and vocational training supported by ICT in order to boost Africa’s industrial development.

The African Union should among others:

- a.** Encourage political commitment on the continent to develop a strategic approach towards transformative growth, in particular a change in the structure of countries’ economies so as to lay emphasis on diversification, value addition and beneficiation of agro products and minerals;
- b.** Share information with governments, private sector and academia on the continental programme on pharmaceuticals which needs to be implemented; and,
- c.** The AU Commission should finalise the development of a draft Commodity Strategy for the continent by mid-2017.



PLENARY 2 20 MARCH 2017





Towards One African Market

The Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA): expanding opportunities for intra african trade, business and investments

The Summit of the African Union in Kigali reflected on the importance of the Continental Free Trade Area and free movement of people, in the context of promoting intra-African trade and investment, industrialisation, tourism, agro processing as well as services, and develop Pan African businesses more generally.

- Currently there are obstacles and challenges facing the status of the CFTA and RECs integration that need to be unblocked and addressed, such as:
- The promotion of cross border movement of Factors of Production, capital, labor (skilled), raw materials and intermediate goods, supported by favorable Rules of Origin to be negotiated under CFTA;
- The promoting of cross border Regional Investment, and Mergers and Acquisitions that are more important than FDI, noting that while FDI has been declining, cross border investments through Mergers and Acquisitions grew by 300% between 2014 and 2015 from \$5bn to \$20bn.
- The movement of people for business, tourism, education, employment, etc. and the African passport;
- The trade in goods; trade facilitation measures to enhance business, including air, rail, road and maritime transportation, customs issues, standards, quality infrastructure, truly partners in every way, and can help each other.

PANELISTS



H.E. Albert M. Muchanga, Commissioner of Trade and Industry, African Union Commission.

Former Zambian Ambassador to Ethiopia, he has extensive experience in Commodities and sustainable development; Trade Policy, International Investment and Development; Environmental Policy Planning and Regional Integration.



Mr Vuyani Jarana, Chief Officer of Vodacom

Mr Vuyani Jarana is the Chief Officer of Vodacom Business, a strategic planning and execution of the enterprise growth plans in all Vodacom markets across Africa. An engineer by training, he holds a BCOM in Economics and Business Management and an MBA.



Dr Amany Asfour is the Chairperson of the Human Resources, Sciences and Technology Cluster of the AU's Economic, Social and Cultural Council.

Dr Amany Asfour is a medical doctor and entrepreneur who has contributed immensely to the empowerment of women in business during her career. She is the president of the Egyptian Business Women Association and Council member of the AU Foundation



Dr Chris Kirubi, Kenyan Business leader and Council Member of the AU Foundation

An accomplished business leader, Dr. Kirubi is also Chairman of Haco Tiger Brands, Coca-Cola Nairobi Bottlers, DHL Worldwide express, Capital Media Group, International House Limited, and Smart Applications International, among others.



DISCUSSIONS

Free Trade

Free trade opens and expands opportunities for African business people. We need to create an enabling environment from government and for the private sector to also step up. Affirmative Action is needed to support African enterprises who are usually disadvantaged against international companies, this includes government procurement. The capacity of African enterprises must be enhanced to ensure that they have the capability to manage big government projects.

There is a need for a one stop shop for business to achieve what needs to be done, when it comes to how governments process interactions among countries. For example, docking a ship in one harbour and the number of certificates that are needed.

Engagement between policy makers and private sector is essential for regional integration. The first pillar is the people, the youth and women. The second pillar is policy and dissemination of knowledge amongst enforcement agencies such as customs authorities.

The third pillar is the high quality of African products to complement an African Continental Free Trade Area.

Financial independence gives people power of choice and voice. Economies are getting more digital and Africa has an opportunity to participate. Fourth Industrial revolution means Africa must act now. ICTs are integrative in nature and have potential to transform health, education and agriculture, amongst other sectors.

