



Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning

PRESS RELEASE

Rwanda Meets 2010 Target for Quality of Public Financial Management Systems

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A recent survey coordinated by the World Bank and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), a Paris-based think-tank, revealed a significant improvement in the quality of Rwanda's public financial management systems over the period 2005-2007, meeting an internationally agreed target well in advance of its 2010 deadline.

This finding is revealed in the results of the 2008 Survey on Monitoring the Paris Declaration, which assesses Rwanda's progress in the implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness - a high-level international agreement between donors and partner countries to increase the quality of foreign aid. The Paris Declaration also foresees that bilateral and multilateral donors should make increasing use of Government systems in the delivery of their aid – an area in which Rwanda's donors need to make further improvements.

Speaking from his Ministry in Kigali on Wednesday, The Honourable James Musoni, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, said

“This report highlights the benefits that are being brought about by Government's commitment to strengthen its financial management systems. This goes to show that our commitment is being translated into actions, and that our international partners recognise this.”

The Survey uses an assessment undertaken by the World Bank to score countries on the strength of their systems following a six-point scale, with 1 as the weakest, and 6 as the most advanced. Over the two-year period, Rwanda's score increased from 3.5 to 4.0, which was the agreed target to be reached by 2010. This now places Rwanda in the top 12 countries scoring 4.0 (out of a total of 54 countries surveyed). No country scored higher than this in 2007, putting

Rwanda's performance at a par with that of Uganda, Ethiopia, Senegal and Ghana.

Recent areas of reform include improvements to budget preparation and presentation, the complete release of [the whole government consolidated Financial Statements](#) from 2006 onwards and their comprehensive audit by the Office of the Auditor General. All of this contributes to enhanced transparency and accountability, ensuring that Rwandans better understand and contribute to their long-term development. Musoni added:

“Of course, the work we are doing to strengthen our systems is not done with only donors in mind. These are the systems used for all government expenditure, and they will continue to be used as our reliance on foreign aid declines.”

In 2007, international donors provided a total of 695 million US Dollars in aid to Rwanda. The Survey found however that less than half of these funds made use of the Government's financial management systems, indicating that Rwanda's donors could do better. Providing aid through government systems enhances ownership, efficacy and accountability in the implementation of Rwanda's new Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS).

These findings come as Rwanda prepares to showcase its progress and the challenges ahead at the forthcoming Accra High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. The Accra High-Level Forum will bring together ministers from over 100 countries, donor agencies, and civil society organisations to take stock of progress in improving the effectiveness of aid. It will be held in Accra from 2nd to 4th September 2008, where the full report of the 2008 Survey will be launched.

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Further information on the Government of Rwanda's work to improve public financial management and aid effectiveness can be found online at <http://www.minecofin.gov.rw> and <http://www.devpartners.gov.rw>.

Details of the Survey on Monitoring the Paris Declaration and of the Accra High Level Forum can be found at <http://www.oecd.org/dac/hlfsurvey> and <http://www.accrahlfn.net> respectively.