

**OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE MEFMI FELLOWS ORIENTATION,
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND REPORT WRITING SKILLS
WORKSHOP**

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**MONDAY, 7TH SEPTEMBER 2015
GALAXY HOTEL, KIGALI, RWANDA**

Dr. Caleb M. Fundanga, MEFMI Executive Director,
Resource Persons,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to officiate at this important workshop for MEFMI Fellows. May I take this opportunity at the outset to extend a warm welcome to you all to Rwanda. A special welcome goes to the first time visitors. Rwanda is a friendly country, gifted by Nature and very hospitable people. I am sure you will enjoy your stay.

I am informed that this training workshop is meant to orient you as the 9th intake of Candidate fellows as well as enhance your research skills as a first step in preparing you to be experts in your various fields of specialisation within the region.

The MEFMI Fellows Development Programme was conceived to address the capacity needs of the region in terms of the development of local and regional expertise. The Fellows Programme is meant to achieve the following objectives:

- i) To develop a critical mass of regional expertise in the priority areas of sovereign debt, macroeconomic and financial management, as a means to gaining sustainable and self-generating capacity;

- ii) To create sustainable regional capacity for delivery of MEFMI capacity building products and services; and
- iii) To create regional capacity for complementing MEFMI's capacity building efforts at in-house level in MEFMI member state' institutions.

There is a popular saying that “ Charity begins at home” and I am told in as far as the Fellows programme is concerned, you are first and foremost expected to use your acquired skills by contributing to your respective institutions and not to wait for MEFMI to give you assignments. In this way you will have returned to your country, the investment placed in your development and hence the implementation of Best Practices nationally and regionally, acquired while on the Programme.

It is in this regard that as part of imparting the needed skills for delivery of the capacity building activities, the workshop for the next few days is intended to orient you on the policies, guidelines and procedures of the Programme, transfer to you skills and knowledge in the conduct of research, as well as writing a technical paper.

I am informed that the workshop will focus on empowering you to conduct your own research and write a quality technical paper through case studies, group exercises, power point presentations, hands on and explorative learning activities.

I have been assured that the workshop is going to be very participatory and practical to allow you all to bring out your potentials and innovative skills, and also discover yourselves in terms of possibilities that you have never perceived.

I note that the resource persons are highly experienced experts, with extensive expertise in research, and widely known within the region and internationally.

We welcome you and thank you for availing yourself to facilitate this workshop. I assure you of the cooperation and active participation of the Fellows.

I therefore urge all participants to utilize every opportunity by asking relevant questions and seeking clarifications so that you return home with the much sought after skills. I believe the workshop will no doubt meet your expectations of being on the Fellows Development Programme.

Ladies and gentlemen, I call upon you to take the objectives of this workshop seriously. Explore the advantage of any synergies existing amongst you. It is my expectation that when you return to your offices, you will take it as your responsibility, to pass on the skills obtained here to those working with you.

Lastly, I encourage you to sample our exceptional hospitality and embrace the culture and diversity of Rwanda; tour the city, the Nyamata Genocide Memorial Site and national parks, among others.

I would like at this stage to wish you all a fruitful stay, and declare the workshop open.

I THANK YOU.