We can fix these issues very swiftly, in order to operate more efficiently. Digitisation is one of the quick-fix solutions to these inefficiencies.

Africa Unite

Africa must become one. We need to open our markets, stop trading with outsiders and trade with ourselves. We need to look at what the world is doing.

Developing solid economic infrastructure and digitalisation of the economies to enable trade and connectivity.

DISCUSSIONS

We need to create a movement, especially for our youth across all levels so that they get to know each other. African universities must integrate more and help our youth to connect and engage beyond their studies. There is a need to create pan African Universities to enhance our African identity.

We need to do things differently now and the opening of borders will open more opportunities than we currently realise. We are being exploited and we are not waking up fast enough, we are not focused.

A common platform is needed to champion the coming together of private sector and governments. This must include an interactive online platform for the exchange on trade and industry knowledge, information and opportunities.

All businesses that are supportive of the AU, the AU Foundation and the AEP must get our support and African business contracts.

We cannot be giving our business away to people that come here in brief-cases and continue to take from us. There is a need to promote intra-Africa tourism by opening Africa and creating jobs for young Africans.

Africa must stop importing second hand goods, especially clothes. This is a revolution and a movement that we should all support. We need to promote local industries, such as pharmaceuticals and stop importing all products that we can make ourselves from abroad.

We need to build the capacity and competence of the African procurement and other related sectors to do business across Africa.

Africa must unite and become one. We need to open our markets, stop trading with outsiders and trade amongst ourselves.



RECOMMENDATIONS

African governments should among other things:

- a.** Accelerate regional integration to increase market size;
- b.** Increase emphasis on rural infrastructure in national and regional strategies;
- c.** Invest in the productive sector in both the public and private sectors;
- d.** Fast track the implementation of market integration, and to start implementing the Accelerated Industrialisation for Africa (AIDA) to promote industrialisation;
- e.** Accelerate South-South Cooperation within Africa to promote African enterprises of continental importance;
- f.** Increase the export of goods and services in financial services, education, accounting, communication and health, among others, should be encouraged within the CFTA; and,
- g.** Accelerate the negotiations of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) to enable its establishment by the end of 2017, so as to remove trade barriers and bolster integration.

The African Private Sector should:

- a.** Advocate for the quick ratification of the CFTA Agreement by the private sector and all stakeholders; and,
- b.** Support Governments' efforts to open up markets, create jobs for youth and women, train and educate them, produce goods that are of high quality through capacity building and science and technology.

The African Union Commission should;

- a.** Establish a database on available products in Africa; and,
- b.** Strengthen advocacy to sensitise stakeholders about the CFTA

Official Welcome Dinner, 20 March

The government of Mauritius, led by the Prime Minister, hosted AEP delegates at a state banquet





PLENARY 3 21 MARCH 2017





COMPETITIVENESS OF THE AFRICAN PRIVATE SECTOR

There has been a fundamental change of Africans' thinking in recent years, as governments recognise the centrality of the private sector's role in generating more business. The private sector already generates two-thirds of Africa's investment, three-quarters of its economic output and nine-tenths of its formal and informal employment.

The private sector still faces many obstacles in Africa these include restrictive policies, poor infrastructure (particularly in power and transport), severe skills shortages and mismatches between employers' needs

and available workers (particularly those just out of school). Trade restrictions, tariff and non-tariff barriers to African exports, difficulties in obtaining medium- and long-term finance at affordable terms and a large informal sector some of the challenges faced.

This session therefore explores ways and means of how to ensure that a competitive private sector across Africa will be an engine of sustainable economic growth, employment and poverty reduction on the continent in the next decade and beyond.

PANELISTS



H.E. Dr Anthony Mothae Maruping, AU Commissioner for Economic Affairs

Dr Maruping is a former ambassador and permanent representative of the Kingdom of Lesotho to the United Nations agencies in Geneva. He was executive director at the Macro-economic and Financial Management Institute of Eastern and Southern Africa and former Governor of the Central Bank of Lesotho.



