



NEPAD Declares May Africa Month*

22 May 2009

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), has declared the month of May Africa Month, and is planning a Symposium and Cultural event, which will take place at the National Cultural Museum in Pretoria, South Africa on Africa Day, 25 May 2009. 300 guest will participate in the event, which will receive wide media coverage, with a live coverage from SABC News.

Africa Day is the annual commemoration on May 25 of the 1963 founding of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which was succeeded in July 2002 by the present African Union (AU), while amalgamating with the African Economic Community (AEC), but kept the date and name of Africa Day. Africa Day is a call to African countries to recommit themselves to the goals of inter-alia, democracy, good governance and accountability as espoused by the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). It is a day by which Africa needs to pause, take stock of its achievements and celebrate its efforts towards development and unity in diversity.

The theme of the Africa Day event is "Unifying Africa Through Education and Culture", under which deliberations will focus on the important role of Culture Education in promoting Africa's sustainable socio-economic development and unity in diversity. The programme kicks off at 6:00, with a live broadcast featuring African music and dance and interviews with senior representatives of NEPAD and its partners, including the Department of Education and the Department of Arts and Culture.

^{*} Tomado de: http://www.nepad.org/News/sector_id/6/lang/en/news/18

After the multi-faith devotions, Dr I A Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Secretariat, Dr Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Secretariat, will formally open the day's proceedings. The Mayor of Tshwane, Ms Gwen Ramokgopa, will welcome participants to the City. After a message of goodwill delivered by the Minister of Arts & Culture, Ms Lulu Xingwana, Dr SB Mboup from the Centre for African Renaissance Studies, UNISA, and former Ambassador for Senegal, will give a background on the origin and significance of Africa Day.

Dr Edem Adubra: Acting Director: UNESCO Windhoek Cluster Office, will deliver the keynote address, which will be followed by a panel discussion. The panelists include Mr Enver Surty, Deputy Minister of Education and Chair of the Conference of Ministers of Education for Africa (COMEDAF), Ms Sisonke Msimang, CEO of the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA), Advocate Brenda Madumise, Convenor of the Africa Dialogue of African National Arts Councils and Entities, Dr Matlotleng Matlou, CEO of the Africa Institute of South Africa (AISA), Ms Makini Tchameni, CEO of the African Centered Educational (ACE) Foundation, Prof Shadrack Gutto: Director: Centre for African Renaissance Studies at UNISA and Prof Neville Alexander, Director of the Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa (PRAESA), University of Cape Town. A group of African students from the NEPAD Leadership Programme at Wits University will take part in the panel discussions.

Father Simangaliso Mkhatshwa, the President of the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA) will close the Symposium part of the proceedings. The cultural part of the day, with African music and dance, will kick off after lunch, and continue until the end of the function at 17h00.