



**MINISTRY OF REGIONAL COOPERATION & NEPAD
KONRAD ADENAUER FOUNDATION (KAF)**

**REPORT ON
WORKSHOP FOR MEDIA IN THE NORTHERN ZONE ON APRM IMPLEMENTATION
AND UPDATE ON GHANA'S APRM PROGRAMME OF ACTION**

**MIKLIN HOTEL, KUMASI
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KONRAD ADENAUER FOUNDATION**

**IN COLLABORATION WITH :
MINISTRY OF REGIONAL COOPERATION & NEPAD**

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1. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

Since the endorsement of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) by African leaders in July 2001, its adoption, by the African Union (AU), in July 2002 and the subsequent establishment of an African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to facilitate and enhance good political, economic, social and corporate governance in Africa, Ghana has remained committed to these continental initiatives.

Having been the first to accede to the APRM, Ghana completed the first stage of the APRM process in February 2005, where a Country Self-Assessment Report on Ghana was submitted to the APR Secretariat in South Africa. As a follow-up process, Ghana received her APRM Review Mission from the APR Secretariat, led by Dr. Chris Stals (APR Panel Member) in May 2005.

On June 19th 2005, Ghana reached an important milestone in her APRM pursuits when both her Country Self-Assessment Report and APR Panel Report were presented to the APR Forum at the 3rd APR Forum in Abuja, Nigeria. In a few weeks, another APR Forum will be organised in Abuja, Nigeria for the President of Ghana to meet his Peers and be peer reviewed.

In order for the Ministry to build consensus and foster common understanding of the APRM process among diverse stakeholders in Ghana, a one-day workshop was held at **Miklin Hotel, Kumasi 13th August 2005** for media practitioners in Ashanti and the Brong Ahafo regions. The main objective of workshop was to adequately update the Media on the status of implementation of the APRM in Ghana and Ghana's APRM Programme of Action. The workshop was to ultimately make the Media well informed about the APRM endeavours of Ghana, so that when the President is Peer Reviewed and the Ghana's APRM Report is finally published, the Media would be better positioned to steer discussions on real issues raised in the Report towards the betterment of Ghana.

2. ATTENDANCE

45 media practitioners including representatives of Ghana Journalists Association, Ghana News Agency, Ghanaian Times, Graphic Communications Group, Information Service Department and Ghana Broadcasting Corporation attended the meeting. Other Media outfits or organizations represented included Luv FM, Zuria FM, Kessben FM, Kumasi Mail, Otec FM and Garden City Radio. Also present were Hon. Dr. Kofi Konadu Apraku (MP and Minister of Regional Cooperation and NEPAD),

Mr. Kwame Nuako (Special Assistant to the Minister) and Dr. Kojo Assan (Director of NEPAD at the Ministry of Regional Cooperation and NEPAD). The *detailed list of Participants is provided in Annex 1.*

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1 The APRM Framework in Ghana- Presentation by Dr. Kojo Assan (Director of NEPAD, Ministry of Regional Cooperation and NEPAD)

In this presentation Dr. Assan defined NEPAD and brought out the connections between NEPAD as a framework and the APRM as tool of monitoring and evaluation to ensure compliance with the tenets of NEPAD. He defined NEPAD as a socio-economic blueprint of the AU to entrench democracy and good governance, foster regional cooperation and integration, eradicate poverty and deprivation and place African Countries both individually and collectively on the path of sustainable growth and development. He explained the objectives of APRM some of which included identifying, evaluating and disseminating best practices in governance as well as identifying deficiencies and capacity gaps and making recommendations to address these issues.

He enumerated the 23 Countries that have so far acceded to the APRM which include Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. He described Ghana's position in APRM as the first to accede, first to complete the Country Self-Assessment and also first to undergo the APRM Review Mission.

He identified the four areas of APRM as Democracy and Political Governance, Economic Governance & Management, Corporate Governance and Socio-economic Development. He also identified the APRM architecture as, the APR Heads of State Forum (APR Forum), the Panel of Eminent Persons (APR Panel), the APRM Secretariat (APR Secretariat) and the Country Review Team (APR Team)

Furthermore, Dr. Assan described the national architecture of APRM implementation in Ghana that included the APRM Governing Council (comprising 7 eminent Ghanaians who are non-state actors), the APRM Secretariat, National Stakeholders and the Technical Review Teams. He explained the functions of the APRM Governing Council as overseeing the implementation of APRM in Ghana and ensuring that it is credible, professional and free from political manipulation.

He identified the Governing Council members as including Rev.Prof. S.K. Adjepong-Chairman, Amb. Alex N. Abankwa, Prof.S.K.B. Asante, Most Rev. Bishop Paul Bemile, Prof. Mrs. Miranda Greenstreet, Mr. Nutifafa Kuenyehia and Ms. Gloria Ofori-Boadu. He concluded his presentation by briefly describing the various stages of the APRM implementation processes, the ultimate of which is when the APRM Reports are submitted to the APR Forum for the Presidents concerned to be peer reviewed.