H.E. Dr Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Swaziland

H.E. Dlamini has served as Minister of Finance and executive director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) he is also a member of His Majesty King Mswati III's advisory Council.



Professor Fulbert Gero Amoussouga, Professor at the National University of Benin

Professor Gero Amoussouga is a professor of economics and senior lecturer at the University of Abomey-Calavi in Benin. He is also Chair of the Wto's International trade and Inclusive development in Cotonou, Benin.



Mr. Patrick Dlamini, CEO of the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)

Mr. Dlamini is the Chairman of the Association of African Development Finance Institutions (AADFII). He has also occupied various executive positions in the aviation industry in South Africa.



H.E. Dr Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia

Dr Kuugongelwa-Amadhila is Namibia's first female Prime Minister and former Minister of Finance. She served as governor of IMF and a member of the board of governors at the African Development Bank.

DISCUSSIONS

Competitiveness of the Private Sector

Competitiveness of the private sector in each country is necessary for the delivery of regional value chains and intra-African trade. Competitiveness needs to be followed by requisite skills development.

Most African states lack skills, infrastructure, competitive costs, have cumbersome legislation and administrative procedures and inappropriate tax regulations which deter investment. There should be an attractive fiscal environment, price and continuity of electricity for private sector investment alongside water and infrastructure.

We need legislation that promotes competitiveness and we must not allow consolidation it kills competition. There is something wrong with a situation that allows consolidation by a few large players in the economy. Government, private sector and academia have key roles to play in creating an enabling environment for business.

The public sector needs to establish a conducive environment for private sector to thrive and the two must work together, as there are millions of new job seekers that enter the job market in Africa every year and SMMEs have the potential to employ those large numbers.

Our focus on the youth is key, ICT is driving competitiveness and growth and smart phones are becoming real game changers.

Faster development of primary and secondary markets is key for mobilising finance. Governments should directly or indirectly provide mentoring and monitoring support to young innovators.

There should be increased investment in the knowledge economy and consideration to move our innovators from the informal sector as it is very important for economic growth. The private sector needs continued macro-economic stability and seamless generational transition. The key word is 'Competitiveness'.

Improving Infrastructure

Poor infrastructure hinders private sector growth in Africa, we need to ensure that we add value to our produce. Therefore, infrastructure development must be a priority and both the hard and soft infrastructure must be enhanced.

Our border facilities must be improved and the African infrastructure must be improved to enhance connectivity.



We must also enhance access to finance for small businesses, women and youth, and business start-ups and ensure improved regional infrastructure and border facilities. Infrastructure is crucial to improve connectivity.

DFIs are ready to provide risk capital that can enable projects to be effectively implemented. It is important to build strategies on development of strong value chains and Intra-African trade. Through trade facilitation, we will be able to simplify procedures and reduce costs of doing business. We also must harmonise our trade policies and limit tariffs.

We need regional financial sector integration across borders that will allow for regional integration and regional economic partnership, which is also important in driving higher economic performance and growth in Africa. Therefore, we should enhance transport corridors and energy production through independent power production.

Transforming our economies demands that we open our economies, but Africa still faces problems of transfer of technology. Starting with the problem of the education system. Higher education is not well developed to facilitate innovation.

Our universities are too concentrated on social issues at the expense of science. Research work is not prioritised; therefore, innovative activities are not at a high levels. We must structure our economies so that we can develop our industries and remember that strengthening of our human capital is key.

We have concentrated on quantities and not quality of our human resources. Fighting corruption and improving transparency will help in building skills amongst youth and improving infrastructure.

Creating massive opportunities and digitalisation will help in the battle against corruption.

Poor infrastructure in Africa hinders private sector growth and affects its ability to add value to African products.

