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Quality Infrastructure And Regional Integration

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Outline of the Presentation

- State of the continent
- How to extricate from the malaise
- Promotion of trade
- Attracting of investments
- NEPAD Agency
- Quality Infrastructure



State of the continent

- 10% of world population live in Africa
- But Africa accounts for only 2-3% of the world Trade
- There is very little trade between member states
- HIV/AIDS pandemic is ravaging, devastating and destroying the active population
- Level of poverty is alarming: margins of the global economy: Begging bowl
- Africa is poor because Africa is unproductive



Extricating from the malaise

Africa is rich in natural Resources

- Promote value addition
- Need for re-direction of the continents economic development
- Need for deliberate and focused steps to facilitate regional and Cross-border trade and integration
- Access global market (TRADE)
- Encourage entrepreneurship and innovation.



Promotion of Trade

Trade is a powerful engine for

- Driving sustainable economic development
- Wealth creation
- Jobs creation
- Poverty reduction
- Enhancing security and peace:-Building Trust
- Promoting regional integration: Common markets and Free Trade Areas(FTAs)



Trade Does Not Just Happen(1)

- The environment must be conducive
- Deficient infrastructures must be established and revamped
- Quality infrastructure should be in-place
- Attract investment, especially FDI, with its benefits.



Trade Does Not Just Happen(2)

- Involve Chambers of Commerce and Business Associations
- They need larger markets and can be a driving force for Common Market
- There should be free movement of assets, goods and services.



Benefits of FDI

- Brings new and committed capital
- Technology and knowledge transfer, including new management styles
- Creates jobs
- Stimulates competition and can help bring down prices
- Improves people's access to goods and services



The NEPAD Agency(1)

In February, 2010, African Leaders at the 14th African Union Summit, established the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) as a successor of NEPAD Secretariat.

- The Core mandate of the NEPAD Agency is to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of regional and continental priority programmes and projects and to foster partnerships, resource mobilization and research and knowledge management.
- The NEPAD Agency has the following strategic thematic areas, which form the strategic direction:
 - Agriculture and Food security
 - Climate change and natural resources management



NEPAD Agency(2)

- Regional integration and infrastructure
- Human Capacity Development
- Economic and Corporate Governance.



The Pan African quality Infrastructure (QI)1

Quality infrastructure (QI), is a term now commonly used to explain activities embracing:

- Standardization, Metrology, Testing, conformity assessment and Accreditation(MSTQ/SQAM)
- The aim is to promote trade, ensure quality and safety of products and services.
- ***QI is a vital enabling environment and infrastructure for both regional and global trade***
- The other aim is protection of the environment and health



The Pan African quality Infrastructure (QI) 2

- NEPAD Agency is in the process of establishing a Pan African quality Infrastructure.
- The structure is to benefit from the synergy already built by the regional SQAM arrangements
- It is a platform with the major support pillars being ARSO/AFSEC, AFRIMETS and AFRAC.
- These pillars are pivotal and they must be proactive for them to manage the new developments in the African region.



Linkage of Key Elements of QI

METROLOGY(AFRIMETS)

Establishment of accurate, reliable, traceable measurement
(Basis for performance requirements in standards)

ACCREDITATION(AFRAC)

Demonstration of competence of testing and calibration laboratories, certification bodies and inspection bodies

STANDARDISATION(ARSO/AFSEC)

Standards facilitate trade, provide basis for technical regulations
Developed by international, regional and national standards bodies

CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

Sampling, inspection, testing, certification

EFFICIENT TRADING SYSTEM

Reduction of unnecessary variety, facilitate interoperability, economies of scale and quality assurance.
Consumers empowered to demand fitness- for-purpose products and services that conform to standards and technical regulations.

Courtesy of ISO



THANK YOU!

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