



BUNGE LA AFRIKA MASHARIKI



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE EALA

ISSUE 07

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GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARIANS ON HABITAT CELEBRATE SILVER JUBILEE

...A time to celebrate successes, reflect on challenges

REPRESENTATIVE

REGION NEEDS
CONCRETE POLICIES
ON HOUSING

LEGISLATIVE

ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS
IN BOOSTING ADEQUATE
HOUSING

OVERSIGHT/BUDGET

MDGS: HOW FAR HAS
EAST AFRICA GONE?

INSTITUTIONAL LINKAGES

EALA & GPH LOCK
COLLABORATION



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DESK OF THE RT. HON. SPEAKER

Welcome to the 7th Edition of the *Bunge la Afrika Mashariki*, our flagship magazine which has continued to keep you abreast with the activities of the Assembly.

This edition is specifically dedicated to marking the silver jubilee of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH), currently the only international Parliamentarian forum with activities directly related to human settlements. The month of August bears special significance in the history of the GPH as it commemorates the period when it was unveiled. GPH will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary across the world. The European chapter will commemorate the occasion in Split, Croatia and for the African Chapter, right here in Arusha. Asia is expected to communicate its venue later.

Allow me therefore as President of the GPH, Africa Chapter to wish the GPH, EALA and all East Africans a happy anniversary as we take cognizance of our achievements (and challenges) and map out our future. The successful implementation of a solid and sound habitat and adequate shelter is key in realisation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and is part of the reason why EALA associates itself with the GPH. On the other side of the flip-coin, it is thirteen years since UN Member States committed themselves to improving the livelihood of the citizens hence the importance of reflecting on what our governments have done.

However, from where I sit, one appreciates that there are intricacies in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Specifically, if we look at the issue of Housing for example – the clock is ticking pretty fast but where are we in realising MDG 11? It is incumbent on governments and stakeholders to plan, put in place resources and monitor progress. Today, the cities are congested while pollution and poor housing and sanitation rue chances of quality shelter. The housing scenario at the moment is in a real sorry state and leaves a lot to be desired. In fact according to



RT. HON. ZZIWA NANTONGO MARGARET

UN Reports, over 70% of the region's citizens live in an environment that is simply un-inhabitable.

As we commemorate the silver jubilee for the GPH, we need to take stock of the progress and plan for our future. This is based on the premise that we are still a far cry from the adage '*Shelter for all by 2015*'. We must be judicious in our move to reverse the trend.

EALA and GPH can help in keeping the region focussed on addressing the issues. Though the Treaty for the EAC is not very specific on the matter of human settlement, Article 5 delves on social welfare and thus points to the direction of social amenities and utilities such as housing. EALA can also work closely with various stakeholders in order to institute relevant pieces of legislation in this sector.

We are fully aware of the Herculean task ahead given the fact that matters of shelter and sanitation are close to the 'hearts and souls' of our citizens. In the same vein, when East Africans live in decent housing, they are able to work harder, be more productive and live a longer life.

As we cork the champagne bottles to mark the achievement of the GPH, we remain dedicated to realising our mandate as underlined in the EAC Treaty – that of enacting legislation, undertaking oversight as well as representing the interests of the citizens of East Africa.

I congratulate the GPH and the UN for the achievements. Let us all roll up our sleeves and work towards a better habitat for humanity.

**MR. KENNETH NAMBOGA MADETE**

Welcome to edition 7 of the Bunge La Afrika Mashariki released at a time when the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH) is celebrating its 25th Anniversary with EALA playing host. I thus extend our courtesies to all guests attending the special occasion in Arusha, the capital city of the East African Community. Over the years, the GPH has consistently made a difference by ensuring the globe is a better place to live in.

As I pen down my thoughts, I am contented to reflect on my growing-up days when the air was fresher, the environment cleaner and more serene, whilst food and water were tastier and safer. Today, while the world has become a global village - albeit more developed, we bemoan disasters, climate change, inadequate housing and pollution amongst others. Despite the successes realised, there are also a number of challenges besetting human-kind. This is thus an opportune time for all to reflect on the past and to mull over future aspirations.

