



THE AFRICAN CAPACITY BUILDING FOUNDATION | FONDATION POUR LE RENFORCEMENT DES CAPACITES EN AFRIQUE

HONORABLE MINISTER WYCLIFFE AMBETSA OPARANYA, MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND VISION 2030, GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO UGANDA

CHAIRMAN OF THE ACBF EXECUTIVE BOARD AND ACBF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES OF ACBF-SUPPORTED INSTITUTIONS AND PROGRAMS IN UGANDA

DEAR COLLEAGUES

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We meet here today to witness the signing of the Grant Agreement between the Government of Kenya and the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) regarding the support to the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research Analysis (KIPPRA) Phase III Project. This is an additional occasion to mark the long term partnership between the Republic of Kenya and ACBF.

Indeed, ACBF's relationship with the Republic of Kenya dates as far back as 1993 when ACBF awarded its first grant of US\$ 2,525,000 to the

Institute for Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR) with the objective to support independent policy analysis and advice in Kenya. In order to reinforce and address the growing need for policy analysis within the Government, ACBF awarded in 1999 a Grant of US\$1,630,000 to the Government of Kenya to support the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research Analysis (KIPPRA). ACBF renewed its support to KIPPRA in 2003 with another grant of US\$1,700,000. Today we are gathered to witness the signing of the Grant Agreement awarding a grant of US\$2,000,000 in support of KIPPRA Phase III.

HONORABLE,

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

As you may note, this ceremony marks the continuum of more than 17 years of ACBF's support to policy analysis in Kenya. In addition, the Foundation has been supporting other national projects and regional programs based in Nairobi. These include NGO Council, Center for Corporate Governance (CCG), and Kenya Knowledge Network for Research and Development (KNET), Network of ACBF-Supported Projects, graduate and post graduate training programs for economists hosted by the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), the Master's Degree Program in Banking and Finance with a special focus on Microfinance hosted by the Kenya School of Monetary Studies (MBFM-KSMS) and the African Research and Resource Forum (ARRF). In short, since 1993, Republic of Kenya has benefitted from support from the

Foundation amounting to more than US\$ 40 million through grants awarded to national and regional projects/programs.

Moreover, it is worth noting that the excellent cooperation between the Government of Kenya and ACBF was translated in the pledge of \$1,450,000 by the Government of Kenya in support of efforts of the Foundation to fulfill its mandate.

HONORABLE,

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

KIPPRA Phase III Project aims at strengthening the policy environment in Kenya. Let me take this opportunity to underscore the critical role of Policy Units in the policy making process. Effective policy decision making becomes challenging in the absence of reliable policy guidance and advice. The main mandate of Policy Units is to undertake research and evidence-based analysis that policymakers can use as basis for policy formulation and effective decisions. This role becomes prominent especially in the current complex globalized world with emergent issues and challenges in the development arena. Policy Units are key for any Government and non-state actors given their ability to respond to and to analysis policy issues. It is the reason why, ACBF has always put its priority in the support of Policy Centers in order to address capacity needs in the area of economic policy analysis and management. Indeed, the shortage of reliable, effective think tanks as tools for policy making is at the heart of the creation of the Foundation.

To fulfill its mandate, ACBF has patiently supported policy institutes in Africa over close to twenty years. As a result these institutes have today become one of the major capacity development interventions. The invaluable lessons that have been learnt from almost twenty years of nurturing of these institutions, demonstrate that capacity building is a long term endeavour that requires flexibility, creativity and dedication. As ACBF celebrates its 20th anniversary on February 9, 2011, policy institutes will continue to remain of prime importance to our Foundation's strategy. The increasing ability of policy institutes, such as KIPPRA, to track trends, analyse and raise concerns for policymakers, underpins the continued relevance of these development institutions. They play a pivotal role in determining Africa's immediate and future development agendas.

The goal of KIPPRA III Project is to support Government of Kenya's efforts in policy analysis and formulation towards national economic development. To achieve this goal, KIPPRA will pursue the following specific objectives to :

- Enhance capacity of KIPPRA to produce quality research and policy support to Government and other stakeholders;
- Strengthen capacity of Government, private sector and civil society in policy formulation and analysis;
- Enhance KIPPRA's communication capacity to enable the Institute respond to national policy issues;

- Strengthen the Institute’s partnerships and networks;
- Enhance KIPPRA’s institutional capacity in order to effectively support the policy process and ensure its sustainability.

HONORABLE,

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Today, ACBF is proud to provide funding to KIPPRA enabling the Institute to reach the phase of maturity and then paving the way for its long term sustainability. The project whose Grant agreement we are about to sign was designed in a context where results obligation and fiduciary accountability become prominent and critical condition prior further resource mobilization and sustainability for any institution. In that regard, the Foundation endeavors to assist projects in developing a robust Result-Based Framework to ensure an effective monitoring and evaluation of activities. Also, I would like to encourage the Projects Management Teams to consider compliance with results and fiduciary requirements as a key milestone of our partnership and condition to ensure the effectiveness of the Foundation’s operations in the country. Indeed, ACBF is more than ever oriented towards achieving results in innovative countries like Kenya where vibrant transformation is ongoing.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the people of Kenya for having adopted a new Constitution which will positively shape the future development of the country.

ACBF is committed to accompany the Government of Kenya in building capacity for effective economic policy decisions required for the implementation of the new constitutional framework. The signing of this Grant today is a demonstration of this commitment. In approving the project, ACBF is well cognizant of the critical contribution that KIPPRA is going to play in the implementation of the Kenya Vision 2030. Realization of *Kenya Vision 2030* will require national capacity for generating the right policy information and policy choices and extending strategic policies to the Government of Kenya. The need for objective, policy-relevant stock of knowledge and precision in the selection of appropriate policy packages is perhaps greater now than ever before as Kenya addresses the challenges that have determined its development since independence.

Through the support to KIPPRA and to other national and regional projects, ACBF is very proud to be part of this process which ultimately will contribute to the alleviation of poverty in the country.

HONORABLE,

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Kenya through the Honourable Minister for its commitment and support provided to ACBF enabling the Foundation to pursue its important work in Africa.

Thank you for your kind attention.