

## PRESSE RELEASE

On Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007; the Hon. Minister of Finance and Economic Planning and the EU signed an amendment of 5 millions EURO to the Decentralised Programme for Rural Poverty Reduction financial agreement, increasing the allocated fund from 29 millions Euros to a total of EURO 34 millions.

The fund for the 9<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund is allocated to various currents programmes.

Sector 1 : Rural development	€ 69,940,000
Sector 2: Macro-economic support	€ 86.000.000
Sector 3: Interventions beyond concentration	€ 26,080,000

In the framework for mutual obligation COM Stabex 96-99, an additional €22,996,882 is allocated to the rural development.

The Rural Development Sector takes about 39% of the current EDF budget allocated to Rwanda, one of the main programme of the sector is the Decentralised Programme for Rural Poverty Reduction, which support Ubudehe and Districts for a total budget of € 29,000,000. So far, the result are encouraging, especially for Ubudehe Project because it's a way to tackle poverty from the base and people are learning to identify their problem and related solutions.

Thus, the Decentralised Programme for Poverty Reduction (DPRPR) has received a n additional financial support from the EDF. By this financing, the European Commission support the Government in its effort to carry effective Decentralization and to continue the Ubudehe programme in the years to come.

The additional funds will enable to support the implementation of the Districts Development Plans and to finance at the national level the Ubudehe 2007 campaign.

The Ubudehe programme will proceed at the level of the Imidugudu in accordance with the reform of the public administration. It will place at the disposal of each "Umudugudu" an amount of 600.000 RFW for the implementation of a priority project, and an amount of 60.000 RFW that the community will allocate to a vulnerable family in order to help it to carry out one generating income project. The Ubudehe campaign will also provide a source of information necessary for the preparation of district development plans. Finally through the Common Development Fund at MINALOC, the DPRPR programme will support about fifty projects in the districts throughout the country.

Amb. David Macrae expressed, on his behalf and the Government of Rwanda, their appreciation to the European Commission in its effort to fight against Poverty in Rwanda and to walk with us towards our vision 2020.