

**MEDIA RELEASE BY MR. TOM ALWEENDO, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF  
THE NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION, ON THE OUTCOME OF  
THE RECENTLY HELD EMPLOYMENT CREATION SUMMIT.**

**Date** : 28 October 2010  
**Time** : 11h00  
**Venue** : NPC Commissioners Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Ladies and Gentlemen from the Media,

The Government organized an employment creation summit that was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010, where stakeholders from the public sector, private sector and labour (the partners) deliberated on possible interventions to address the unemployment crisis facing the country.

The partners have jointly acknowledged that unemployment is a national crisis that needs urgent attention. They therefore jointly agreed that in order to resolve this challenge, a trusting partnership with an effective, consistent relationship is required. They also agreed to make deliberate efforts that are supported by all the role players. No one partner can alone resolve the unemployment problem and if we fail to act, the failure is collectively the partners’.

While the Government has agreed to play a more active role in economic development, it is still the Government’s position that the private sector is and should be the main creator of new jobs. The Government is therefore committed to create an environment that is conducive for more private sector investment.

On its part, the Government will adapt its approach to economic development by focusing more on a few areas with higher potential to generate faster economic growth and more job opportunities. The areas so

identified include agriculture, tourism, transports & logistics and housing and sanitation.

The private sector is willing to play its role, provided that the Government creates an environment that is conducive for investment. Among the issues the private sector considers to be hindrances to more private sector investment and therefore more job creation are the importation of skills and the labor legal framework.

The organized labor is willing to support measures that are meant to promote job creation, as long as the workers' rights are legally protected.

While the partners could not agree on all the details of what needs to be done, what was agreed was that the partners will continue to have focused discussions with the view to remove all the bottlenecks that are hindering the creation of more job opportunities.

What the summit has managed to do is to demonstrate that the partners are keenly aware of the unemployment problem and that they are willing to do something about it. The Government will continue to provide the necessary leadership to ensure that concrete action plans are formulated and communicated to the public in the coming months.

I thank you.