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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Colleagues,

It is that time of the month again.

We have set for ourselves, a number of tasks, which we aim to accomplish by the end of the year. Some of our tasks are:

- To strengthen the institutions and processes for conflict prevention, management and resolution;
- To consolidate democracy, sound political, economic and corporate governance through the introduction of the African Peer Review Mechanism;
- To accelerate the implementation of high priority regional infrastructure projects like energy, transport, water and ICT;
- To re-prioritise agriculture and increase our focus on restoring food security;
- To promote policy reforms and increase our investment in human development through better education, increased drive in addressing all health issues and poverty eradication;
- To focus on Market Access, debt reduction, ODA reform and support, to enable African countries to achieve Millennium Development Goals;
- To promote increased investment by the private sector and strengthen small to medium domestic enterprises;
- To promote economic diversification and transformation, increase integration of production structures on the continent and accelerate intra-Africa trade;

- To mobilise additional resources for development within Africa and from international development finance institutions and developed countries;
- To popularise NEPAD, both in Africa and abroad;

Projected Outputs by Year-End

The NEPAD process aims to achieve the successful implementation of a number of infrastructure projects, such as:

- The Power System Interconnection Project (Nigeria/Togo/Benin), which was approved by the ADB in November 2002;
- The Power Interconnection (Algeria/Morocco/Spain), which was also approved by the ADB in November 2002;
- The roll-out of the African Virtual University programme and the start of the e-schools project;
- The finalisation of a number of country projects in implementation of the African Agriculture Development Programme;
- The finalisation of an AU co-ordinated position on Market Access;
- The finalisation of an AU co-ordinated position on debt relief;
- The development of a Science and Technology Strategic Framework for Africa;
- The operationalisation of the APRM and commencement of first reviews;

Challenges facing the NEPAD Process

- The acceleration of the implementation of agriculture and infrastructure projects through the REC's;
- Mobilising additional resources from the private sector in Africa and internationally, including the countries of the South;
- Moving the international development agencies from studies, conferences and consultation, to implementation;
- Broadening and deepening ownership and participation in NEPAD, both in Africa and Abroad;
- Retaining the interest and commitment of the G8 and other development partners;
- Monitoring progress on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for education, health (HIV/AIDS), water, etc and engaging the developed countries regarding the meeting of mutual commitments;
- Institutionalising NEPAD with AU;
- Achieving quick wins to demonstrate success;
- Giving increasing attention to the issue of capacity building at regional and country levels;
- Ensuring that the crosscutting issues of capacity building, gender mainstreaming and environmental concerns are built into all relevant programme areas;

Coming Events;

- I. The Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee Meeting on the 8th of March 2003 in Abuja, Nigeria;
- II. NEPAD Civil Society Forum, 26-28 March, in Accra, Ghana;
- III. NEPAD Steering Committee meeting, 25 – 26 April 2003;
- IV. NEPAD Gender Forum, 28-30 April 2003 in Libreville, Gabon;
- V. The 7th Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee Meeting on 14-15 May 2003 (provisional);

- VI. 40th Anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity in May 2003. Detail to be provided in due course;
- VII. NEPAD Communications and Outreach Forum in Maputo, Mozambique, in July 2003;
- VIII. AU Summit in Maputo, Mozambique, in July 2003;

We continue to dedicate ourselves to the successful implementation of NEPAD. Under the constant guidance and leadership of the organs of the African Union, the NEPAD process will move from strength to strength. It is very evident that the task at hand is enormous. Our commitment and determination to succeed will carry us through all our obstacles.

Our people have given us their support. We will ensure that we do not disappoint them...