

## PRESS RELEASE

### **ACBF AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI SIGN US\$4.5 MILLION GRANT AGREEMENT**

**Harare, 28 January 2010-** The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and the Government of the Republic of Burundi, through its Minister of Finance, Madame Clotilde Nizigama, today signed a Grant Agreement of US\$4.5 million in support of the Burundi National Capacity Building Program. The grant had earlier been approved by the ACBF Executive Board at its 39<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting held on 24 – 25 April 2008, in Cape Town, South Africa. This would be the first grant agreement signed in 2010 by ACBF following a period of organizational transformation.

The grant is to provide support for the promotion of good governance and sustainable economic growth through the implementation of the country's poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP) strategic pillars. The Grant will assist the Government of the Republic of Burundi to build and strengthen the capacity of institutions involved in the formulation, management and monitoring of economic policies and programs; strengthen targeted public institutions to enable them to effectively perform their functions in public financial management and accountability; enhance capacity of non-state actors to adequately participate in economic and financial policymaking processes; and; build and strengthen,

through tailored training sessions, the human capacity of public service, private sector and civil society in economic policy analysis and development management.

Speaking at the grant signing ceremony, Dr Frannie Léautier, Executive Secretary of ACBF, expressed the hope that the efficient implementation of this program in collaboration and in synergy with other development partners such as the World Bank, the United Nations Development Program, and the African Development Bank, the grant would provide further opportunities for extensive participation of all stakeholders in the economic and social development of Burundi. She used the opportunity of the grant signing to reiterate the attention ACBF pays to fiduciary and financial aspect of portfolio management so as to ensure resources allocated to grants are well spent.

Madame Nizigama, Minister of Finance of the Republic of Burundi, acknowledged the support ACBF has extended to the Republic of Burundi over the years, and pointed out that the new grant of US\$4.5 million would help strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of Government and non-state actors.

The Executive Secretary of ACBF, Dr Frannie Léautier further underlined the importance of strong institutions, adequate and skilled human resources, and the need for a clear vision in achieving long term social and economic development goals on the continent and particularly in Burundi.

ACBF looks forward to fruitful collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Burundi in the implementation of the National Capacity Building Program over the next five years, and is certain that the country will realize its hopes for rebuilding of institutions, reconstitution of its human resource base and overall poverty reduction.

To date, ACBF has committed a total amount of US\$12 million to various projects and programs in the Republic of Burundi. ACBF looks forward to 2010 with

renewed vigour and enthusiasm in contributing to the building of the capacity of public institutions, civil society and the private sector interface with public institutions and civil society in Africa.

For more Information, please contact:

Rutendo Kambarami

Communications Officer

The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) 7<sup>th</sup> Floor ZB Life Towers

Corner Jason Moyo Avenue and Sam Nujoma Street

Harare

**ZIMBABWE**

Tel: + (263 -4) 700 208/ 790 398/9

Fax: + (263-4) 702 915, 792 894

E-mail: [r.kambarami@acbf-pact.org](mailto:r.kambarami@acbf-pact.org)