



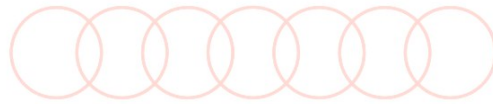
STATEMENT BY

**H.E. Mrs. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace,
Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture,**

on the occasion of

**the visit by the Ministerial Delegation of AU Member States and
AUC Officials to the Headquarters of the Arab Bank for
Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) on issues pertaining
to the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication
Campaign (PATTEC),**

Khartoum, Sudan, 15-16 June 2013.



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Thank you Master of Ceremonies,
Good Morning
The Director General of BADEA
Honorable Ministers
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I have the honour and pleasure to be participating in this important meeting.

On behalf of the Honorable Ministers and the rest of my delegation, I would like to express our appreciation and thanks to the Government and the People of Sudan for the warm welcome and great hospitality, we received. The audience accorded to us by Dr. Nafi of the Office of the President was instructive in forging the ideal of African Renaissance and Pan Africanism in the spirit that Sudan hosted the 35 African political parties in Khartoum that established a Council of African Political Parties to fast-track Africa's political and economic integration, as the continent marks 50 years since the founding of the Organization of African Unity, predecessor to the African Union. Special thanks go to Dr. Hassan Faisal, Minister of Livestock, Fisheries and Range Land, who received the delegation on arrival up to the wee hours of the night and with his team offered the delegation a Nile cruise and a sumptuous lunch. Shukran to the Honourable Minister and to Sudan Government! The cruise on the Nile was a stark reminder of our unity and our mission for integration and sustainable natural resource management. I must also commend the Government of The Republic of Sudan, the staff and management of the SAFARI, Sudan Institute for Animal Reproduction Technologies which we also visited yesterday and we noted it among Arica's success stories in livestock development as well as technical cooperation open to other AU Member States.

I would like, at this juncture, to thank H.E Mr Abdelaziz Khelef, the Director General of BADEA for accepting to receive the Delegation, despite his busy schedule. You are here to receive us and we appreciate that. We consider BADEA as not only a driver of Africa's development but also a key factor in Africa-Arab Cooperation which as you know has been growing from strength to strength especially with the last Summit of Heads of State in Libya in 2010 and the preceding Conference of Ministers of Agriculture in Sharm el Sheikh. In fact, preparations are in advanced stages for the next Ministerial Conference later this year to be again followed by the Summit of Heads of State and Government on Africa-Arab Cooperation.

The fact that the planning of this particular mission to Khartoum has spanned over a relatively long period is indication of the thoroughness with which all parties committed attention to it.

I would like, in the same vein, to express appreciation for the commitments made by Hon. Ministers from AU Member States, AUC Officials and BADEA which is a demonstration of the significance of the mission.

We will all of us present here use the opportunity to enhance partnership arrangements between AUC, AU MS and BADEA for achievement of our share goal to eradicate Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis in this region so as to unleash the region's development potential.

May I, at this juncture, emphasize that AUC recognizes the transformative power of partnerships as they lead to sharing of responsibilities, resources, competences and benefits.

I take the same opportunity to brief the DG and Hon. Ministers on the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture's overarching agenda which is to provide leadership in coordinating continent wide policies, programs and efforts towards addressing challenges facing the African Agriculture, Food Security, Rural Development and the Environment Management.

The strategic intervention areas of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture which I head at the AU Commission include animal production and productivity, crop production and productivity, environment, natural resources management, including land, and climate change, rural economy and diversification of livelihood systems.

Top on the agenda is the need to address food and nutrition security on the African continent which we consider to be pivotal. It is the basis upon which we can pursue peace and security, regional integration, human resource development and other ideals.

To achieve the above mentioned goals, DREA's activities are carried out by three divisions;

1. Agriculture and Food Security,
2. Rural Economy, and ;
3. Water, Environment and Natural Resources,

as well as six specialized technical offices spread across the continent:

- Pan-African Tsetse & Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC); Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR), Nairobi, Kenya;
- Inter-African Phyto-sanitary Council (IAPSC), Yaoundé, Cameroun;
- Pan-African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (PANVAC), Debre Zeit, Ethiopia;

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- Semi-Arid Food Grains Research and Development (SAFGRAD); Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso;
- Fouta Djallon Highlands Integrated Natural Resources Management Programme; Conakry, Guinea

We are aware and grateful that in the past four years, BADEA has supported AU-PATTEC in activities that have assisted to build capacities of African countries to implement their Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis (T&T) interventions

We recognize that PATTEC activities contribute to all the four pillars of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), that is sustainable land and water management, be it market access and private sector engagement, e it combating hunger and malnutrition especially for the vulnerable sections of the population or e it research and technology generation and dissemination.

The Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis affected countries some of which are represented here as well as others have committed own resources and support from partners to the implementation of the PATTEC initiative as you will hear as we progress in the discussions, but resources are inadequate owing to the multiplicity of other competing priority areas in our development realm.

This mission presents an opportunity to a selected a number of AU MS to highlight the impact of Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis in their respective territories and plans to address the scourge against the background of resource limitations and with governments' and partners' determination to eradicate this problem.

I wish to once again express gratitude to BADEA for demonstrating willingness to provide more support to the PATTEC Initiative, AU-PATTEC Coordination Office and other development initiatives on the African continent in a true spirit of constructive partnership.

Further, on behalf of the Commission of the African Union, I would like to thank BADEA for supporting other Departments at the AUC including the Department of Economic Affairs (Capacity building), contributing to the Afro-Arab disaster response fund and investment promotion held in 2009.

As I indicated earlier on, DREA has a number of priority areas, but this mission is dedicated to seeking partnership arrangements to address the T&T problem that is one of the major constraints in Agriculture and Rural Development in much of Africa. Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis decimate or weigh down the livestock sector which is both for food and incomes. Tsetse and

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Trypanosomiasis also affect human beings and when people are sick they are unable to be productive and this undermines economic development including tourism as well. Therefore, eradicating this scourge will unlock energies and resources towards agricultural production, productivity, food and nutrition security as well as poverty eradication.

We look forward to working closely with BADEA in order to formulate a comprehensive programme on BADEA's future sustained support to Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis interventions including other areas such as Sustainable Land Management (SLM), among others.

On behalf of the Delegation of the African Union Commission, I wish to register our appreciation, once again, to the Bank and its leadership for its support to contribute to greater development of the continent, food security and poverty alleviation on the African continent especially so in this year of Pan Africanism and African Renaissance when we commemorate the OAU/AU 50th Anniversary, and as we also plan to mark the 2014 AU Year of Agriculture and Food Security.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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