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AU Commission Chairperson visits Malawi



H.E. Prof. Alpha Oumar Konare and H.E. Dr. Bingu wa Mutharitka

H.E. Prof. Alpha Oumar Konare, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission visited Malawi from 12th to 14th of October 2006 and held talks on African integration and development with H.E. Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi. The joint communiqué issued at the end of the three-day visit highlighted a number of action areas in this connection. For exam-

ple the need to continue the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law. Keeping peace and security in the forefront of national agenda as these are preconditions for sustainable development. The continent is richly endowed with natural resources that should be effectively exploited for development. The communiqué underscore the importance of Shire-Zambezi Waterway Project as a regional project. It would promote economic growth, trade expansion and employment opportunities in Malawi and other neighboring countries. The project is expected to positively impact on Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and other participating countries by reducing landed cost of both imports and exports. The low cost would be realized through direct waterway link from Nsanje in Malawi, to Chinde on the Indian Ocean. It would reduce the transportation costs for the (cont. p. 2)

AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture visits Malawi and Mozambique

Commissioner Rosebud Kurwijila visited Malawi, 18th to 20th October following her visit to Mozambique. In Lilongwe and Maputo, the Commissioner discussed with top government officials, the Ministers of Agriculture and Food Security and Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the issue of the eradication of Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis that have far-reaching consequences in agriculture and socio-economic development in many African countries where they prevail. Both could have devastating affects on livestock and human beings, they destroy livestock



H.E. Commissioner Rosebud Kurwijila

and in effect nutrition levels, and are fatal to people if not promptly and effectively treated. The consequence of this could be severe undermining of the work force of African countries and therefore of economic growth and development.

The discussions with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security among other things highlighted the need to include tsetse and trypanosomiasis as a priority development problem with appropriate budgetary allocation. Also, the discussion further underscored the necessity to initiate action in the preparation of tsetse eradication project proposals for discussion with neighboring countries in common tsetse belt. This proposal could be used in the mobilization of resources for tsetse eradication.

Other discussions of the Commissioner were on the on going debate for the working out of African Land Policy that would provide a framework of action

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to secure land rights and enhance productivity and secure livelihoods for Africans.

The Commissioner also mentioned the initiative on Disaster Risk Reduction program that envisages the minimization of the adverse impact of natural disasters in African countries that are prone to drought, flood and earthquake. Contingency plans on natural disasters are essential for sustainable economic growth and development and poverty reduction in Africa.



AU Regional Delegate to SADC visits Namibia

The AU Regional Delegate to SADC, Prof. R. Omotayo Olaniyan, was in Windhoek, Namibia on 16 October for discussions with the Honorable Foreign Minister of Namibia, Mr. Marco Hausiku, MP. He was warmly received by the Foreign Minister and senior members of the Ministry. The discussions at the meeting addressed the objectives of the African Union, the modalities and strategies through which integration and development of the continent could be accelerated so as to meaningfully reduce poverty at national level.



Prof. R. Omotayo Olaniyan

Earlier, from 1st to 3rd of September 2006, he represented the AU at the discussions of the New Asian African Strategic Partnership Senior Officials Meeting in Durban, South Africa.

Activities of Regional Office

The AU-SARO participated at the Second Extra Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of Ministers of Education of the AU held in Maputo, Mozambique, from 4th to 8th September 2006. The Office was represented by Mr. Misbahu Ibrahim. The meeting was convened in order to adopt the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education in Africa (2006-2015). The Office participated at the AU Ministers of Health Meeting held in Maputo, Mozambique, from 18th to 22nd September. The meeting

was convened to finalize the Plan of Action for the operationalization of the continental policy framework for sexual and reproductive health rights. This was a follow-up to the already adopted AU declaration on Universal Access to Comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health Services in Africa. The Office was represented by Dr. Tarek Sharif, the Senior Policy Officer. The Plan of Action itemizes actions to be taken at national and international levels to ensure that the goals of universal access to SHR are attained in Africa by 2015. The Office is currently working with the UNFPA, Lilongwe on implementation at national level.

imports and exports of these countries. The project would make agricultural inputs more affordable to the local people and therefore increase food production and in effect enhance food security. The waterway project would widen the local market base through reduction in the cost of production. The multimodal nature of the project, embracing canal, road and rail network, would offer an opportunity for increased employment. Also, the project would offer tremendous potential for tourism. Earlier during

Chairperson in Malawi



H.E. Prof. Alpha Oumar Konare and H.E. Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika

the visit, President Mutharika commended the Commission on the consolidation of the AU since 2002 as illustrated in the transformation of the Commission and the creation of a number of organs of the AU as well as the initiation and implementation of the Vision, Mission and Strategic Action Plan. The Chairperson had also commended the genuine desire of President Mutharika to eradicate poverty and promote regionalism and called on the international community to go beyond debt cancellation and aid and effectively increase investments in Malawi and other African countries to ensure sustainable economic growth and development.

AU: Some Upcoming Events

1. CAMEF II 13 to 14 Nov. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2006.
2. Pan African Cultural

congress, 13 to 17 Nov. 2006, Nairobi, Kenya.

3. Strategies for ratification of the Protocol on Women's Rights 22 to 25 November 2006, Tunis, Tunisia.
4. Extra-Ordinary AU Conf. of Ministers in Charge of Science & Technology, 20 to 24 Nov. 2006, Cairo, Egypt.
5. Meeting between AU and the RECs on the draft MOU, 4 to 5 December 2006, Addis

Ababa, Ethiopia.

6. Mid-term review on African Common Position on Children—Africa fit for Children, 4 to 8 December 2006, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
7. Global Meeting on Avian Flu, 5 to 7 December 2006, Bamako, Mali.
8. Meeting between AU and RECs on Early Warning Systems, 14 to 15 December 2006, Gaborone, Botswana.

SADC: Some Upcoming Events

1. SADC-EC Ministerial Meeting 13 to 17 November 2006, Brussels, Belgium.
2. SADC Council of Ministers Meeting, February 2007, Lesotho.

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