RECOMMENDATIONS

African governments should among others:

- a.** Initiate and maintain contact with private sector operators in order to discuss challenges and opportunities in the business environment;
- b.** Implement meaningful structural reforms to drive export competitiveness;
- c.** Promote intra-African investment to support regional trade and development of infrastructure;
- d.** In collaboration with the Private Sector, implement measures to boost the competitiveness of trade corridors across the continent;
- e.** Strengthen trade facilitation especially at the border post in order to increase efficiency;
- f.** Government should invest significantly in SMEs development in order to create jobs and inclusive growth including through affirmative action provisions in Government Procurement legislation;
- g.** Improve the business climate and ease of doing business across the continent including the facilitation of business registration and providing requisite business development services.

The African Union Commission should:

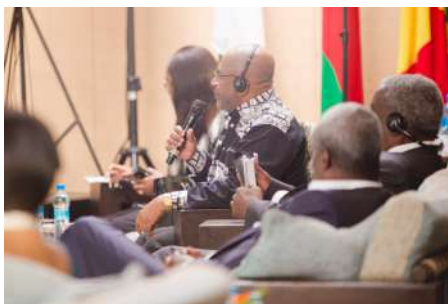
- a.** Work with Member States to advance the ease of doing business across the continent and to establish an appropriate monitoring mechanism; and,
- b.** AU Commission (Department of Economic Affairs) should engage the private sector to identify and disseminate different models for creating shared value and prosperity.

Government, Private Sector and Academia should:

- a.** Promote enterprise development with particular focus on financing and training of business start-ups;
- b.** Implement appropriate strategies such as technology acquisition, investments in education and research, and encourage intellectual property rights to boost research;
- c.** Focus on qualified human resources and performance contracts in the public and private sectors; and,
- d.** Harness their potentials based on their natural resource endowment.



PLENARY 4 21 MARCH 2017





AFRICAN SKILLS REVOLUTION AND REAPING ITS DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND: EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR DEVELOPMENT, INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

One of Africa's greatest resources is the skills of its people, especially the youth. For Africa to reap its demographic dividend it needs a concerted strategy to invest in its youth, especially in skills development which will increase prospects for employability and job creation through innovation and entrepreneurship.

As the youngest continent, this is a call to action for the continent to take advantage of its demographic dividend and revolutionary steps towards a youth skills development that is relevant and inclusive of the continents' multi-sectoral economic and social needs.

PANELISTS



**H.E. Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, GCSK,CSK,PhD,DSc,
President of the Republic of Mauritius**

President Gurib-Fakim is the former Managing Director of the Centre International De Développement Pharmaceutique (CIDP) Research and Innovation, and Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University of Mauritius.



**Professor Emmanuel Nnadozi, Executive Secretary,
African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)**

Professor Nnadozie is an economist and development expert. He is a former Director of Economic Development and NEPAD Division at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).



**Professor Emmanuel Tanyi, Dean at the Faculty of
Engineering and Technology, University of Buea**

Professor Tanyi has been active in technological education in Cameroon for over thirty years and occupied various senior administrative and executive positions at various universities in Cameroon.



**Mr. Rakesh Wahi, Co-Founder, CNBC Africa and
Chairman, CMA Invest Holdings**

Mr. Wahi is a visionary entrepreneur who has been involved with early stage investments in emerging markets for the past 27 years. He is chairman and founder of various media and higher education sector companies that are represented in over 22 countries.



DISCUSSIONS

Skills Challenges affecting Africa

Our most precious resource is our people. Currently there are 1,2 billion people who live on less than \$1,25 per day around the world. Africa needs to move higher productive sectors in confronting poverty and inequalities.

We need to encourage African philanthropists to support transformation of African education systems.

The skills challenges that Africa faces are well known to most of us. African skills are currently linked to what we call the youth bulge or more interestingly the demographic dividend.

The greatest question most Africans working in the skills sector face is how to make good of this demographic dividend or our large youth numbers?

