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**Statement by MBDA National Director Ronald N. Langston
regarding U.S. Minority Population Exceeding 102 Million**

WASHINGTON – MBDA National Director Ronald N. Langston issued the following statement on yesterday’s announcement by the U.S. Census Bureau.

“News that the nation’s minority population reached 102.5 million in 2007 further fuels the business case for stimulating minority entrepreneurship and business ownership in the United States. The private sector, in cooperation with the public sector, must aggressively pursue business and policy strategies which recognize the demographic changes underway and make the growth of small, medium and minority business enterprises a national imperative.

“Doing so is in the strategic interest of the United States. The Nation’s four million minority owned firms, who employ more than 4.7 million people and generate over \$661 billion, are in the position to generate long-term employment and economic sustainability in their communities. But, if the U.S. economy is to sustain its strength and global competitiveness, the national minority business enterprise community must grow in size, scale and capacity. For the U.S. to maintain its prosperous living standards, we must leverage the entrepreneurial spirit of the U.S. minority population. This is our strength and our competitive advantage in a 21st century worldwide economy.”

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