As EALA, we shall continue supporting the citizens of the region by ensuring we undertake our mandate. In many ways, the visionary founding fathers of the EAC deliberately gave the Assembly legislative, oversight and representative roles. EALA is the only other regional Parliament comparable to the European Parliament with such a mandate making it unique on the African continent and beyond. EALA continues to take a more proactive stance towards influencing the tenets of integration while holding Partner States more accountable on the implementation of their

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

commitments. The Assembly is thus in a position to speak on matters of habitat as well given the significant role it plays in the quality of lives people can live.

By jointly holding this important meeting, EALA and GPH are both expected to take their collaboration to another level. As the Speaker has already alluded to, EALA and GPH can help in keeping the region more focussed and in finding solutions to the challenges. It is in the same vein that an EALA-GPH Sub-Committee has likewise been established to look more critically into the matters. I remain hopeful that EALA shall contribute towards assisting the region to realise the prospects of growth and solid development.

It is my considered opinion and that it behoves the governments to provide or facilitate acquisition of adequate human settlement for their citizens. It is fundamental that the equation includes both quality and quantity. In the next two years, the globe shall need to assess and take stock of developments with regards to the achievement of the MDGs. At the outset, much more can be done. We may on the one hand preside over affairs of the region thus registering double digit economic growth coupled with a well developed infrastructure network and in the leap towards sustainable energy supply. But on the other hand, we must strive to provide the basics – clean drinking water, less polluted environment and safer food for the populace. More action is thus needed on the part of all stakeholders. I believe we can be more engaged through Public-Private sectors Partnership and dialogue. It is necessary to consolidate on the gains, withstand turbulence and overcome any challenges in the way if only to keep on track with regards to its integration and progressive development.

In solidarity with the commemoration of the GPH's silver jubilee, this edition focuses mainly on matters revolving around habitation and urbanisation. In it, we carry well researched pieces penned by our Members and other persons of standing in the region and I hope that you shall find these articles pleasurable.



MESSAGE FROM DR. JOAN CLOS, UNITED NATIONS UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UN-HABITAT

More than half of the global population lives in towns and cities and there is no way to reverse the rapid urbanization taking place. Given that the future for humanity is urban, there is a need for a holistic approach to urban development and human settlements which provides for affordable housing and infrastructure, and prioritizes slum upgrading and urban regeneration.

There should be a global commitment to improve the quality of human settlements, including the living and working conditions of both urban and rural dwellers. UN-Habitat believe this will reduce poverty, and increase access to basic services, housing and mobility.

The Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH) is the only parliamentarians' forum fully and exclusively dedicated to promote the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. Since its inception in 1987 in Yokohama, Japan, the GPH has played a very active role especially during the Habitat II conference in 1996 and at the Istanbul+5 Review meeting in New York. Today, more than ever, GPH members must be sensitized, mobilized and equipped to play a proactive role for the delivery of MDG, Goal 7, in Post-2015 Development Planning as well as in the preparatory process of Habitat III in 2016.

UN-Habitat is convinced that effective partnership with parliamentarians is crucial to the achievement of the Agency's mission. Parliamentarians are best placed to translate the aspirations and wishes of the people into robust policies and laws to combat urban poverty and support sustainable urbanization, and to ensure that there are appropriate budgetary allocations for implementing them. Such policies and laws would enable the international community



and UN-Habitat in particular, to leverage technical assistance and follow up investment from both international and domestic sources.

Sustainable development is driven by sustainable urbanization. Strong laws will encourage investors and the private sector to invest and promote better, healthy and greener cities which can protect their citizens through employment creation, affordable housing and open space facilities, and cleaner neighborhoods. In addition, parliamentarians must influence decision-making processes and demand and foster coordinated action.

The Global Parliamentarians on Habitat Africa Chapter is an opportunity to debate the sustainable urban development that African Parliamentarians envisage for a continent that is growing quickly in terms of both population and economy.

I convey my best wishes for a successful and fruitful conference in Arusha and for the 25th anniversary celebration.



