



**Report of the Presidential Infrastructure
Championing Initiative Luncheon held at the Multi-
Purpose Hall, African Union Headquarters, Addis
Ababa, Ethiopia**

8th February 2020

12h00-14h00

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Presidential Infrastructure Championing Initiative (PICI) Luncheon was held at the Multi-Purpose Hall, African Union Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the 8th February 2020;
- 1.2. The Luncheon was hosted by H.E. the President of South Africa, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa and served to provide all the PICI countries with an update on progress with regard to the status of all the PICI projects;
- 1.3. The President of South Africa; the President of Rwanda as well as the vice President of Namibia were in attendance;
- 1.4. The AU Chairperson, the CEO of the AUDA NEPAD, the AU Director for Infrastructure, the Executive Secretary of UNECA, colleagues of the AfDB and many other directors were present;
- 1.5. A large number of high-profile dignitaries – including Ministers, Ambassadors and representatives were also in attendance;
- 1.6. The Honorable Minister in the Presidency of South Africa, Mr Jackson Mthembu, was the program director at the Luncheon;
- 1.7. As the chair of the PICI, H.E, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, the President of South Africa regularly hosts a Luncheon/Breakfast for the PICI on the margin of the AU Summit and typically, preceding the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC);
- 1.8. The outcome of discussions and deliberations during the Luncheon/Breakfast meetings are presented and reported to the meeting of the NEPAD HSGOC, which immediately follows;
- 1.9. This is to ensure that regional transboundary infrastructure development remains a top priority of the NEPAD – HSGOC and the AU Summit; and
- 1.10. That a report of progress of the PICI Country Projects are duly reported on at the apex AU Summit level.

2. Launch of PICI 2020 report

- 2.1. The luncheon served as the platform for launching the latest updated Report of the PICI, February 2020;
- 2.2. The latest updated Report of the PICI, February 2020 was also presented at the 37th session of the NEPAD HSGOC;
- 2.3. The report was jointly prepared by the AUDA- NEPAD Agency and the Presidency of South African.
- 2.4. This underscores the efforts of the PICI Secretariat to increase the visibility of the report on implementation of PICI projects;
- 2.5. The soft copy of the report is accessible through the website of the AUDA- NEPAD Agency and the Presidency of South Africa.

3. PICI projects' current status and the way forward

The progress status of PICI projects could be summarized as follow:

	Project	Champion	Current status and the way forward
A.	The Trans-Sahara Highway missing	Algeria	There was very good progress reported
	The Optic Fibre Link between Algeria and Nigeria via Niger.	Algeria	The PICI Secretariat will endeavour to get an update on progress with regard to this Project.
B.	The Kinshasa-Brazzaville Bridge Road/Rail Project.	Congo	There was excellent progress with unlocking the necessary funding. This was one of the key successes at the African Investment Forum that was held in Sandton, Johannesburg in November 2019.

	Project	Champion	Current status and the way forward
C.	The Abidjan-Lagos Highway Project.	Côte d'Ivoire	Cote D' Ivoire formally submitted their PICI Project in 2019. Good progress was reported as the AFDB has agreed to provide the necessary funding.
D.	The Lake Victoria - Mediterranean Sea Navigational Line (VICMED).	Egypt	The prefeasibility was concluded successfully and Egypt will now proceed with the Feasibility Studies
E.	The Lamu Port - Southern Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor Project.	Kenya	The progress has been good, Berth 1 was completed in 2019 and berth 2 and 3 will be finalised by the end of 2020
F.	The Namibian - International Logistics Hub: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grootfontein/Rundu/Katima Mulilo Railway Line. • Trans-Kalahari Railway (TKR). • Trans Orange Corridor-Port of Luderitz • Baynes Hydro Power Project. 	Namibia	There was very good progress reported.
G.	The Trans-Sahara Gas Pipeline.	Nigeria	The PICI Secretariat will endeavour to get an update on progress regarding this Project.
H.	Unblocking Political Bottlenecks for ICT Broadband and Optic Fibre Projects Linking Neighbouring States.	Rwanda	It was reported that the project was proceeding very well.
I.	The Dakar-Bamaka Road/Rail Project.	Senegal	Progress is very slow. The PICI Secretariat will endeavour to get an update on progress.

