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PRESS RELEASE

KENYA TO HOST COMESA MONETARY INSTITUTE (CMI)

The 14th Meeting of the COMESA Committee of Governors of Central Banks held in Mauritius from 26-30 October 2009 ratified the decision for Central Bank of Kenya to host the COMESA Monetary Institute (CMI). The CMI is an institution of COMESA which will, among other objectives monitor implementation of the Monetary Cooperation Programme under COMESA; harmonize regulation of financial markets in the region; and provide technical work and studies towards Monetary Policy in the region as well as the establishment of a common currency in the COMESA region.

Kenya and Zambia were the only countries that expressed interest in hosting the CMI. Since their bids met the selection criteria, the COMESA Committee of Governors of Central Banks appointed a Bureau of Experts to visit the two countries and make physical assessment of the pledged infrastructure and other amenities for the Institute. The Bureau of Experts visited Kenya and Zambia in early September 2009 and compiled a report which recommended that the CMI be established in Kenya under the Central Bank's Kenya School of Monetary Studies (KSMS). The COMESA Committee of Governors of Central Banks appreciated the facilities CMI would enjoy at the KSMS and exploit the potential synergy arising from the KSMS Research Centre and the support of the Kenya Government institutions. In addition, Kenya is host to other institutions complementary to CMI like the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) and the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA).

The Central Bank of Kenya wishes to acknowledge the support of the Government towards success of this bid to host the CMI. In particular, the CBK wishes to thank the Head of Public Service and Secretary to Cabinet, Ambassador Francis Muthaura; the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta; the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Moses Wetangula; the Attorney General, Hon. Amos Wako; and the Minister for Trade, Hon. Amos Kimunya for their support and also their show of support during the technical evaluation. In the COMESA Governors' meeting, the Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya gave an assurance to deliver a COMESA Monetary Institute for the region.

PROF. NJUGUNA NDUNG'U
GOVERNOR, CENTRAL BANK OF KENYA

November 3, 2009