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NEPAD Briefs was not published yesterday, 3 March 2008, in honor of Ethiopian commemoration of the Victory of Adwa, an official UN holiday in Ethiopia.

Real threat to Tinapa as Dubai World invests \$800m in Senegal

Prospects of Tinapa Business Resort Centre emerging as the sole shopping paradise in the sub-region has been blighted as Dubai World Group's Jafza subsidiary Monday signed an \$800-million (N96-billion) deal to build and run a special economic zone in Senegal, its chairman said.

"We are going to invest \$800-million ... construction will start this year and hopefully we will finish the first phase by 2010," Dubai World chairman, Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, said at the signing ceremony in Dakar.

The coming on stream of the resort in Dakar will pose a major challenge to the fledgling Tinapa which is priding itself as a handy alternative to the famous shopping destination in Dubai. Incidentally, the promoters of the Dakar project are the same managers of the Dubai resort.

Tinapa was commissioned on April 2, 2007 after about \$340-million (N40.8-billion) had been spent since construction began in 2005. Up to 80,000 square meters of pristine retail space have been completed but most of them lie empty while the project is still beset by challenges bordering on inclement government policies and tax regimes.

One of the high points of the attractions to investors was the tax-free regime for products at the resort which is supposed to have the attributes of a free trade zone. However, the Nigeria Customs Service has failed to effect a blanket tax free regime due to the absence of an enabling law. The tax issue is one of the cases of government's policy inconsistencies that have tended to frustrate the project. Government's import prohibition list has always been subjected to frequent reviews, making medium and long term business plans by investors at the resort difficult. Although the project was earlier scheduled for completion in 2006, inadequate funding has continued to confront the project's promoters and is a compelling factor for the phased construction of the resort.

Source: <http://www.businessdayonline.com/national/2566.html>

Interview with the NORAD Senior Energy Advisor, Rolv Bjelland - We Should Have Greater Focus on Climate Change

"Climate change issue is not too much in focus. We hope for a change and that NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility (NEPAD-IPPF) will have this more as a policy issue", said Mr. Rolv Bjelland, Senior Energy Advisor to the Norwegian Agency for Development Co-Operation (NORAD) in an interview with the African Development Bank's internal newsletter.

NORAD, which lays special emphasis on assistance that benefits the poorest sector of the community, has shown special interest in NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility, a facility hosted at the African Development Bank Group that provides technical services in the preparation of infrastructure projects in Africa.

Full Interview: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200802290714.html>



Undersea IT cable guidelines to be published for comment

Sabinet's parliamentary service reports that the Department of Communications has given a short briefing on 23 February 2008 to the parliamentary portfolio committee for communications on the guidelines called for in terms of the Electronic Communications Act for the "rapid deployment and provisioning of communications facilities", particularly referring to connectivity through undersea cabling.

Such are to be shortly published for public comment, the committee was told. Such guidelines would form the regimen that identified as separate issues undersea cables, the landing stations themselves and international gateways created. A "consistent jurisdictional and regulatory framework" had to be provided, said the department, "for a rapid, robust, reliable and affordable ICT infrastructure that would enable the provision of broadband services to stimulate economic growth".

Bearing in mind that other international practices in other countries had been studied, the department told MPs that it has been decided by government that South Africa will allow authorisation only by the minister of communications for any undersea cable to be landed or operated in South Africa, such authorisation not being transferable.

Such licences will be granted only to already licensed network service operators for which "a combined equity ownership can be held individually or jointly with other African entities to have equal or greater and together have 51%".

The department said that such guidelines were important if the principles of African ownership and control, the principles of NEPAD and the increasing need for international connectivity in South Africa were all to be brought together.

Source: <http://www.itweb.co.za/sections/internet/2008/0802290802.asp?A=LEG&S=Legal%20View&O=FPIN>

NEPAD, best prescription for underdevelopment –says Osunbor, Nigerian Governor

Edo State Governor Professor Oserheimen Osunbor says the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), has proved to be the best prescriptions for the sundry problems associated with the continents underdevelopment.

He made this assertion in Benin when he received in audience the country Review Team of Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), led by Kenyan born Ambassador Berthuel Kiplagat.

Governor Oserheimen Osunbor, while welcoming the country Review Team to Edo State, observed that no one is better placed to address the problems of underdevelopment in African than Africans themselves.

According to him, it is against this background that the NEPAD initiative, especially its African Peer Review Mechanism, must be appreciated as a platform on which African country's compliance may be assessed. Happiness about the success of NEPAD so far having chaired the Senate Committee on NEPAD stressing that ultimately, it holds the key to the future development of Africa.

Source: *The Tide - Port Harcourt, Niger Delta, Nigeria - 4 March 2008*

3-5 March 1st International Business Conference (Abidjan)
4-7 March: Science with Africa Conference (Addis Ababa)
10 March: Intl Conf. on Integrated Water Resources Mgmt (Cape Town)
10 March: Intl Conf. on Integrated Water Resources Mgmt (Cape Town)
10 March: 2nd Global Summit on HIV/AIDS, Traditional Medicine & Indigenous Knowledge (Accra)
10 March Africa Regional Seminar on Participatory Budgeting (Durban)
31 March-2 April First session of the Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of

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