Remarks by the GM (MCP), Zenith Bank Plc, at the Signing Ceremony of African Development Bank Line of Credit, March 15, 2010

Protocol

The Vice President Private Sector & Infrastructure, The Director Private Sector & Infrastructure, all protocol duly observed.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honour and privilege for me to be here at this epoch-making event, the formal signing ceremony of a USD50 million ELF facility to Zenith Bank Plc by the African Development Bank (ADB). Today’s event is a further consolidation of the partnership between Zenith Bank and ADB which commenced in July 2005, with the signing of our first line of credit facility of $70million. The second LOC of $100m was granted in 2007, while this new facility brings the total facilities granted Zenith Bank to $220million.

ADB no doubt has been a very strong ally of Zenith Bank in achieving it’s strategic goal of promoting economic development in Nigeria. The facilities granted the Bank have been deployed to 36 sub-borrowers/projects, spanning the critical sectors of the economy namely; Power, Manufacturing, Telecommunications, Education, Port Redevelopment SMEs, Agribusiness and Agro-allied industries etc. The facilities have also created jobs in excess of 4,200.

It is also worthy of note that ADB and Zenith Bank in furtherance of their partnership organised a 3-Day intensive Training & Workshop on Environmental & Sustainability Management for Nigerian Banks and other financial institutions. This programme which was very well attended, turned out to be a huge success. The programme created environmental and social management awareness amongst the participants and served as an impetus for Banks to develop their respective Environmental Policies and begin the process of integrating this into their credit process. Zenith Bank which had 11 staff in attendance no doubt benefited immensely from this programme.

We must commend at this juncture, the vision and commitment of the Board and Management of ADB for setting up the ELF in response to the global illiquidity and credit crunch arising from the global financial crisis. This could not have come at a better time. This facility will in no small measure come to the rescue of many viable developmental projects in developing member countries like Nigeria, which would easily have been still birth due to the credit crunch.

We at Zenith Bank are buoyed by this support at this critical period. Perhaps it is worthy of mention here that all the projects financed by Zenith Bank under the ADB lines of Credit have recorded significant success. None was classified non-performing, and all have continued to meet their principal and interest repayment obligations to the Bank and by extension, enabled Zenith Bank meet it’s repayment obligations to the ADB on timely basis. We have since fully repaid the first LOC and have commenced the repayment of the second one. This remarkable performance of the projects has therefore reinforced our confidence in the Bank’s focus of supporting the Nigerian economy through the cultivation of strategic partnerships with multilateral institutions like the ADB.

The ADB’s strategic intervention in our economy through credit lines to financial institutions, direct lending to private sector projects and the public sector have all contributed in no small way towards the progress we are making as a nation.
We at Zenith Bank Plc, therefore wish to express our profound gratitude to the ADB for the confidence reposed in us as a partner Bank and for this additional facility. We look forward to a long lasting partnership between our two great institutions.

Thank you all for your attention.

PAMELA YOUGH.
General Manager
Zenith Bank Plc.