



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION, NAIROBI

**PRESS RELEASE – VISIT OF AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER H.E.
GEOFF TOOTH TO AGANO INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES
GREENHOUSE FARMING PROJECT**

Australia's High Commissioner to Kenya, H.E. Geoff Tooth, visited the Greenhouse Farming Project run by Agano International Ministries in Shanzu, Mombasa on Wednesday, 3 April 2013. The project, which has been funded by the Australian Direct Aid Program, seeks to help enhance self reliance of local women by encouraging greenhouse farming activities to produce horticultural crops.

The project's biggest success, since it began in February 2012, has been the opening of business opportunities for the participating women to supply their horticultural products to a ready market of nearby hotels and communities, thereby training the women to be self-reliant. The project has also created employment opportunities for the rest of the community as the women supply produce to distant areas. This extended supply chain provides a basis for future expansion of poultry farming and animal husbandry which will create and sustain further employment. A micro-finance society has also been set up for the participating women to borrow money for individual development with low interest rates.

High Commissioner H.E. Geoff Tooth spoke of the Agano Greenhouse Farming Project as 'an outstanding example of increasing the economic security of women and the tremendous impact this has had on the women themselves, their families and the larger community'. He said "this is one project where almost the entire community is involved with the ultimate goal of empowering the women who are then able to support themselves and their families. As the economic empowerment and wellbeing of women is a key priority area for the Australian government, it is my hope that this project will contribute and be a model to the future economic security and equity of women among the communities of Mombasa County".