3.2 Update on APRM Implementation in Ghana and Ghana's APRM Programme of Action- Keynote Address by Hon. Dr. Kofi Konadu Apraku (Minister of Regional Cooperation & NEPAD)

In his keynote address, the Hon. Minister Dr. Kofi Konadu Apraku (MP) thanked all the media practitioners for attending and acknowledged the presence of those who had traveled from afar such as from the Brong Ahafo Region as well as the efforts of those who actually offered a helping hand in planning and organizing the workshop. He sincerely offered his deepest appreciation to the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAF) for collaborating with the Ministry of Regional Cooperation & NEPAD in organizing the workshop.

He recognized the earlier presentation by Dr. Assan as insightful in preparing the minds of the participants to appreciate what Ghana has achieved so far in APRM implementation. According to him, NEPAD has been approved and adopted by the AU as an economic blueprint to eradicate poverty and deprivation in Africa, to entrench democracy and good governance and to unite Africa in its bid to be counted as significant and important in a globalizing world.

He said that, Africans continue to suffer from failed policies and after 40 years of emancipation from the yoke of colonialism, Africans have not been able to set up and deliver time- tested institutions of good governance. He recognized that the era of military dictatorships had bad influence on Africans such that people have not been adequately free to pursue the passions of excellence. He said that the results of military adventurism in Africa have been dictatorships, abuse of power, corruption and mismanagement that have all conspired to put Africans where they are today. He said that, the situation in Africa is as bad as Africans trying and experimenting with what others have succeeded in, but all to no avail. He indicated that the result of all these failures has been that all the negatives in the indicators of development and prosperity in the world afflict Africa.

Further on this point, he said that the forces of globalization make it very difficult for Africa to be isolated from the rest of the world. African leaders are therefore caught in the vine to face the reality of accepting and practicing democracy or fail in their leaderships of dictatorship and abuse of power.

He said that African leaders have overwhelmingly recognized the need for a shift in paradigm in Africa that necessitated the merging of the two development visions such as the Omega Plan and the Millennium African Recovery Programme (MAP) to constitute the NEPAD framework for the renewal of the continent of Africa. He said that, because we in Africa talk a lot and deliver a little, the APRM was established as a mechanism to monitor and check progress and implementation.

According to Dr. Apraku, NEPAD recognizes that Africa cannot develop without good governance on the continent. NEPAD therefore attempts to promote and establish tenets of good governance in the areas of Democracy and Political

Governance, Corporate Governance, Economic Governance and Socio-Economic Development.

He said that, under Democracy and Political Governance, APRM aims at creating democracies that ensure that all basic rights of individuals are respected, so that people will be free to have a fulfilling and satisfying career. Under Good Economic Governance, APRM aims at ensuring that countries formulate policies that are credible, realistic and achievable and designed to reduce poverty, enhance growth and sustainable development. With respect to Good Socio-Economic Development, the APRM aims at ensuring that Africans have what it takes to lead a dignified life such as adequate access to education, health, housing, good drinking water and good sanitation and fair distribution of a nation's wealth. Under Corporate Governance, the APRM aims at engendering success in the private sector and ensuring that corporation do not pollute without regard to the value of life.

On the past instances of media misrepresentation of NEPAD and APRM, Dr. Apraku underscored the importance of the workshop in ensuring that media practitioners have all the facts about the initiatives so that they can bring a good sense of responsibility to bear on their reportage. He stated categorically that, unlike what others would want Ghanaians to believe, NEPAD and APRM are not owned by the Bretton Woods Institutions. These initiatives are African designed, owned and controlled. He urged the participants to have the opportunity to read the NEPAD document and see if there is any iota of conditionality in it. Better yet, he urged them to read the NEPAD document and compare it to IMF programmes that have specific timelines for countries to accomplish certain tasks or meet certain targets in order get some privileges, grants or loans.

He urged media practitioners to always endeavour to cross-check issues before publishing them, because we all become worse of when the a lie is told so many times to be believed by the people as the truth.

On the question of popularizing and sensitizing Ghanaians on NEPAD and APRM in order to empower the Ghanaian population to understand and engender broad participation in the implementation of APRM, Dr. Apraku talked about the Regional Launch of NEPAD education programmes in all 10 regional capitals of Ghana, the sensitization of staff of MDAs, including Office of the President, Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice, (CHRAJ), Serious Fraud Office (SFO), the Electoral Commission, Council of State etc. He also said that Leadership of Political Parties, Parliament, the Diplomatic Community, Trades Union Congress, the Media and Private Sector were all sensitized on the APRM and NEPAD.