	Project	Champion	Current status and the way forward
J.	The North-South Road, Rail and related Infrastructure Corridor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Africa to become the hub for the manufacture and supply of Rail Stock for Africa (AU Resolution) • The Beitbridge Border Post; connecting South Africa and Zimbabwe. • The Inga III Hydropower Project; South Africa, DRC, Namibia, Botswana and Angola • The Lesotho Highlands Water Project - Phase II (LHWP); South Africa and Lesotho 	South Africa	It was reported that the 4 South African projects were proceeding very well.
K.	The Sawakin-Port Sudan Project.	Sudan	Sudan is the latest country to formally join PICI in 2020.

4. Opening remarks by the CEO of AUDA-NEPAD

4.1. H.E. the CEO of the AUDA-NEPAD, Dr. Ibrahim Assan Mayaki delivered the opening remarks, summarizing the current status of the PICI projects and the recommended actions, as follow:

4.1.1. The CEO underlined the opportunity for African Heads of State and Government to be actively involved in the development and implementation of infrastructure projects;

4.1.2. This was to help in achieving the aspirations of the people of Africa as noted in Agenda 2063, the “Africa we want”;

4.1.3. The CEO commended the remarkable progress achieved so far in implementing most of PICI projects, which, in practical terms, reflect how the PICI champions mattered in order to bring visibility, gravitas and strategic support to unblock project hurdles and or stumbling blocks;

- 4.1.4. The objective was to clear the pathway to accelerate the successful implementation and execution of these important PICI transboundary projects;
- 4.1.5. The CEO also welcomed the expanding membership of PICI;
- 4.1.6. Over the period from 2011 to 2019, the number of member states of the PICI had significantly increased by 50% from 8 to 12 members;
- 4.1.7. The CEO welcomed Sudan as a latest member to join the PICI;
- 4.1.8. The CEO noted further that PICI was pivoted on a positive approach for championing, coordinating and accelerating the implementation of the different transboundary infrastructure projects in Africa, particularly as envisaged by the Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA);
- 4.1.9. To further strengthen the PICI, member states were urged to consider the following:
 - 4.1.9.1. Increasing the visibility of the PICI initiative and its projects;
 - 4.1.9.2. Continuing political support to ensure that some of the hurdles/blockages are removed
 - 4.1.9.3. Effective participation of member states in PICI implementation framework and meetings;
 - 4.1.9.4. More aggressive resource mobilization for PICI projects;
 - 4.1.9.5. Allocating additional resources (technical and financial) to the PICI Secretariat to ensure it carries out its roles and responsibilities efficiently and effectively;
 - 4.1.9.6. The CEO thanked all the respective role players in the success achieved with the PICI.

5. Keynote address by HE, the President of South Africa, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa

- 5.1. In his key note address the President of South Africa and chair of PICI:
 - 5.1.1. Thanked his fellow Excellencies, who have formed an integral part of the success of the PICI:
 - Algeria
 - Cote D'Ivoire

- Egypt
- Kenya
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- Republic of Congo
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- DRC

5.1.2. Noted that the PICI quite directly supports regional integration, economic development and industrialisation within the framework of “Agenda 2063-the Africa we want”;

5.1.3. Noted that infrastructure features heavily in that agenda – and so it must - Africa has a staggering \$68-\$108 billion infrastructure investment gap and this gap could also be seen as an opportunity;

5.1.4. Large infrastructure projects in the pipeline, and indeed, such as those in the PICI like the Trans-Maghreb Highway in North Africa; the North-South Road, Rail and Related Infrastructure Corridor, connecting extensive parts of Southern Africa, as well as the Central Corridor and the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Highway, should help lessen the deficit;

5.1.5. South Africa together with the PICI countries has resolved to drive, with greater vigour, determination and conviction the implementation of the PICI as an undergird to the success of the African Free Continental Trade Agreement and Agenda 2063;

5.1.6. South Africa, as the chair, has committed to host PICI meetings preceding each and every AU Summit, where it leads discussions on progress with the various PICI Country specific projects and the North South Road, Rail and Related Infrastructure Corridor Projects;

5.1.7. The President of South Africa noted further that in addition to being the chair, also the “political champion” for the North South Road, Rail and Related Infrastructure Corridor;

