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African voices for Africa's Development

## **MEDIA STATEMENT BY AFRICAN MONITOR**

### **A major breakthrough for Africa, yet more issues for the poor**

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#### **For immediate release**

Africa is on the brink of a major development breakthrough; a momentum that is well-merited and anchored in solid foundations sufficient enough to carry the continent forward at a necessary pace, according to Africa Monitor's latest Development Support Monitor study.

Speaking at the launch of the Development Support Monitor (DSM) study in Sandton today, Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane, President of African Monitor, said that such optimism could be described as a new dawn or as Africa's moment.

However, the Archbishop acknowledged a reason for real concern about whether the opportunities that Africa has at its disposal will lead to significant development and progress in African nations and real changes in the lives of the poor.

Quoting from the study, he said: "There is strong evidence suggesting that Africa is at risk of missing the current opportunity because of factors such as continued lack of participation of the poor in decisions affecting them, increasing inequality between the rich and the poor and the exclusion of grassroots communities from economic participation."

DSM examines and keeps track of commitments made by African governments and their development partners. Its main purpose is to promote greater accountability by making the commitments more widely known through assessing the extent to which these commitments are being met in real terms as well as the impact on the relevant communities.

According to the study, there are indications that the growth recorded in the past decade could be another economic blip generated by exogenous factors such as the commodity boom and international trade.

"The sustainability of the economic performance will largely depend on the extent to which it is broad-based and inclusive. A number of structural failures characterise Africa's economies," says the study.

By structural failures, the study means the struggle to convert Africa's demographic advantage into a dynamic economic force, and programmes that generate growth in agriculture and the informal sectors, which together support more than 80% of the continent's population.

Nonetheless, the African Monitor study predicts that over the next five years Africa is likely to take the lead and outpace Asia following an unweighted average of countries' growth rates that was virtually identical in Africa and Asia in the last decade.