



**african monitor**  
African voices for Africa's Development

## **MEDIA STATEMENT BY AFRICAN MONITOR**

### **Development of any kind must be people focussed**

---

**Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

#### **For immediate release**

Wealth creation and economic growth are essential tools for sustainable development in Africa.

This finding is contained in the Development Support Monitor (DSM) study, which was released today in Sandton. African Monitor, the independent organisation responsible for the report notes in the study that development of any kind – economic, social and cultural – has to be people focussed.

The organisation said that the goal of development must be to enable people to enjoy their potential to be fully human.

“Historical evidence shows that there is a high risk that the opportunities Africa has now will be a false dawn, unless real effort is made to ensure that the macro-economic gains lead to real change on the ground,” says the study.

“There is cause for a more realistic assessment of whether or not this ‘African Moment’ will result in substantive real change for Africa’s poor.”

Africa has experienced growth episodes before which were rooted in trade and world economy, but not on domestic re-organisation of factors of production and investment in technology.

The study concurs: “The recent boom was based on strong external demand for natural resources.

“It was not associated with large improvements in human development and industrial growth. Instead, the boom was associated with orthodox macro-economic management and smaller debt burden and with propensity to rent-seeking policies.”

It said that the commodity boom has contributed to economic growth, but the real issue is whether the revenues can be harnessed for something sustainable.

African Monitor believes that the effort to chart a new development path for Africa must be based on an improved understanding and appreciation of how the African economy works and the current opportunities it presents for the broad citizenry.

“The drivers of the imminent development breakthrough need to include what often lies below the radar of the official statistics and projections,” the study notes.

“The real concerns and needs of grassroots communities often lie in the invisible aspects of the economy, such as smallholder farming; the rural and informal sectors, and people’s resilience and social capital.”