- 5.1.8. South Africa has shortlisted the following 4 projects for fast tracking and implementation:
- 5.1.8.1. South Africa to become the hub for the manufacture and supply of Rail Stock for Africa (AU Resolution);
 - 5.1.8.2. The Beitbridge Border Post; connecting South Africa and Zimbabwe together with related road and rail infrastructure;
 - 5.1.8.3. The Inga III Hydropower Project; South Africa, DRC, Namibia, Botswana and Angola;
 - 5.1.8.4. The Lesotho Highlands Water Project - Phase II (LHWP); South Africa and Lesotho.
- 5.1.9. Reported that on all four of the projects, which South Africa leads, there was substantive and very good progress reported;
- 5.1.10. PICI meetings are scheduled together with the AUDA-NEPAD Agency, led by its CEO, Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki;
- 5.1.11. The Agency is South Africa and Africa's pre-eminent continental partner in executing the PICI mandate. We thank Dr Mayaki for his cooperation and support;
- 5.1.12. South Africa's role with PICI is in line with the stated objectives and the need for *A Better Africa and World*, increasing intra and inter-regional trade, and promoting road, rail and port infrastructure in the region; using financial institutions to collaborate with the private sector to expand on the continent; and identifying and promoting practical opportunities for cooperation based on complementary national endowments;
- 5.1.13. It was noted, at previous AU Summits, that the critical outcomes to be achieved through creating an efficient PICI and Corridor, are to build, upgrade and maintain infrastructure and remove impediments to trade flows, including regulatory and administrative constraints.
- 5.1.14. This also involves identifying the missing links, chokepoints and bottlenecks that prevent the rapid development of the PICI and Corridor;
- 5.1.15. As South Africa and the rest of the PICI Countries, we are confident that our efforts with PICI will continue to advance our investment profile as well as our continental leadership capabilities and send a clear message to the world and the investment community that Africa is truly the place to be;

5.1.16. The many attributes that make us an acclaimed an investment destination is showcased in PICI;

5.1.17. We, through the PICI, offer investors access to a host of new investment frontiers and markets and to that end South Africa will host:

5.1.18. An International Financing Investment Conference where we will open up the PICI and the North South Corridor and the fast tracked projects for investment and take off; and

5.1.19. A North South Corridor Road Show - led by Heads of State and our Ministers;

6. Closing Remarks by H.E. Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat

6.1. H.E, Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission focused in his brief statement on the following:

6.1.1. He stated that infrastructure upscaling is of the utmost importance as a trigger for the development process across the African continent;

6.1.2. He noted - "It is the road that makes development";

6.1.3. Infrastructure could further improve the living conditions of our people and create more jobs for the unemployed youth;

6.1.4. He commended both South Africa and the AUDA NEPAD for the great effort with the PICI;

6.1.5. He acknowledged the willingness and the readiness of African political leaders to boost the development of infrastructure;

7. Conclusion

7.1. The highlights of the impressive progress with the PICI Projects were duly recognised;

7.2. The way forward, as reflected in the Report by the President of South Africa and as summarised in the latest updated Report on the PICI, February 2020 noted:

7.2.1. The welcome of Sudan as the latest member of the PICI;

- 7.2.2. Directing the different segments of the PICI (PICI Ministerial meeting and the PICI Technical Task Team Workshop) to continue their deliberations and follow up to push the PICI forward;
- 7.2.3. Praising and celebrating the role of the AUDA-NEPAD, led by Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, and H.E President of South Africa for their role in executing the PICI mandate;
- 7.2.4. This expression of congratulations, support and gratitude was also highlighted in the statements delivered by both the outgoing chairperson of the NEPAD HSGOC, H.E. President Macky Sall of Senegal and His successor, H.E President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, during the 37th Session of the NEPAD HSGOC;
- 7.2.5. It was announced that South Africa will lead an International Financing Investment Conference where it will open up the PICI and the North South Corridor and the fast tracked projects for investment and take off;
- 7.2.6. South Africa will hold a North-South Corridor Road Show, which will be led by Heads of State and the respective Ministers;
- 7.3. PICI member states were urged to consider the following actions to strengthen the PICI:
 - 7.3.1. Increasing visibility of the PICI initiative and its projects.
 - 7.3.2. Continuing their political support to ensure that some of the hurdles/blockages are removed.
 - 7.3.3. Continuing their effective participation in PICI implementation framework and meetings.
 - 7.3.4. More effective resource mobilization for PICI projects.
 - 7.3.5. Allocating additional resources (technical and financial) to the PICI Secretariat to ensure it carries out its roles and responsibilities efficiently and effectively.