GPH COMMITTED TO HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT



Simple but modern housing that should take over the slum settlements



The Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH) functions as the international Parliamentary forum that is committed exclusively to promoting sustainable human settlements and development. Founded in 1987 in Yokohama (the year of International Shelter for the Homeless) GPH has maintained close co-operation with UN-HABITAT, culminating in its participation both at 2nd UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in June 1996 and at the Istanbul+5 Meeting in New York in 2001. Since its inception to date, GPH has held five Global Fora of Parliamentarians and several regional council meetings.

The Board of Directors of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat co-ordinates and organises the work of the GPH worldwide. The President of the GPH is the President of the Board of Directors. Currently, Hon Peter Götz, MP from Germany is the President of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat having been elected in 2008.

The President is supported in the discharge of functions by four Vice Presidents, who are simultaneously the Presidents of the regional councils by continent of the GPH. There are regional GPH groups for the continents of Africa, America, Asia, the Caribbean and Europe.

The Vice Presidents are Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa, Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, Hon. Ricardo Fidel Pacheco Rodriguez, Senator from Mexico, Hon. Ronald Kiandee, MP from Malaysia

and Hon. Jerko Rosin from Croatia. In November 2002, in Abuja, Nigeria, the (then) UN-HABITAT Executive Director Dr. Tibaijuka performed the commissioning ceremony of the Africa Regional Council of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat.

The Africa Global Parliamentarians on Habitat was established by African Parliamentarians to promote the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in Africa. Over the years, the Members of this body have drafted and passed relevant legislation and introduced policies to encourage decentralization and solve problems relating to land, housing, urban planning and poverty alleviation.

The Councils also promote inter-regional co-operation especially in the development and application of relevant legislation to enhance the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. Individual Parliaments adopt proactive policies to pressure national governments to support international cooperation in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

The Global Forum which usually attracts over 500 global Parliamentarians reviews achievements of Parliamentarians and plot new strategies for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the global regional and national levels.

In keeping with the commitments made in Istanbul in June 1996, GPH has continued to devote efforts in strengthening its structure, expanding its influence among Parliaments and promoting the implementation of the Istanbul Declaration and Habitat Agenda at the



Former UN-HABITAT Executive Director, Dr. Anna Tibaijuka

national, regional and international levels, especially developing strategies for the adoption of relevant legislation and good public policy.

UN-HABITAT believes that partnership with Parliamentarians is vital to build support for its mission and the implementation of HABITAT Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Because Parliamentarians act as the bridge between the people and their government, they are instrumental in advocating for the rights and the needs of the people.

In particular, UN-HABITAT recognizes, in a great manner, that Parliamentarians are key in developing synergies among Habitat Agenda partners. It is Parliamentarians that set the laws and hold the key to funding.

Source: Internet



Board of Directors of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat during the World Habitat Day on 5 October 2009, Washington DC, USA

REMEDIAL MEASURES NEEDED TO ADDRESS HABITAT CHALLENGES

...collaborative efforts among key stakeholders – the only way out



Legislators are key stakeholders in addressing challenges around habitat

The Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH) meet regularly in different combinations. Every few years, the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat organises a Global Forum. Parliamentarians from all over the world meet at the Global Forum in order to discuss current issues and to develop solutions.

These shared solutions and goals are enshrined in writing in the form of a Declaration and are carried into national Parliaments by the Member Parliamentarians. Every two years, elections for the Board of Directors are held at the Global Forum.

GPH also has the Africa Chapter of the initiative. The President of the GPH Africa, Rt Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa who is also the Speaker of EALA maintains that GPH is a strong advocacy forum for UN habitat activities in governments and in Parliaments and consequently, that its role cannot be understated. It is however vital and strongly recommended that GPH's activities are streamlined with those of UN Habitat programmes to ensure adequate support for programmes and access to the necessary funds. Predictable and sustainable financing for sustainable

and habitable initiatives is at the core of the GPH's model. As it celebrates its silver jubilee globally and in every continent, GPH Africa has committed that it shall continue to address issues facing human-kind and that its job shall not be complete until every family has a decent roof over their heads and with a surrounding environment.

