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PAN-AFRICAN TSETSE AND TRYPANOSOMIASIS ERADICATION CAMPAIGN (PATTEC) HAS A NEW COORDINATOR, TEN YEARS AFTER ITS FOUNDATION



Addis Ababa, 2 August 2011 – During the handover ceremony in the Office of the Director of Rural Economy and Agriculture, on 2nd August 2011, the PATTEC ‘instruments of power’ was given to Dr. Hassane Mahamat by Dr. John Kabayo. The instruments consisted of a report, the tsetse gun (PATTEC flag) and a PATTEC cap. The ceremony took place in the presence of some staff from the Commission and particularly the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA).

Speaking during the handover ceremony, Dr. Abebe Haile Gabriel, Director, DREA hailed the occasion as a sign of maturity for power transfer.

He commended Dr. Kabayo’s efforts and commitment in serving Africa through the fight against tsetse flies and trypanosomiasis. He pledged to support the new Coordinator.

On his part, Dr. Kabayo outlined the history of PATTEC and how it has come to attract the attention of African leaders and other partners. Dr. Hassane congratulated Dr. Kabayo on the achievements of the programme in the last 10 years. For example, the Member States that are declared tsetse free and countries that have included the eradication of tsetse flies and trypanosomiasis in their national priorities. After outlining the anticipated challenges, Dr. Kabayo envisages as Coordinator, the establishment of a PATTEC Trust Fund to ensure that resources are available to the programme.

Meanwhile, PATTEC celebrated 10 years during the 17th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Heads of State and Government that took place in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, 30th June-1st July, 2011. H.E. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, the President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and the Chairperson of the African Union is the PATTEC Patron for the ECCAS Region while H.E. Prof. Bingu wa Mutharika, the President of the Republic of Malawi and former Chairperson of the African Union is the Patron of PATTEC in the SADC Region.

Worth noting, PATTEC is one of the six regional technical offices of DREA which address specialized issues and needs of Africa. Other agencies include: Inter-Africa Bureau for Animal Resources based in Nairobi, Kenya, Pan-African Veterinary Vaccine Centre based in Debre Zeit, Ethiopia, Fouta Djallon Highlands Integrated Resources Programme based in Conakry Guinea, Inter-African Phytosanitary Council based in Yaounde, Cameroon as well as Semi-arid Food Grain Research and Development based in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.