



Press Release

AU Offers Emergency Relief Assistance to Comoros

Chairperson Hands Over Cheque for USD300,000 to Comoros Ambassador



*Chairperson Ping (L) and Ambassador Mondoha exchange the signed grant agreement, on 4 July 2012
(Photo AUDIC)*

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 5 July 2012 --- Following the recent landslide, mudslide and floods that struck the Union of Comoros, the African Union (AU) has offered a grant amounting to 300,000 US Dollars to assist victims of these natural disasters.

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr. Jean Ping, and the Ambassador of the Union of Comoros to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union, H.E. Mr. Assoumani Youssouf Mondoha, signed the grant agreement at AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, on Wednesday, 4 July 2012.

The decision to extend emergency relief assistance to Comoros was approved by the 20th Extra-ordinary Session of the Policy Committee of the Special Emergency Assistance Fund for Drought and Famine in Africa (SEAF), held on 10 May 2012. The

funds will be used to provide food and non-food assistance to victims of the landslide, mudslide and floods that recently hit Comoros.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, the Chairperson said that it is normal for the African Union to assist a Member State affected by natural disasters.

He added that the African Union has always shown concern for the political situation in Comoros and reiterated the AU position on the Comoros islands of Mayotte, which are also claimed by France.

In that regard, the Chairperson re-stated the position of the African Union, which is shared by other international organizations including the United Nations, that Mayotte is an inseparable part of the Union of Comoros.

On his part, Ambassador Assoumani Youssouf Mondoha thanked the African Union for the emergency relief assistance and its strong support for Comoros' legitimate assertion of its territorial integrity over Mayotte.

He also extended to the Chairperson the appreciation of the President of the Union of Comoros, H.E. Mr. Ikililou Dhoinine, for the efforts Dr. Ping has always deployed since the Comoros acceded to independence, to ensure the political stability and development of the country.

Both personalities exchanged views on the current situation in Comoros and agreed to continue working together to achieve a speedy and just resolution of the international dispute over Mayotte, without which long-term peace and stability in the country could not be guaranteed.

Comoros is an archipelago island nation located in the Indian Ocean, off the south eastern coast of mainland Africa. Its neighbours include Mauritius, Madagascar, Tanzania, Mozambique and Seychelles. The country is a former French colony which gained its independence in July 1975. Comoros has a population of about 900,000.

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