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**COMESA Secretary General Sindiso Ngwenya on 29th may 2012 received credentials from Italian Ambassador to Zambia and COMESA Special Representative Dr Pier Mario Dacco' at the COMESA secretariat in Lusaka, Zambia.**

During the function, Secretary-General Sindiso Ngwenya said integrated infrastructure development in Africa plays a very critical role in enhancing regional integration because it helps to bring markets together for the business community.

Mr. Ngwenya however pointed out that COMESA member states are making headways in ensuring that the region is connected through regional infrastructure projects like the Zambia-Tanzania-Kenya interconnector, the Angola – Zambia interconnector and many more corridors.

Ngwenya said that there is urgent need to invest in regional infrastructure projects like the Angola-Zambia railways, which will eventually open markets for the Angolan and Zambian business communities as transportation of goods and people will be enhanced.

He said that Democratic Republic of Congo is also another COMESA countries where they are building over six thousand kilometers of roads so that this vast nation, which is larger than the Western Europe, can be interlinked.

And Italian ambassador to Zambia and also special representative to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa- COMESA Dr Pier Maria Dacco' said Italy will continue to be a development partner to COMESA and other RECs in Africa to accomplish the integration agenda.

Dr Dacco' said Africa has grown economically in the past years and can no longer be deemed an undeveloped continent because of the power of integration which the RECs like COMESA have embraced.

He however challenged the Regional economic communities in Africa to develop dimensions in regional integration.

Dr Dacco' said that he is very impressed with the manner COMESA is implementing its programmes and projects and will always report to the Italian government on the successes that COMESA has scored in the implementation of the integration agenda.

