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## PRESS RELEASE

### Heart and Cancer Centre of the Aga Khan University Hospital – Inauguration Ceremony

**His Excellency President and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces of the Republic of Kenya, Honourable Mwai Kibaki**, will inaugurate the Heart and Cancer Centre of the Aga Khan University Hospital on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2011 as a guest of **His Highness the Aga Khan, Chancellor of the Aga Khan University**, in the presence of the **French Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Etienne de Poncins**, and the **Chief Executive Officer, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Mr Dov Zerah**.

The Heart and Cancer Centre and its diagnosis centres spread out across Kenya, have been established as a high level reference centre for cardiology and oncology both in Kenya and in the East African Region. Heart pathologies and cancer are becoming increasingly common, but dedicated medical facilities for these illnesses did not yet exist: as such, the Heart and Cancer Centre will be a key facility within the Kenyan health system. In particular, the Heart and Cancer Centre will offer high quality medical services for patients with cancer or heart illnesses as well as high level training and research facilities on these pathologies. The development of the Heart and Cancer Centre costs \$50.4 M for which the Aga Khan University Hospital received \$35.3 M in the form of a soft loan from AFD. The soft conditions for the loan aim at ensuring that the poor will access the facility through the “patient welfare programme”. Thanks to this programme, thirty thousand poor people should be treated in the coming twenty years.

The French Development Agency ([www.afd.fr](http://www.afd.fr)), the main actor of France's bilateral development aid, has been present in Kenya since 1997 and has been supporting the country in its effort to promote sustainable economic and social development. Health care improvement and accessibility is one of the bilateral cooperation priorities for Kenya and France.

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