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# NEPAD TODAY

nepad@uneca.org

Every Wednesday

## Namibia is committed to APRM, but will take its time to accede

Although Namibia has not taken a decision to accede to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), it has put in place mechanisms to ensure that the country meets its standards and practices.

The country's former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Marco Hausiku, said Government thought it prudent and appropriate to take its time and acquaint itself with the process before acceding to it.

But, he added, Namibia has nothing to hide and that it will join the mechanism "at the time of our own choosing, when

this is found desirable". He said the country is committed to the African Union programme to address the continent's development challenges.

Hausiku said although Namibia has not acceded to the mechanism, it does not mean that it is opposed to it. By December last year, 29 out of the 53 member states of the AU had signed up to the APRM.

So far, 15 countries have been reviewed and the review reports have been made public to the rest of the AU member states

*For full story: <http://www.newera.com.na/article.php?articleid=10140>*

**Chief of Section**  
Abdoulahi Mahamat  
**Editor**  
Yinka Adeyemi  
**Production Assistant**  
Meseret Arega

**Intern**  
Tsega Fanta

## Jobless growth challenge is not new to Africa --ECA's Emmanuel Nnadozie

The economic and social challenges involved in jobless growth are not new for African countries, but their persistence reflects the failure of policies pursued hitherto, the Director of ECA's Economic Development and NEPAD Division (EDND), Professor Emmanuel Nnadozie, said in Lilongwe, Malawi, March 26.

He said the past decade had been characterized by a paradox. Prior to the economic and financial crisis, economic growth

had followed a rising trend, increasing from an average rate of 2.7 per cent between 1990 and 1999 to 5.3 per cent between 2000 and 2007. Yet despite this performance, unemployment had fallen by only a marginal 0.8 per cent in most African countries.

Hence there was an urgent need to rethink the link between growth, employment and poverty reduction. Countries must adopt proactive policies in order that employment should shadow economic growth.

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## **NEPAD, Nigerian Ministry take girl-child education campaign to northern states**

**T**he Nigerian Federal Ministry of Education, in conjunction with NEPAD, is taking the campaign for the advancement of girl-child education in the country to seven northern states in Nigeria -- Taraba, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Yobe, Nasarawa and Adamawa--- to sensitize the public on the need to take girl-child educations.

At the launch in one of the state (Nasarawa) the former minister of state for education, Hajiya Aisha Dukku, girl-child education was a necessary ingredient for attaining the vision 20:2020 policies in the country, and that Nigeria would witness tremendous progress if girl child education was prioritized.

The representative of the special adviser to the president of Nigeria on NEPAD, Mrs. Delu Abubakar, said the sensitization campaign was timely, saying NEPAD would work out modalities to ensure the success of girl-child education.

According to her, the progress of the girl-child education cannot be isolated from the progress in the society and that in Nigeria, over 7 million children are out of school. Earlier, the Director, Programmes and Development, NEPAD Nigeria, G B Yohanna, said education is recognized as an essential tool with which men and women can fight and conquer illiteracy and poverty.

**Source** <http://www.leadershipnigeria.com/news/headlines/13013-nepad-education-ministry-takes-campaign-on-girl-child-to-nasarawa>

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In Professor Nnadozie's view, under this approach the engines of growth should not only be reactivated but must be redirected towards high-productivity, high-employment sectors such as agriculture, which must be modernized, textiles, construction and tourism

*For full story: <http://www.uneca.org/cfm/2010/pressrelease2510.html>*

## **OSAA to mainstream communication in UN cluster work**

**T**he Office of the Special Adviser on Africa has taken pr steps to mainstream communication in the work of UN clusters, following decisions at the last meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism which took place in Addis Ababa in November 2009.

A correspondence to the chairpersons of the clusters from Patrick Hayford, head of the office, asked for the nomination of a focal point who would work directly with the Advocacy and Communication Cluster to facilitate smoother inter-Cluster flow of information.

Hayford says a retreat would be organized in 2010 in collaboration with the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA) for all chairpersons and communication focal points to discuss how to enhance the global communication and advocacy efforts to promote NEPAD.

*Special to ECA*