

**REMARKS BY THE HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE AND
ECONOMIC PLANNING ON THE OCCASION FOR THE
SIGNATURE OF THE RWANDA POVERTY AND ENVIRONMENT
INITIATIVE PROJECT**

1/7/2007, KIGALI

Honourable Ministers,

UNDP Resident Representative and UN Coordinator

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. It is a great pleasure for me this afternoon to be with you on this occasion of signatory ceremony of the Rwanda Poverty and Environment initiative – Phase II financed by (United Nations Environmental Programme).
2. On behalf of the Government of Rwanda and on my own, allow me to express our sincere appreciation to the Irish Government, UNDP and UNEP for extending financing to the tune of over USD \$ 2,300,000 Million towards Rwanda Poverty and Environment initiative – Phase II.
3. As articulated in our vision 2020, environment protection is among 4 major cross cutting domains and among 10 major building blocks to achieve vision 2020 goals.
4. Poverty reduction and Environment are placed high priority among the development priorities of the GoR and this project fits well in the framework of the EDPRS where all the sectors will have linkages to reduce poverty through enhancing sound environment management, promoting sustainable economic growth with ultimate target of achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. As we move towards the new phase of the Rwanda Poverty and Environment Project, we need to consolidate the gains of the phase one of the project and further integrate environment management into national policies and enhance the capacity of the institutions to undertake and analyse the linkages of poverty and environment.
6. Particularly, in this phase of decentralisation, enhancing capacities of the Districts should be prioritised and Rwanda Poverty Environment initiative has rightly and timely captured this where the Districts Development Plans will reflect sound strategies to manage the environment.
7. This project will help scale the efforts of key partners in environment management but the challenges are still enormous and more concerted efforts will be required to enhance environment management and transform the environment sector into most productive sector which will no doubt contribute significantly to sustainable economic development.
8. I wish to reaffirm the government's commitment to use these resources effectively and to regularly monitor that the project objectives are well achieved.
9. Once again let me reiterate the government's appreciation for the continued support given by UN agencies in various fields and particularly the environment sector and this project is a clear testimony of how UN has regarded environment management as cornerstone to sustainable development.
10. With these remarks, I wish to officially launch this project and to wish good luck to Dr Rose and others responsible for this project.

Thank You