



News Release

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AMERIS BANCORP REPORTS SECOND QUARTER 2010 RESULTS

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AMERIS BANCORP (NASDAQ-GS: ABCB), Moultrie, Georgia, today reported a net loss available to common shareholders of \$4.2 million, or \$0.20 per diluted share, for the quarter ended June 30, 2010, compared to a net loss of \$3.5 million, or \$0.25 per diluted share, for the second quarter of 2009. For the first half of 2010, Ameris Bancorp reported a net loss available to common shareholders of \$6.5 million, or \$0.37 per diluted share, compared to a net loss of \$4.8 million, or \$0.35 per diluted share, for the first half of 2009. Improvements in the Company's net interest margin and continued strong capital position were overshadowed by larger loan loss provisions.

Highlights of the second quarter of 2010 include the following:

- Completion of a \$90 million public offering, increasing already strong capital ratios
- Continued increase in pretax, pre-credit related income to \$11.9 million per quarter
- Completion of a third FDIC-assisted transaction
- Net interest margin of 4.43% for the quarter and 4.19% for the year to date period
- Completion after quarter end of an asset sale comprising of mostly non-performing assets that when closed would reduce non-performing assets by \$13.3 million

Capital Ratios

Early in the second quarter of 2010, the Company completed a public offering for \$90 million of the Company's common stock, issuing approximately 9.5 million new shares at \$9.50 per share. The Company's tangible common equity ratio increased from 5.65% at June 30, 2009 to 9.17% at June 30, 2010. Ameris Bank's tier one capital and total capital ratios increased as well, from 7.40% at the end of the second quarter of 2009 to 12.36% at the end of the current quarter. Edwin W. Hortman, Jr., President and CEO, commented on the successful capital raise and stated, "The success of the capital raise affirms our decisions early in this downturn to preserve capital through hard decisions that increased our core earnings. Our focus now is on deploying the capital by being in "do business" mode in our local markets and taking advantage of the consolidation our industry is experiencing."

Core Earnings

The Company's income before taxes and credit costs continue to increase and provide meaningful protection for capital levels during the current economic cycle. In the current period, pre-tax, pre-credit earnings totaled \$11.9 million, an increase of 62%, or \$4.6 million, when compared to the same quarter in 2009. For the year-to-date period, core earnings increased \$9.4 million to \$24.1 million. Increases in core earnings have been achieved through higher net interest margins, incremental earnings on acquired banks through FDIC-assisted transactions and reduction in non-credit related operating expenses. "We believe our stretch goal of \$50 million of core earnings for 2010 is achievable, despite limited investment opportunities for our large position in short-term assets. Until the economy improves and offers the Company more revenue opportunities, we will benefit from a very attractive deposit mix and the momentum we gained in operating expenses through our successful efforts in 'Project 2010'" said Mr. Hortman.

Completion of Third FDIC-Assisted Acquisition

The Company's results for the quarter include an after-tax gain on the FDIC-assisted acquisition of certain assets and deposits of Satilla Community Bank totaling \$5.2 million. As a result of the acquisition, the Company added \$68.8 million in loans and \$75.8 million in deposits. The Company believes that incremental earnings from this acquisition will be meaningful because of the opportunity for consolidating operations with existing Ameris Bank locations and because the Company is protected from credit losses through the Company's loss share agreements with the FDIC.

Significant Increase in the Company's Net Interest Margin

For the second quarter of 2010, the Company reported a net interest margin of 4.43%, compared to 3.59% for the same quarter in 2009. For the year-to-date period in 2010, the Company reported a net interest margin of 4.19% compared to 3.39% during the first six months of 2009. During the second quarter, the Company recognized \$2.35 million of interest income representing certain "accretable differences" relating to the Company's first two FDIC-assisted acquisitions, which were completed in 2009. Excluding the non-recurring portion of these amounts, the Company's net interest margin would have been 4.11% and 4.02% for the second quarter and the first six months of 2010, respectively.

Net interest income (tax equivalent basis) for the second quarter of 2010 totaled \$24.6 million, compared to \$18.7 million in the same quarter of 2009. Excluding the non-recurring portion of the accretable difference, the Company's interest income would have increased slightly, from \$29.3 million in the second quarter of 2009 to \$30.0 million in the second quarter of 2010. Improvements in interest expense were more significant, falling to \$7.2 million during the current quarter compared to \$10.6 million in the same quarter of 2009. The improved deposit mix along with greatly reduced yields on time deposits accounted for the decrease in funding costs.

