

**Bank of Bermuda lends support to North Hamilton Economic Empowerment Zone**

**(Hamilton, Bermuda, 25 January 2006)** Bank of Bermuda is pleased to announce its partnership with Government in the establishment of the North Hamilton Economic Empowerment Zone. The Bank will provide structuring advice and will make available various forms of financing including private equity, which would allow area property and small business owners greater access to capital.

Bank of Bermuda is committed to the small business sector and view this public/private partnership as the first of many opportunities to demonstrate our commitment to levelling the playing field and breaking down barriers to entry. Bank of Bermuda CEO, Phil Butterfield explained, “We hope this is just the beginning. Last year we opened the Small Business Centre to focus on the distinctive needs of entrepreneurs and hired Neville Grant, the former general manager of the Bermuda Small Business Development Corporation, for his expertise and familiarity with the needs of small business owners. Today marks another step for the Bank as it reaffirms our commitment to this very important sector.”

Bank of Bermuda will provide various forms of financing in a framework which bases each situation and proposal on its own merits.

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**Notes to Editors:**

- Founded in 1889, Bank of Bermuda is the leading provider of fund administration, trust, custody, asset management and banking services in Bermuda. Since 2004 it has been a wholly owned indirect subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc.
- Further information on Bank of Bermuda can be found at [www.bankofbermuda.bm](http://www.bankofbermuda.bm)
- Further information on HSBC can be found at [www.hsbc.com](http://www.hsbc.com)

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