NEPAD Heads of State Conference kicks off with call for fast tracking Agenda 2063

Kigali, Rwanda 16 July 2016 - The Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC), President Macky Sall of Senegal, has commended the efforts taken by African leaders in implementing projects that have become a foundation for inclusive growth and achieving Agenda 2063.

He said this on Saturday 16 July 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda, while opening the meeting of New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) Heads of State and Government
Orientation Committee (HSGOC), which was attended by African Heads of State and senior public officials from all over the continent.

In his remarks, President Sall said that NEPAD emphasizes the utilization of Africa’s rich natural and human resources, as well as taps technological advancement to enhance development in the continent.

He also called on citizens and leaders across Africa to work together in ensuring that the continent’s development objectives are achieved as per AU’s Agenda 2063.

“Africa has everything it needs, including natural resources and agricultural potential. What we need now more than ever is investment in human capital, so that we can have quality and abundant human resources that have the knowledge and expertise in ensuring that our continent takes its place in the world in terms of development,” said President Sall.

He also advised African leaders to avoid the trap of external “exploitors” who want to misuse African resources for their own gain under unequal terms. “We have rich resources and many exploiters in the world want to utilize them, not for our gain but for their gain. I request African countries to exploit their resources while focusing on Agenda 2063 because it is essential in empowering citizens and driving inclusive growth,” he said.

Rwanda’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Louise Mushikiwabo, who represented President Paul Kagame, said that it was an honor for Rwanda to host the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee, noting that Rwanda has been actively involved in NEPAD programs since its inception and will continue to play its part.

“NEPAD has made good progress which we can build on in the years ahead, especially in reaching the AU Agenda 2063. President Kagame calls for practical solutions. We cannot reach those goals without industrializing Africa and focusing on the needs of our citizenry,” she said.

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, said that the NEPAD conference in Kigali offers leaders a platform to discuss critical issues on the continent and find actionable solutions that can be implemented for overall continental development.

“It is important to discuss critical issues affecting our continent as we gear towards agenda 2063. NEPAD ensures that leaders are allocated responsibilities and are accountable for the decisions they take. We therefore have to continue to strengthen
the capacity of NEPAD, as well as improve science and technology and industrialization in our nations, to keep the continent on track,” said Dr. Dlamini Zuma.

Present at the meeting was the Deputy Chairperson of the AUC, Mr. Erastus Mwencha and the AU Commissioners.

NEPAD is an economic development program of the African Union which aims to provide an overarching vision and policy framework for accelerating economic cooperation and integration among African countries.

Journalists wishing to interview the leadership of the AU Commission during the Summit should submit their requests to Mrs Esther Azaa Tankou, Ag. Director of Information and Communication of the AUC, via E-mail: YambouE@africa-union.org / esthertankou@yahoo.com;
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