



Ref. no.: *DAN*07

Bujumbura, 16 July 2007

re: Status of Trust Fund Activities of the Burundi Government's Priority Programme

Dear Mrs. Hogwood,

Thank you for your letter of 28 June.

I am pleased to have been able to provide to you the chronology of events as well as a report which clarified the difficulties incurred in the attempted procurement of medical equipment through the Emergency Programme in my previous letter dated 20 June.

As you are aware, the irregularities were discovered through the established UNDP procurement process. This led to the decision of the office to halt the contracting process for the procurement of the medical equipment. The present capacity in our procurement unit ensures that any such anomalies will continue to be detected in the future.

While I understand that it would reassure you further to receive the Process Verbal and detailed evaluation reports for each of the four tenders undertaken through the Emergency Programme to date, to do so would violate our confidentiality guidelines and procedures. It is for this reason that it will not be possible to provide a more detailed report on the specific irregularities which were identified by UNDP procurement staff. The report forwarded to you was prepared by two technically qualified senior UNDP procurement advisors following their in-country assessment of all the Emergency Programme tenders.

As also detailed in my letter dated 20 June 2007, we have put in place additional capacity and competences to respond to the anticipated increase in procurement volume from the PBF funded projects. In this regard we are pleased to inform you that an experienced UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Operations arrived last weekend to be in charge of the UN Business Center and to also work with BINUB and its partners on the management of PBF projects.

I trust that the information that we have provided will serve to restore your confidence that donor funds will continue to only be disbursed by UNDP in strict accordance with the provisions detailed within the contribution agreement and following fully transparent procurement procedures. You may also note that we have policies and procedures in place that ensure prevention and detection of such anomalies in the execution of UNDP procurement projects.

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Once again I thank DFID for its generous contribution and support to the Burundi Government's Priority Programme. We look forward to your earliest response permitting the resumption of programme activities.



Antonius Broek
Country Director

Mrs. Sue Hogwood
Head, DFID Burundi
Immeuble Old East
Bujumbura, Burundi

cc: Mr. Luc Risch, Belgium Embassy
Mrs. Vibeke Sægaard, Government of Norway
Mr. Youssef Mahmoud, ERSG/RC/RR
Mrs. Mia Seppo, Country Programme Adviser, RBA / UNDP
Mr. Dimitri Samaras, OLPS / UNDP