



PIDA WEEK 2018

Closing Remarks

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Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen

Firstly, as we are concluding this 4th session of PIDA WEEK 2018, here in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, I must say a big thank you to the Government of Zimbabwe for hosting this important event under the auspice of COMESA. Your dedication and leadership in partnering with us to host this event shows your continued commitment to PIDA Implementation. Appreciation also goes to our international delegates from China, South Korea, Indonesia, who have expressed strong interest to partner with AUC and NEPAD on PIDA PAP 2. Sincere thanks also goes to, of course, our partners, AfDB, Germany, EU, DBSA, ABSA, GWP, IEEE and AFUR for actively being involved in the PIDA process from its conception in 2012 and as we move to its second phase.

As you may recall, this year's 4th PIDA week focused **on good governance and smart infrastructure under the theme “Realising Africa’s Integration through Smart Infrastructure and Good Governance”**. It builds on previous events to continue engaging technocrats, policy makers, project developers, investors etc., on the effective delivery of infrastructure on the continent. The 4th PIDA week consolidated the work being done on the Job Creation Toolkit, PIDA Corridor Guide, The Single Africa Air Transport Market, the idea of a PIDA Quality label to improve the quality in project preparation and acceleration of PIDA water projects. It is a platform where NEPAD and AUC showcase progress in PIDA implementation, identify innovative financing solutions as well as discuss challenges facing infrastructure development.

This year project owners from LAPSSET Corridor, Ruzizi III, Abidjan-Lagos Corridor, Batoka Hydropower Project, ZTK, Kinshasa-Brazzaville Bridge and Rusumo Falls showcased progress on their projects in dedicated sessions which I was pleased to sit right in throughout the 3 days. The work we are doing is solely to facilitate the acceleration and ensure a coherent approach to infrastructure development on the continent.



I was also pleased to share this platform with the Hon. Raila Amollo Odinga, African Union High Representative for Infrastructure Development, Hon. Joel Biggie Matiza, Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development, Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr Amani Abou-Zeid, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission as well as the Assistant Secretary General for Finance and Administration at COMESA, Dr. Dave Haman.

And in this line, I am happy to announce once again that within this logic of smart infrastructure and good governance which may take also form through strategic partnership, The NEPAD Agency has signed two different Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Global Water Partnership to accelerate the implementation of priority continental water infrastructure projects and the International Labour Organisation ILO focusing on areas of collaboration in promoting decent jobs for all economic sectors for the people of Africa.

In fact, I have no doubt that through convening and using such platform as PIDA week, we are enabling constructive dialogue and synergies which will optimise our chance, together and with our own respective roles, to deliver on the implementation of PIDA, an ambitious continental strategic plan for the development of African Infrastructure.

Finally I want to thank all of you Ladies and Gentlemen for taking the time and making it a priority to be here, this demonstrates how committed you are to implementing PIDA and even more to the development of our continent. I wish you all success and safe journeys back home and I reassure you that NEPAD will continue being a strong pan-African institution in collaboration with the AUC and REC's and will endeavour to fulfil its mandate to be the leading implementing institution for the PIDA.

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