

AfDB's Commemoration of the World AIDS Day, 1st December 2009.

Closing remarks by the Vice President Kordje Bedoumra- Corporate Services

Mr. Kaberuka, the President of the African Development Bank
Your Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen
Colleagues and Friends

It gives me great pleasure to have seen you all take an active role in this very special global event; time to reflect on the HIV/AIDS situation.

We have witnessed today the different efforts the bank continues to make with regard to HIV and AIDS, both at the individual level as well as for the continent as a whole.

Today's commemoration also marks a special milestone at the Bank. Just after this session, for the first in the Bank we will launch comprehensive HIV/AIDS services and information package through provision of different HIV/AIDS information and voluntary, free and confidential HIV screening campaign. The chairperson of the organizing committee will elaborate on this shortly.

I would not like to repeat anything that has been perfectly presented here today. Play your role.

I would just like to take this time to thank each of you. Your attendance has made this event successful. Special thanks to our President; our Executive Directors; the World AIDS Day 2009 Organizing Committee and others who played any role and to you all for your attendance and active participation.

I want to re-affirm management's position to lead in this managing the impact of HIV/AIDS in our community.

Our ultimate goal is that each individual in this institution has a choice and access to quality HIV/AIDS information and services, without fear of stigma or abuse of human rights.

As a Bank, I think our role can be perfectly summarized from a quote from Mr. Michel Sidibe, the UNAIDS Executive Director, who said that this year's theme of Universal Access and Human rights "...means doing everything we can to support countries reach their universal access goals for HIV prevention, treatment, care and support- all the while protecting and promoting human rights".

We will continue to fight. We are committed to the fight. Yes we can!

Finally, I simply urge each one of you to **know your own HIV status today, in order to live your life fully and meaningfully.**

Thank you all.