It foresees the need for stakeholders in the Habitat Agenda to addresses broad principles and broad commitments on 'Sustainable Human Settlements' and 'Adequate Shelter for all'. The two broad principles were adopted under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and specifically MDG No: 11 to focus on issues of human settlement which include better housing, rapid urbanization, the state of cities and slum eradication among others.

Housing is considered absolutely central to the health of any economy yet there is so little attention paid to the ways in which low income housing can be integrated into the organization of the cities in Africa according to the Executive Board of GPH Africa. The problem of human settlements is worsening given the

estimation that more than one hundred million people are homeless, while more than one billion people live in unhealthy settlements without clean water, sanitation and electricity.

The rapid growing urban areas have rendered land accessibility increasingly difficult by the competing demands of housing, industry, infrastructure, agriculture.

The failure to come to terms with rapid urbanization, slum upgrading and in the raising awareness about the fundamental issues is a collective let-down on the part of the leaders and stakeholders. In order to cope with the rising demands, it is imperative to put in place appropriate policy, legal, institutional frameworks with adequate resources to support effective urban planning, development and management.

The UN estimates that 60% of the world population lives in urban areas and majority of them live on less than one dollar a day. One third of them live in slums without access to safe drinking water and are often prone to living in overcrowded shacks made of temporary building materials, no secure tenure thus risk eviction from authorities often without notice.



A well planned city



**Clean drinking water continues to remain a pipe-dream.
But it can be realised**

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY FORWARD?

Combination of remedial measures all preferred in the dispensation to improve life and living. It is incumbent on all stakeholders including EALA and GPH to contribute significantly to addressing the following challenges among others:

- Rapid urbanization and urban poverty;
- Water and sanitation challenges in cities and towns;
- Inadequate shelter culminating in slums formation;
- Land and property rights;
- Need to engage the poor, the women and youth in addressing the urbanization problems.



Plastic bags continue to degrade the environment



**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY URGING THE EAC PARTNER STATES TO QUICKLY
UNDERTAKE CONCRETE POLICIES FOR ADEQUATE HOUSING FOR ALL EAC CITIZENS**

By Hon. Frederic Ngenzebuhoro and adopted by the Assembly on Thursday 16th December 2010

THAT THIS ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING that EAC Partner states are signatories of both the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in which respectively the articles 25(1) and 11(1) stipulate that everyone has a right to a decent standard of living for his health and well-being and for his family, including housing, food, clothing, medical care and other necessary social services;

NOTING that EAC Partner States have reaffirmed, at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey from 3rd to 14th June 1996 through the Istanbul Declaration, their commitment to fully and progressively realize the right to adequate housing;

NOTING further that the EAC Partner States, according to the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community, in its article 7(2), undertake to abide by the principles of good governance, including adherence to the principles of democracy, the rule of law, social justice and the maintenance of universally accepted standards of human rights in which the right to adequate housing is included;

RECOGNISING that an adequate housing is one of the best indicators of a good standard of living and consideration of a person in the society and is one of the fundamental and human needs that have a profound impact on the welfare of the population, its health, its social attitudes and its performance to economically produce;

CONVINCED that adequate housing is the best shelter to protect people against natural catastrophes like storms, floods, earthquakes and other possible dangers;

CONVINCED FURTHER that the best way to stabilize our people, especially in rural areas, is to provide them with property, on which they can build an adequate housing for their welfare;

REGRETTING however that until now there are numerous families in the EAC Partner States which do not enjoy adequate housing and continue to miserably live in one narrow room or a thatched small house, even if the family is large and comprises parents, mature and young children, with the consequences of such a situation on the education, the behavior and the health of the children;

NOTING however with appreciation that EAC Partner states are determined to achieve a community where all citizens can enjoy a decent life of dignity, happiness, good health and hope;

NOW THEREFORE DO RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Urge EAC Partner States to fully and willingly undertake policies at all levels of the administration to ensure the fundamental right to housing by facilitating the procedures of accessibility to an adequate housing to all citizens.
2. Request EAC Partner States to encourage marginalized persons like those who belong to minorities or vulnerable categories such as families headed by women or children living in extreme poverty to get their own property and adequate housing.
3. Encourage the Partner States to prioritize the issue of adequate housing while achieving the Millennium Development Goals, otherwise it would be illusory.
4. Call upon the East African Legislative Assembly and National Assemblies to regularly carry out oversight activities to ensure that all citizens, without discrimination for any reason, are enjoying adequate housing.