Since 1980, the world made many shifts in business and economic growth, and Africa did not. Our youth, especially between the ages of 15 and 35 years old, are the hardest hit by unemployment, and it is not getting any better.

We have an opportunity to take advantage of the growth potential and opportunity in the youth numbers across Africa. We are currently not doing enough of this.

Our youth currently constitute 75 % of the labour force with 75% in social sciences and 25% in science, we must change this around. Unfortunately, vocational education has been abandoned on the continent to the detriment of Africa.

There is a need to build capacity and retain skilled human resources in Africa. Now we have Agenda 2063 as our massive target, we need to identify the skills that will be needed by Africa to achieve Agenda 2063. For example, our research states that we need to produce about 300 000 engineers every year within the next ten years.

Africa needs a tripartite dialogue on education bringing together governments, private sector and civil society to help deal with mismatch between skills in demand and those in supply.

DISCUSSIONS

Empowering the youth through skills development

We need to invest in ICT for primary schools, 'catch them young'. Rwanda is already taking the first steps in advancing STEM education. ICT certification must become mandatory at secondary school level. It must become as mandatory as having a driver's license. ICT revolution requires computer labs in all universities. One student, one laptop.

Only about 2% of students at University go into engineering. If you train them but you cannot retain them, they will leave. Applied research and fundamental research is needed in Africa.

If we know these things why are they not being done? Soft capacities are there for e.g. leadership, but there must be significant change of mind-set.

The first pillar to consider in our quest to achieve quality education is good teachers while the second pillar is the classroom environment which needs to be changed to meet the needs of the future.

The third pillar is continuous review and updating of the education curricula, and lastly, innovation.

There is a disconnection currently between what skills students need and what is available. This is usually caused by lack of resources, especially in public universities. Fundamental changes are needed within the bureaucracy of higher education in Africa while capacities of regulatory agencies need to be enhanced.

Therefore, access to capital is very important in revolutionising education. Africa needs to realise that working in collaboration instead of competitiveness in the education systems in Africa is vital, as is cross-border recognition of qualifications and competitions.

We cannot develop a continent without science, therefore we need to have more role models for science and technology to promote STEM amongst African youth and to develop more centres of excellence across the continent.



RECOMMENDATIONS



Academia, Governments and the African Union Commission should:

- a.** Create and strengthen centres of excellence with emphasis on skills acquisition across the continent;
 - b.** Enhance harmonisation of competencies across national borders to promote labour and skills mobility;
 - c.** Urgently convene a Tripartite Summit on Education, Science Technology and Innovation comprising the Government, Private Sector and Academia to revamp education in the continent; and,
 - d.** Implementation of the recommendations deriving from the study on capacity needs for the execution of the first 10 years implementation plan of Agenda 2063.
- The issue of unemployment affecting the youth, is real and very significant. Africa's youth need our support to unleash their potential. We have to tackle it head-on.

AFRICAN YOUTH: LEADING FUTURE INNOVATIONS



In line with the African Union theme for 2017, 'Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth', the inaugural African Economic Platform (AEP) hosted five innovative youth projects from across the continent.

These youth projects had five representatives on hand to present their programmes and to illustrate how their projects will uplift African communities. They also had the chance to interact with guests attending the AEP.



Velani Mboweni serves on the African Youth Commission and is the co-founder & CEO of LULA, a technology startup in South Africa that seeks to connect mobility in communities to ensure that transportation is reliable, convenient, safe and dynamic. Lula uses technologies such as Mobile Ticketing, Telematics, Data Analysis and Passenger Information Systems to deliver a real-time smart solution for shared transport. They recently launched the iBUS, which is Africa's first fully integrated and intelligent bus, made up of 97% local materials with the CSIR- Africa's largest Science & Technology research institute, RAW industries and Busmark. He holds a Philosophy, Politics & Economics degree from the University of Cape Town and is an alumni of the Wits Business School



Amr Mohamed Refaat is a Mechanical Engineering student in the Ain Shams University in EGYPT and an Entrepreneur. He is inspired by the idea of developing and improving the livelihoods of communities in Egypt and the whole globe. He develops and crafts projects and products that use a vast diversity of ideas to create meaningful and lasting change. He later represented Enactus Ain Shams University in the National Competition, where he presented 3 evolutionary projects that aim to develop the livelihoods of people in Egypt, solving core problems affecting the Egyptian society such as; poverty, inequality, access to clean water and energy.



