

**06<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

## **Palestine President on official visit to Uganda**

The President of the State of Palestine, H.E. Mahmoud Abbas, arrived in Uganda on a two day official visit. The President, who was accompanied by several ministers and other senior government officials, was visiting Uganda for the second time. He was here in 2010 to attend the African Union (AU) summit in Kampala. President Abbas is the Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the President of the Palestine National Authority since 2005. He succeeded the late Yasser Arafat who died in 2004.

Uganda and Palestine enjoy strong and historical, political relations and both countries have a common membership of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) based in Saudi Arabia. Uganda recognized the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the PLO had offices in Kampala until 1990. Along with some 182 other countries in the world, Uganda recognizes the right of the Palestinian people to self determination.

Uganda has consistently called upon the Israeli and Palestinian parties to resume negotiations and reach a lasting peaceful settlement of their conflict based on the two-state solution where the State of Israel and the State of Palestine exist side by side in peace and security. During the official visit, President Mahmoud Abbas is expected to hold discussions and exchange views with President Yoweri Museveni on bilateral, regional, Middle East and international issues of mutual interest.

Minister for Security, Hon. Muruli Mukasa, State Minister for Regional Affairs, Hon Asumani Klyingi, the Head of Civil Service, Mr. John Mitala and the Commander of Air Force, General Jim Ow'oyesigire, were at Entebbe International Airport to receive the visiting President of the State of Palestine. **END**