Kenneth Madete - Clerk, EALA

EALA AND GPH LOCK COLLABORATION

Parliamentarians in the region are been challenged to demand appropriate housing policies which are not only good at conception and formulation (policies on paper) but that are comprehensive in implementation and come with adequate financial and human resources.

At the same time, Legislation is a useful indicator a country's commitment to any cause and so parliamentarians have a role to play to ensure that there is effective action to mitigate any human calamities, the Global Parliamentarians for Habitat, Africa has said.

GPH Africa has committed to going the extra mile to popularize the Habitat Agenda among Parliamentarians; to assess the commitments made by UN Member states towards human settlements and urbanization for better laws and for the GPH African Chapter. It is in this vein that the GPH is now expected to partner with the East African Legislative Assembly in a solid partnership to address the challenges faced by the region.

The GPH Executive Board (African Chapter) which was elected during the UN General Council in Nairobi in April 2009 includes:

Hon. Rt. Margaret Nantongo Zziwa (MP, EALA)	President
Hon Susan Lyimo (MP, Tanzania)	Vice President
Hon. Mariam Nalubega (MP, Uganda)	Secretary
Hon. Tubwita Grace (MP, Uganda)	Treasurer
Hon. Njoki Ndungu (MP, Emeritus Kenya)	Member

EALA is an Organ of the EAC established under Article 9 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community. The Assembly has a cardinal function in the furtherance of Community objectives; this function encompasses the legislative, representative and oversight mandate.

EALA is now working closely with GPH Africa. A sub-Committee of EALA has already been constituted. The Committee consists of Hon. Patrica Hajabakiga, Hon. Fredric Ngenzebuhoro, Hon Bernard Murunya and Hon. Nancy Abisai. The Committee co-opted Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa and Hon Mariam Nalubega, MP, Uganda. GPH and EALA can help in keeping the EAC Partner States focused on housing. The Treaty may not be specific in addressing human settlement or housing but Chapter 22 (article 5) on social welfare points in the direction of service and utility provisions. The Bill of Rights further spells out the Right to housing, right to clean and safe environment which are core fundamentals of the habitat and on that score, housing, land and property rights, urban planning, management of environment and natural resources, sanitation, all of which fall within the purview of the EAC. This would be a strategic entry point for EALA in

the sector. The hosting of the 25th Anniversary celebrations of GPH is another entry point in the new dispensation between both institutions.

Facts and figures show the deplorable living conditions of people, the poverty and the sprouting slums in many cities still pose a challenge to governments and leaders alike. In Uganda for instance with a population of about 30 million people, it is estimated that 14% of the populace live in urban area. A large population reside in the rural areas. The numbers living in the slums is also grave. The situation is not much different in many cities of East Africa. The continuous traffic jams which not only follow pick hours, the huge tonnes of garbage, the floods and poor drainage have become a daily occurrence in many cities of Africa. With this kind of scenario, the challenge of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 is still challenging.



Hon Benard Murunya, a Member of the EALA-GPH Sub-Committee shakes hands with Hon Mike Sebalu (left) as Hon Christophe Bazivamo and Hon Twaha Taslima looks on. More EALA Members are expected to join GPH



PARLIAMENTS IN THE REGION ADVOCATE FOR LAWS FOR A BETTER HABITAT

...Uganda hosted GPH conference as other Parliaments mull over relevant pieces of law

As the GPH celebrates its Silver Jubilee; certain facts can be laid bare for sure; that the region needs good laws for a better habitat.

