



## MINISTER ERNESTA SEES ADF III AS AFRICA'S BEST CHANCE

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Africa should soon be able to break away from the vicious cycle of underdevelopment now that it has clearly mapped out its future and is about to lay out the institutional framework which would ensconce it into the road to prosperity.

This was said by the Minister for Social Affairs and Employment Mr Dolor Ernesta early this week following his trip to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where he attended the third African Development Forum (ADF III) at the invitation of the United Nations' Economic Commission of Africa (ECA).

ADF III, which took place from March 3 to 8, is an ECA-led initiative for an African driven development agenda. The theme of the conference was "Defining Priorities for Regional Integration."

During this high level meeting, at which he was interviewed by SABC's Africa Journal programme as well as the Ethiopian television, Minister Ernesta had the chance to vent the concerns of small island states as well as small economies.

He explained that regional integration was everywhere a multi-track process that was undertaken by each country at its own pace dictated by its economic weight.

Minister Ernesta aired the view that there should be a project to uplift small economies so they could better fit into the African Union.

"Seychelles has much to benefit from the process of African unification, in terms of both economic gains and greater visibility for the achievements of our economic model," Minister Ernesta pointed out before adding, "Seychelles is a glaring example that Africa is capable of progress."

The closing statement of this forum will be presented to the African Heads of States ahead of the launching of the African Union in South Africa next July.

Besides various African Heads of States and government and cabinet ministers, the meeting in Addis Ababa was also attended by a host of intellectuals like economics professor Robert Mundell and Nigerian Nobel literature winner Wole Soyinka

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