 

**PRESS RELEASE: PIDA WEEK 2018**

PIDA Week was inaugurated in 2015 as a platform to bring together key stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), to take stock of progress achieved over the years and particularly in the last year, as well as identify strategies to continue to advance and accelerate implementation. The 4th PIDA Week will be held from 26 to 29 November 2018, at the Elephant Hills Resort in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

Convened by the Commission of the African Union (AUC) and the NEPAD Agency, this year’s PIDA Week will be hosted by the Government of Zimbabwe under the auspices of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA) is among the AUC and NEPAD Agency’s funding, technical and implementing partners supporting the event.

The focus this year is on good governance and smart infrastructure under the theme ***“PIDA Implementation through Good Governance – Realizing Smart Infrastructure for Africa’s Integration***”, which will be addressed through the following five subthemes:

1. Project preparation, Resource Mobilisation and Financing Mechanisms
2. Capacity development, Job Creation and Empowerment
3. Smart and Integrated Infrastructure Development
4. Technology, Innovation and Industrialisation
5. Policy, Legal and Regulatory Frameworks

The main objective of PIDA Week is to showcase progress made in the implementation of selected PIDA projects, provide a marketing platform to accelerate their implementation, and address crucial issues around resource mobilisation and enabling environment. Outcomes of the week-long seminars and deliberations shall contribute towards informing ongoing efforts to achieve the goals of the African Union’s Agenda 2063, as well as the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The forthcoming PIDA Week will build on previous events to continue to engage stakeholders on the effective delivery of infrastructure on the continent focusing on good governance and how it can specifically help to:

* Enable project preparation and implementation;
* Support resource mobilisation;
* Promote private sector confidence to invest in PIDA projects;
* Encourage integration of PIDA projects into national development plans

The Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) is a strategic continental initiative which has the buy-in of all African countries, for mobilizing resources to transform Africa through modern infrastructure. Its 51 cross-border infrastructure projects comprise more than 400 prioritized infrastructure investment sub-projects across four main infrastructure sectors, namely Energy, Transport, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Trans-boundary Water Resources. The regional and continental sub-projects are actionable over the short, medium, and long-term, up to the year 2030. Projects in the short-term phase are the priority projects included in the PIDA Priority Action Plan (PIDA PAP) of PIDA Phase I. As Phase I is coming to an end, arrangements for its review are underway to formulate PIDA PAP II. The PIDA projects are drawn from the Master Plans of the Regional Economic Communities.

It is expected that through 4th PIDA Week, participants will have the opportunity to meet and engage with key stakeholders in PIDA implementation, identify innovative project financing and partnership models, discuss ways to address challenges facing infrastructure development and contribute to advancing good practice in infrastructure development.

PIDA project owners will have the opportunity to promote their projects, identify investment opportunities and identify ways to advance implementation of their projects. Recommendations will be captured through a report and Communiqué that will be presented as part of NEPAD’s reporting to the African Union in 2019.

As part of the strategy of cross-linkages with PIDA stakeholders, the 2018 PIDA Week will incorporate the Africa Forum for Utility Regulators (AFUR) AGM and annual conference. The event will be held at the Elephant Hills Resort in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

**Other documents**

4th PIDA Week Concept Note

Draft Programme for PIDA Week

Draft programme for the Parallel session on AIP support to PIDA Water

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 **About The New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) Agency**

The New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) Agency, serves as the African Union's development agency and implementing body of Agenda 2063 – the continent’s strategic framework for socio-economic transformation over a period of 50 years. It is in this context of reform for better delivery that the NEPAD Agency, through various programmatic interventions with countries on the continent, works towards enabling the continent’s people to see **‘*The Africa We Want*’ through *Agenda 2063*,** and its ***First Ten-Year Implementation Plan***. Guided by the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan, which is a shared strategic framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development the NEPAD works towards building ‘An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena.’

**About the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa**

## The Global Water Partnership (GWP) Africa is one of the continental networks of the international network, The Global Water Partnership, created to foster an integrated approach to water resources management and solutions to water-related problems (such as climate change and urbanisation). GWP’s action network provides knowledge and builds capacity to improve water management at all levels: global, regional, national and local, advocating for the application of an integrated approach to water resources management (IWRM). In line with its vision of a “Water Secure World”, GWP supports countries in better water management through political buy-in on water-related policies. GWP Africa manages activities and programmes with stakeholders in the SADC Region and at the Pan-African level to bring about solutions that are both tailored to local conditions and informed by local experiences and good practices from across the continent.