In 2009, the Parliament of Uganda moved to ascertain this fact by hosting the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, African Chapter Conference. The Conference was opened by the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda (now the Vice President of Uganda), Rt. Hon Edward Ssekandi. The conference was called to popularise the habitat agenda among Parliamentarians and assess commitments made by

UN Member States towards human settlements. Hon Ssekandi noted that the problem of human settlements was getting worse given the fact that one hundred million persons were homeless with another one billion living without clean water, sanitation and electricity.

He remarked that the failure to come to terms with rapid urbanisation, slum upgrading and raising awareness of the world to the issues was a collective failure on the part of the leaders.

'Addressing the challenges depends on the ability by the governments, local authorities and civil society partners coming up with concrete solutions', he added.

According to the Commissioner for Urban development, Ministry of Lands, Housing and urban development Mr. Mabala Shibuta Samuel, East Africa is the least urbanised in Africa at 22.7%. The UN-HABITAT Programme Manager in Uganda, Peter Wegulo sums it all in the paradox that 'adequate Houses are not affordable while affordable houses are not adequate.'

The fact that Parliament of Uganda hosted the conference was a strong indication that as representatives of the people, Parliaments are very concerned about the state of affairs in the region. It is recommended that governments commit themselves to providing better cities and settlements. It is necessary to have appropriate policy, legal, instrumental frameworks with adequate resources to



A section of the GPH, Africa Chapter, during the Conference held at the Parliament of Uganda in August 2009. At the Centre is the Vice President of Uganda H.E. Edward Ssekandi – then Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda

support effective urban planning, development and management.

Partner States in the EAC face urban housing deficits that need to be solved. This remains a problem for urban planners and governments yet at the same time, presents huge investment opportunities for property developers. Government intervention is needed in the form of public-private partnerships to make this possible.

According to a report released by UN-HABITAT, Kigali needs at least 35,000 new dwelling units per year but currently developers are only supplying just 1,000 houses that are moreover for the high-end buyers.

In Kenya, the economy is nursing an annual housing deficit estimated at 156,000 units per annum compared to 50,000 units built per year. The deficit is largely filled by the growth of slums and poor quality traditional housing.

The same situation is recorded in Burundi. In Uganda, the country has a national housing backlog of about 1.6 million units out of which 211,000 units are in urban centers and 1.29 million in rural areas.

In Tanzania, according to the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, more than 30% of urban dwellers live in dilapidated houses while 70% are living in unplanned areas.

Over to you Parliamentarians - press to ensure that address of the sustainability issues.



By Hon. MUHONGAYIRE, Jacqueline

GOOD-BYE NYAKATSI

...Rwanda's plot to eradicate grass thatched houses gets boost from EALA

EAC Partner States are signatories of both the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in which articles 25(1) and 11(1) respectively, state that, everyone has a right to a decent standard of living for his/her health and well-being and for his/her family, including social services. Such social services include housing, clothing, medical care and other necessary services. Additionally, decent shelter is one of the best indicators of a good standard of living and poverty eradication - one of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The East African Community has a population of about one hundred and thirty million people, the majority of whom live in rural areas. The most vulnerable of the populace live in grass-thatched houses.

Rwanda as one of the EAC Partner States has a population of close to 11 million people with about

80 percent of them living in the rural areas and is considered amongst the most densely populated countries in Africa. In 2010, the most poverty stricken individuals in Rwanda still lived in grass-thatched, mud-brick huts known as "Nyakatsi."

The good news is that the government of Rwanda in collaboration with its citizens, different institutions and the Rwandan diaspora have come together to eradicate the *Nyakatsi*. The implementation of the programme that was co-ordinated by the Ministry of Local Government was completed by the end of 2011.

The eradication of the *Nyakatsi* houses is one of the many signs of Rwanda's commitment to transforming a nation devastated by the genocide seventeen years ago.

In an effort to improve land utilization and speed-up development, Rwanda is in the process of improving settlement and habitation from scattered and unplanned settlements to planned settlements



A section of the EALA Members (2nd Assembly) building a house during their visit to Rwanda



The past in Rwanda



The future in Rwanda: Adequate Housing is a critical and basic right

helping the groups have homes that are considered standard housing. Greater efforts have also been registered from the diaspora through a campaign known as “Bye-bye Nyakatsi.”