Emmanuel Masonwabe is a postgraduate Marketing Management student at the University of Johannesburg in South Africa and an entrepreneur who owns 3 businesses, one of them being Izindaba Zokudla. Over the years, he has successfully represented his university and country at various international youth summits, including the Youth for Global Empowerment in Imphal (India), the third Asia Pacific Student Forum in Depok (Indonesia) and The Flush Conference in Finland. His work is focused on eradicating poverty through entrepreneurship. Committed to the development of Africa and crafting a different narrative in our lifetimes.



Tammy Julius-Fakrogha is a 4th level Accounting student at the Babcock University in Nigeria and is also an entrepreneur who runs an established business. In 2016, Tammy was actively involved in the H-POWER project with a team of students from his university. He is committed to making a difference in his society by increasing their livelihood through entrepreneurship and adding value to his community, country and the world at large.



Simukai Anotida Whande is a BSc Honours Graduate in Business Management and Entrepreneurship from the Chinhoyi University of Technology in Zimbabwe. A digital media strategist, Simukai has been consulting and brand building for small and medium enterprises in Zimbabwe. Through his companies, SANS Exposure and Cotre, he designs solutions to challenges facing the country and has grown his career as a digital media strategist and consultant for emerging companies as well as established brands. He believes that the development of the country and the continent, lies in the growth of startups, small and medium enterprises and wants to assist them with the best possible





Vodacom Networking Cocktail

The AEP ended with a networking cocktail



Golf Day Clinic

Some of the AEP participants tried their hand at golf.





**The diversity of
sectors, speakers, and
demographics of our
people symbolises the
unity of purpose towards
achieving Agenda
2063.**

Remarks from Mr Patrick Dlamini, CEO of the Development Bank of Southern Africa – DBSA.

The African Economic Platform (AEP) is one of a series of developments setting the tone for an Africa that oversees its own development agenda.

The diversity of sectors, speakers, and demographics of our people symbolises the unity of purpose towards achieving Agenda 2063.

The AU Foundation and the AU Commission must be commended for this outstanding effort to put the session together. It was an honour for us as the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) to participate in the inaugural AEP. We came out of this first AEP with significant business contacts, leading to potential business deals that will lead to the financing of infrastructure projects, in the near future.

We took the opportunity to engage in constructive multi-stakeholder dialogues around common themes for Africa's development. The discussions were led by competent and experienced African leaders and professionals from diverse backgrounds.



The common thread was the passion to impact our shared African policy direction by engaging with drivers of Africa's economic development in the private sector, public sector, in academia, and across civil society structures.

As Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) across the continent, we are more aware than ever before of the crucial role we must play as catalysts for financing our common development projects, especially in infrastructure development.

One of the key recommendations from this first AEP is the removal of trade barriers to intra-Africa trade through the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA).

We are ready to play our part as African DFIs. From this first of many AEP engagements to come, the DBSA is committed to being an active role-player alongside our regional partners and stakeholders to accelerate infrastructure funding across our continent.

We will work with African leaders on all fronts, especially combining private and public sector interests to ensure that project preparation and implementation across borders is fast-tracked to deliver on our common African vision as articulated in Agenda 2063 because together we can go far. Thank you for a very successful inaugural platform, it was indeed a great success!

Sectorial breakfast 1

Innovation and infrastructure - by Vodacom and DBSA



Sectorial breakfast 2

Nuclear Energy - by NECSA



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