



**PRESS RELEASE BY
THE ALL AFRICA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DECENTRALIZATION AND
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT (AMCOD)**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE MAIDEN EDITION OF THE AFRICAN DAY ON
DECENTRALIZATION, LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT
ON 10 AUGUST 2012**

Member States of the African Union are celebrating this year, on 10 August 2012, the first edition of the *African Day on Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development* under the theme “*Financing decentralization, public service delivery and local development*”.

In a drive to harmonize decentralization, governance and local development policies, African States set up in the year 2000 a common crucible, namely the “All Africa Ministerial Conference on Decentralization and Local Development” (AMCOD) that aims to promote decentralization and local governance in member States. Its Permanent Executive Secretariat is headquartered in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Following its institutional consolidation, AMCOD became in 2007 the African Union’s Specialized Technical Committee in charge of decentralization and local governance. It is in this regard that the 20th Ordinary Session of the African Union Executive Council, held in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, from 23 – 27 January 2012, instituted by AU Decision EX.CL/Dec 677(XX) an *African Day on Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development*, which is meant to be celebrated on 10 August each year.

Decentralization fosters local economic development wherein modes of direct participation other than the traditional vertical policies may be experimented and implemented. Delivery to the population of quality public services based on their expressed needs is a pre-requisite for national growth and rebuilds confidence in local institutions.

Given that decentralization contributes to State reform, there are major obstacles that stand in our way. This is the choice moment to recall that Member States’ Governments are aware of the challenges of the process and reaffirm their commitment to join hands with all stakeholders, public administration, local elected officials, the private sector, the civil society and users to cope with numerous challenges, which include:

- the emergence of a culture of citizenship;
- the balance between representative and participatory democracy;
- the stability of local financing through mechanisms adopted in a transparent manner
- enhanced prevention and control of corruption;



- good collaboration between the devolved services of the State and decentralized entities.

I therefore avail myself of the opportunity of this maiden edition of the ***African Day on Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development*** to urge all State and non-State stakeholders, all local and traditional authorities, to pool efforts and implement in our countries exemplary local governance at the service of local economic development, the best bet for success of the decentralization process in Africa.

H. E. Mrs. Carmelita Rita Namashulua

*Minister of State Administration of the
Republic of Mozambique*

AMCOD Chairperson