In the spirit of representation and of bringing the Community closer to the People, on March 26, 2011, EALA Members participated in the anti-Nyakatsi eradication drive in Kanyinya sector, Nyarugenge District in the environs of Kigali City during the Community Work initiative.

At the drive, H.E. President Paul Kagame of Rwanda also joined the citizens of the area in constructing houses. In addition, Community Work also known as ‘Umuganda’ takes place on the last Saturday of every month from the village level through to the national level.

On April 8 2011, EALA Members returned to the Kanyinya sector this time to distribute over 300 iron sheets and to assess progress. The EALA Delegation noted that shelter was “a critical and basic right” for all.

EALA commended the government of Rwanda for the initiative adding that it was a scheme worthy of emulation in the rest of the other EAC Partner States. EALA Members were privileged

to have been part of the scheme to eradicate the grass thatched houses.

Coincidentally, in December 2010, EALA had passed a Resolution urging the EAC Partner States to quickly undertake concrete policies of adequate housing for all citizens.

The resolution was brought to the floor of the *House* by Hon. Frederic Ngenzebuhoro. The involvement of EALA with the Nyakatsi initiative comes in light of this resolution and emphasizes EALA’s stand in ensuring all its undertakings are people-centered and geared towards ensuring a common destiny for all.

EALA also took the opportunity to engage in construction as a means of both outreach and participation in Rwanda’s campaign to eradicate the grass-thatched houses.

EALA has commended the government of Rwanda for the initiative adding that it was a scheme worthy of emulation in the rest of the other EAC Partner States.

called “imidugudu.” This is being done through the local leaders at all levels (decentralization system) and encourages the population for those constructing new houses or rehabilitating existing houses to settle into the planned areas. For the homeless and other vulnerable groups, efforts have been made towards



By Hon. Dora C. Kanabahita Byamukama

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO REVERSE THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE?

In the recent past, it was possible to predict with some degree of certainty when the wet and dry seasons were expected. This made it relatively easy for farmers to plan for planting, weeding and harvesting. In this time and age however, the weather is less predictable. All this, goes to show that the globe is witnessing climate change. Available information confirms climate change in other parts of the world as evidenced by various examples, such as the El-Nino, floods, mud slides, melting snow.

Changing weather patterns spell doom for humanity because they, among other things, contribute to food insecurity and negatively impact on economies which heavily rely on agriculture as witnessed on the African continent. The current cycle of global warming has changed the rhythm of climate that all living things rely upon.

While we struggle to figure out how we can slow global warming and how to cope with changes we have already set in motion- the face of the Earth as we know it—oceans, lakes, coasts, forests, farms, and snowcapped mountains such as Mt. Kilimanjaro—hangs in the balance. Each of us therefore has a duty to ensure that global warming is contained and reduced to safer levels.

Climate change is defined as a long-term change in the statistical distribution of weather patterns over periods of time that range from decades to millions of years. It may be a change in the average weather conditions or a change in the distribution of weather events with respect to an average, for example, greater or fewer extreme weather events. Climate change may be limited to a specific region or may occur across the whole earth. Causes of climate change are various – they include greenhouse gas emissions such as those emitted by the manufacturing and construction sector;



Cutting of trees is a recipe for disaster

generation of electricity and heating; and the transport sector among others. The continuous burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas is inevitable to support the various sectors.

The burning of fossil fuels greatly increases the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases, trapping more of the sun's energy near the Earth's surface. In response, our planet is warming at an unprecedented rate and ecosystems such as forests and swamps are changing- forests are steadily disappearing and swamps drying up.

