

# PRESS RELEASE



## Georgia's Civil Registry Office Opened in Rustavi, with help from EU and UNDP

**Tbilisi, 28 June 2005:** A Ministry of Justice Civil Registry Office opened in Rustavi yesterday takes the first step in enhancing public access to civil records.

It is the first office renovated and equipped with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as part of the EU RRM<sup>1</sup>/UNDP Project "Capacity Building of the Ministry of Justice: Reform of Civil Registry Component". The project is the main base for setting up well equipped and staffed regional civil registry offices handling passports and new identity cards for all citizens. It provides a good foundation for the regional offices to transform themselves into a more efficient service provider.

Minister of Justice Kote Kemularia termed the project an integral part of the Government's judicial reform and anti-corruption activities. "I believe that civil servants selected to serve will never take bribes and will be under strict control of the society," he said in his opening remarks to a gathering of local citizens and guests.

UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative Lance Clark, who joined the Minister of Justice in the opening ceremony, said that UNDP will continue cooperating with all parties involved and provide the support needed to see that it enhances Georgia's civil registry system. He called the project a tangible contribution towards easing burdens on citizens in dealing with government procedures. "Now every citizen can get 14 types of documents in a day at one place", he said.

"The project proves that the Government aspires to combat corruption in the public sector," said Head of Delegation of the European Commission Torben Holtze. "Civil registry reform will contribute to the development of democracy in the country," he said.

The Ministry of Justice with the support of EU and UNDP will complete renovation and computerization of four civil registry offices in Saburtalo district of Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Batumi and Marneuli in the next two months. Equipment, furniture, software, technical referrals, and consultants to train national staff will be provided.

<sup>1</sup> The European Union implements four assistance projects in Parliament under the EU Rapid Reaction Mechanism (RRM): Latvian-Georgian Parliamentary Cooperation; EU law approximation and screening; Strengthening effectiveness and transparency of the parliament of Georgia; and Parliamentary Reform: IABP Georgia Business and Parliament Model.