He stated, the Government having set up the National APRM Governing Council supported by a Secretariat, Ghana started the APRM review exercise with participation of over 50,000 Ghanaians which is a good sample size by any statistical sampling method. He also put on record that the APRM review was not about the NPP or the NDC government, but about how our institutions of

governance perform. The institutions were not reviewed based on who established them, but they were reviewed based on their performance. He therefore advised that unlike the partisan politics that discussions on APRM were subjected too, it is important for the Media to focus the discussions on what progress we have made as a country, what we have accomplished as nation, what has held us back and what is the way forward.

He said that Ghana is making significant down payment in creating the enabling environment for good progress in the economy through her APRM aspirations. He explained Ghana's APRM Programme of Action, the implementation of which would cost US\$3.2 billion. He said that the APRM holds good prospects for Ghana and it has already engendered a lot of goodwill toward Ghana. He informed the participants that Ghana's APRM has been cited in Ghana's Debt Cancellation of 4.5 billion dollars and the Millennium Challenge Account of 290m dollars. He also stated that Ghana has been chosen among 10 countries in Africa to launch the NEPAD School Feeding Programme. Ghana has also been chosen as one out of sixteen Countries in Africa to implement the NEPAD e-schools project. He said that Ghana continue to feature prominently in Blair Commission Report and stands to benefit tremendously from the support of the Blair Initiative.

He concluded by urging Media practitioners to make the effort to be well informed about the NEPAD and APRM initiatives so that they can exaggerate the facts to have a focus on these initiatives but not exaggerate to divide or polarize the Country.

4. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

After the keynote address, the following questions were asked and answers provided on the various aspects of the presentation and they include:

- i. Was Ghana's APRM Report concealed from the Media, to have prompted those you chanced on it to publish only the negative aspects of the Report?

Answer: Ghana's APRM Report is technically still not available. The Report is the product of the AU and cannot be unilaterally released by Ghana to the Media. On June 19, 2005, Ghana's APRM Report was presented (in powerpoint) to the ARP Forum in Abuja, Nigeria and that was how summaries of the Report got out to some of the Media. The discussions as were based on the Snap shots or summaries ensued without the full complement of the entire Report and so issues were taken out of context. The whole Report would be ready and released by the AU after the Peer Review of the President of Ghana by his peers later on. Ghana is expected to comply with the laid down rules and not release the Report ahead of the AU.

- ii. Sensitizing the Media on NEPAD and APRM is a laudable thing to be done, but why is it happening now in Kumasi for this long?

Answer: As far back as 21st November 2002, the Media in Accra were part of the Consultative Forum organized in Accra to discuss the APRM. Admittedly, the sensitization of the Media has not been decentralized enough and by virtue of proximity, the Media in Accra have had much exposure than the Media in other parts of Ghana. Nevertheless, in the wake of the misinformed

Media Reportage on the Ghana's APRM Report, what transpired in Accra was not different from what transpired in areas where the Media had not been adequately sensitized on the NEPAD and APRM processes. It is important to acknowledge though that the Ministry had undertaken general sensitization of these initiatives at all regional capitals of Ghana to which the media were well represented.

Furthermore, the President is expected to go Abuja, very soon, to be peer reviewed and the Ministry strongly feels that this is opportune to the Media across the length and breadth of Ghana to be adequately informed on these initiatives before the President gets Peer Reviewed.

- iii. Unfair world trade order has accounted for major woes of African countries. Has NEPAD considered this in encouraging Africa-to-Africa Trade?

Answer: This consideration has been adequately reflected in the NEPAD objectives and principles. It is worth noting that one of the major objectives of NEPAD is to foster regional cooperation and integration in Africa. In this vein, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) representing the five AU regions of East, West North, Central and South, have been designated as the implementing agencies of NEPAD cross-border projects, with the ultimate aim of increasing intra-Africa trade.

The New Partnership that has been espoused in the NEPAD initiative is one that aims at building enduring partnerships based on mutual respect and accountability. Therefore, based on this new partnership, we have a responsibility to do what is expected of us as Africans and the West has a responsibility to remove barriers to free trade. The focus of NEPAD is therefore right. In this direction, African leaders have an opportunity through Africa Partnership Forum (APF), a forum that meets twice in a year, to meet Personal Representatives of the Leaders of the West to take stock of each person's pledges, commitments and achievements.

- iv. If NEPAD is seeking 64 billion dollars from the West to actualize the full implementation of the Initiative, are Africans not still dependent on the West? If so how can we then say that, NEPAD is African owned?

Answer: First of all, it is important to put on record that the US\$64 billion is the resource gap that Africa needs to fill in order to achieve the estimated 7 per cent annual growth rate needed to meet the International Development Goals- particularly the goal of reducing by half the proportion of Africans living in poverty by year 2015. Therefore, the US\$64 billion is not the total cost of implementing the NEPAD framework for which the West is expected to make available. However, the estimated resource gap requires African Countries to increase domestic savings as well as improve on public revenue collection systems.

