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AU Commemorates Africa Public Service Day (APSD)

Kigali, Rwanda 21st June 2017: The commemoration of the Continental Africa Public Service Day kicks off today 21 June 2017 in Kigali, Republic of Rwanda. This event will be celebrated till 23 June 2017, at Kigali Convention Center (KCC). The commemoration of the APSD takes place at national and continental levels. The continental celebration is a biennial event while the AU Member States are mandated to celebrate the National Day, every year. The continental APSD has been celebrated four times; in Namibia (2007); in Tanzania (2009 & 2011), in Ghana (2013) and in Congo (2015), and the 6th continental APSD commemoration is celebrated this year in the Republic of Rwanda.

This year's Africa Public Service Day is celebrated under the theme: **“Entrenching a citizen-centered service delivery culture: Partnering with the youth for Africa's transformation”**. The rationale behind this theme is premised on AU's aspirations as stipulated in 2063 Agenda whereby Africans desire to have a continent that puts its citizens at the center of all programs and projects. This is in line with the decision of the African Union Heads of States who declared 2017 as the year of *“harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in youth”*. In Africa, youth represent around 60% of the population; therefore, there is an overarching need not only to partner strategically with the youth and invest in them, but to also leverage their potential in the development of their communities. It is therefore important to build strong, competent, innovative, developmental, professional as well as merit based public institutions that serve and deliver effectively and efficiently to the satisfaction of the citizenry.



In her remarks, **H.E. Minata Cessouma Samate**, *Commissioner for Political Affairs of the African Union Commission* thanked all the Ministers, Heads of Delegations and delegates from the respective AU Member States for sparing time to come and celebrate this continental event which is its 6th edition. She expressed her profound gratitude to the government and people of Rwanda for their support in the organization of this event and

thanked the President of the Republic for the unflinching commitment of his country in making Africa a better one especially with his leadership role on the AU Reforms processes. She recalled the decision of the Conference of African Ministers of Public Service and Administration adopting the 23 June as the African Public Service Day, thereafter followed by the Sirte decision of the Executive Council of the AU adopting this day as the African Public Service Day. She urged all the Ministers for Public Services to sign and ratify the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration which has already entered into force as this is an important instrument to promote good governance on the continent.

In her remarks, **H.E. Sicily K. Kariuki EGH**, *Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs and Chair of the Sub-committee of the AU-STC 8 on Public Service and Administration*, recalled the importance of effective service delivery on the continent through this year's celebration and urged the importance of ICTs as valuable tools for equitable and successful development as good governance can only be achieved through effective and efficient service delivery. Finally, she called on all to put in place appropriate policies that will address the issues of growing youth on the continent.



In her remarks, **Hon. Judith UWIZEYE**, *Minister for Public Service and Labour of Rwanda* emphasized that the celebration provides another opportunity to devise ways of ensuring meaningful engagement of our youth, ensuring that youth serve their critical role in Africa's transformation.

In his keynote address, **Hon. Anastase Murekezi**, *Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda* expressed his warm greetings and best wishes on behalf of **H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda**. He stressed the necessity of effective service delivery for all Africans. He urged all African Governments to provide better trainings that match opportunities and requirements for the labour market in order to help African Youth in raising their productive capacities. He then re-assured all on the commitment of the Government of Rwanda to promote professionalism and ethics in its public service through the use of ICT, of which, they are beginning to observe tangible results in public service delivery. He re-affirmed the commitment of Rwanda to implementing the recommendations from this event.



The objectives of the 2015 APSD are to reflect on the function of the public service, give recognition to and make known the importance of civil service, motivate and encourage public servants to continue the good work done and to come up with new initiatives and innovations to promote Africa development and finally, prepare the public service and administration for a better future by proposing changes for the social well-being of the population.

The African Union Commission and the Government of Rwanda will award AU Members States in the following categories,

- Best Managed, Accountable, Transparent and Accessible Organization Award
- Best innovation in Citizen Centered Service Delivery Award,
- Best Youth Empowering Program Award, and
- Best Pavilion and Exhibition Booths Award.

A special Ministerial Session for African Ministers responsible for Public/Civil Service was held on 21 June and the new bureau of the AU-STC8 Subcommittee on Public Service and Administration was elected to run its activities for the next two (2) years (2016-18). Another will be held on the last day, 23 June 2017 with a view to provide a framework for the special role of African Public/Civil Services in implementation of the AU Agenda 2063.

For further inquiry, please contact:

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