On the other hand, it is important to know that NEPAD has not said that we Africans would not accept any help from Outsiders or the Western Countries. Indeed, we Africans would continue to count on the West for support as we

put our acts together to wean ourselves off the support. Japan use to be the biggest receiver of aid, but now Japan has become the largest giver of aid. Africa can emulate the same example.

- v. What is the future of NEPAD in entrenching democracy, when a Country like Kenya left a meeting for being cited for corruption?

Answer:

We in the Ministry do not have any information and are not aware of the fact that Officials of Kenya left a meeting when their country was cited for Corruption. To your information, Kenya is one of the 23 African countries that have currently acceded to the APRM and would even be the next in line to be reviewed.

- vi. Have Members of Parliament being sensitized on NEPAD and APRM?

Answer:

Yes, Parliament has been adequately briefed on NEPAD, APRM and status of implementation in Ghana. Indeed, the Ministry has always had workshops with the leaderships of Parliamentary-Select Committees in Parliament on NEPAD and APRM implementation, at least, once each year. By the same persuasion, Cabinet, the Diplomatic Community and Ghana Trades Union Congress have been adequately updated on the same subject matter.

- vii. Do we have specific timelines for the implementation of Ghana's APRM Programme of Action?

Answer:

The specific activities or plans have profiles of timelines such as short-term, medium term and long term, but timelines for implementation would generally depend on the availability of resources. Apart from Governments own commitments to implementing Ghana's APRM POA, the exercise has engendered enough goodwill towards Ghana and so some countries have already shown interest to help Ghana implement certain aspects of the POA.

- viii. What is the guarantee under NEPAD and APRM to ensure continuity when new or different governments come to power?

Answer:

It is important to appreciate the fact that NEPAD and APRM are the initiatives of the African Union and different governments in Africa at different times would be expected to live up to their responsibilities towards the AU in charting a common cause. The NEPAD and APRM constitute the two visions of better tomorrow for Africans. Therefore African Governments stand to benefit immensely from this process by having the opportunity to showcase themselves as countries of democracy, political stability and human rights. This is what would make NEPAD attractive to all African Countries. Moreover, the tenets of NEPAD seek to empower Africans to cherish democracy and good political governance. Therefore those governments that do not practice NEPAD and APRM would be doing so at their own peril of losing the support

of their people.

- ix. One reservation about the APRM is that the Heads of State will find it difficult to fault their counterparts. What do you say to this perception?

Answer:

This assertion is untenable. First of all, APR Forum (comprising Heads of State of countries that have acceded to the APRM) in peer reviewing any President would do so on the basis of a Report produced from a Country's Self-Assessment exercise (citizens of a country pronouncing on the state of governance of their country) and continental APR Review Mission (an exercise by the Panel of Eminent Persons and their Partner Institutions in certifying, independently, the results of the Country Self-Assessment findings). These are the processes that would produce the Report that the APR Forum is going to talk to. It is therefore inconceivable that the APR Forum would avoid the obvious findings of the Report and just scratch the back of their colleague President, for comfort.

In any case, APRM is a voluntary process and the Presidents would rather set high standards for their colleagues who have volunteered to be reviewed. It is also important to know that the APRM is not about a catalogue of punishments, but an opportunity for African Heads of State to learn about each others problems and focus on helping one another either financially or technically.

- x. How are resources going to be distributed to MDAs to carryout Ghana's APRM POA?

Answer:

The MDAs would set the activities out in their budgets and this would go through the normal budgeting processes including through Parliament for approval.

- xi. Is it encouraging that 23 Countries out of 53 have acceded to the APRM?

Answer:

In the beginning only 12 countries acceded to the APRM. The number increased to 16 and it now stands at 23. This in my opinion is encouraging in view of the fact that NEPAD is just three years old. Moreover, Ghana always has the reputation of setting the pace for others to follow. After going through APRM, Ghana would have succeeded in demystifying the process to encourage majority of African Countries to accede to the APRM. It is on record that the number of Countries that have already acceded to APRM would deliver good governance to more than 75% of Africa's population.

5. Recommendation and Way forward:

The following constitute the conclusions of the workshop:

1. The programme to sensitize the Media should be organized on regional basis as away of reaching out to many participants in all the 10 administrative regions of Ghana.

6. CONCLUSION

The Workshop was adjudged successful and was able to meet its objectives.

In his concluding remarks, the Honourable Minister assured participants that the Ministry would do its utmost best to conduct the programme on regional basis so as to reach many Media Practitioners in all the regions. He urged the participants to read further and get themselves on top of NEPAD and APRM issues. According to him, they should get themselves informed in order to help focus APRM and NEPAD discussions on core issues that would benefit Ghana.

ANNEX 1: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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