Industrialization of economies depends largely on the combustion of coal, oil and gas. It is noted that if current greenhouse gas emission rates continue, altered temperature and precipitation patterns will seriously impact ecosystems and human welfare. Many nations have adopted policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but a comprehensive and effective international climate treaty remains part of a continuing debate. Solutions to dealing with the challenge of climate change include activities aimed at mitigation or at adaptation, among others. Mitigation is human intervention to reduce the sources or



enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases. Examples include using fossil fuels more efficiently for industrial processes or electricity generation, switching to renewable energy such as solar energy or wind power, improving the insulation of buildings, and expanding forests and other “sinks” to remove greater amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Most means of mitigation such as expanding forests, maybe effective for preventing further warming, but not at reversing existing warming. It should be noted

Each of us therefore has a duty to ensure that global warming is contained and reduced to safer levels.

that even the most effective reductions in green house gas emissions would not prevent further climate change impacts thus making the need for adaptation unavoidable.

Adaptation is a response to climate change that seeks to reduce the vulnerability of natural and human systems to climate change effects. It is acknowledged that even if green house gas emissions are stabilized relatively soon, climate change and its effects will last many years, and adaptation will be necessary. Adaptation strategies to prevent damage from climate change include sea and lake shore protection which can be done by building of dikes and bulkheads to prevent water level rise; a planned retreat, in which structures are relocated inland as shores retreat; farmers planting different crops for different seasons, and wildlife migrating to more suitable habitats as the seasons change.

Communities I visited, such as those living in the Nandi Hills of Kenya and the Mt. Elgon Region have undertaken activities that promote environmental protection and improve livelihoods. These include bee keeping bees in forests; manufacture of bio-gas from cow dung which supplies homes with light and cooking fuel. The same cow dung is used to revitalize soil fertility. Replication and multiplication of such activities at each household level has capacity to gradually and positively impact on climate change.

At an individual level, actions that can make a difference to climate change include:

- Changes in the way we produce and use energy as a starting point in trying to reduce emissions. Each individual needs to be frugal and thus deploy energy conservation measures such as use of energy saving devices like bulbs and stoves; use of renewable energy such as solar and bio-fuels.
- Promote purchase of energy efficient appliances; and construction of houses that allow maximum use of natural light and better insulation.
- Make it a goal to plant at least five trees near your homestead and plant two trees when one is cut. Plant trees specifically for fuel systematically in order to avert depletion of forests. Plant different crops taking into account the changing seasons.
- Promote soil conservation and environmental protection by farming methods such as terracing; growing of organic plants and use organic waste in order to maintain soil fertility.
- Adopt planning that allows, for example parking space for cars – so as to reduce use of private cars in inner cities in order to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from cars. Activities which have multiple benefits such as such, walking and biking should be encouraged.
- Support industries that adopt mechanisms to mitigate carbon emissions such as planting of trees and proper waste management.
- Prepare for floods and land-slides by setting up dikes or planning for retreat from areas prone to such occurrences.
- Adhere to environmental protection laws and support enforcement of such laws by reporting practices that destroy the environment.
- Support enactment of laws such as that on inheritance of land by women who are the majority of land users and therefore have a stake in its preservation and conservation.
- At every opportunity create awareness about environmental change and action that one can take to avert self destruction.

We should realize that use of fossil fuels such as petrol, paraffin and charcoal create vast quantities of carbon dioxide, which in turn causes global warming and will thus lead to self destruction. You and I have a legal and moral duty to act now in order to avert eminent disaster. **Plant a tree today for starters.**

BRIEFS FROM ORGANS & INSTITUTIONS OF EAC

Hon Jacqueline Muhongayire is Rwanda's new Minister for EAC Affairs

President Paul Kagame appointed former EALA Member, Hon Jacqueline Muhongayire, the new Minister for EAC Affairs on July 12, 2013. Minister Muhongayire was immediately sworn in alongside the in-coming Chief of Defence Staff and the Deputy Inspector General of Police in a brief ceremony at the Parliament buildings. Speaking after the ceremony, President Paul Kagame reminded the country's leaders that for Rwanda to achieve its desired goals, there was need to coordinate activities, complement each other and communicate effectively.

Hon Muhongayire on her part pledged to build on what has been achieved to ensure Rwandans benefit from the EAC integration process. "I have experience in the regional bloc having served in EALA and I am looking forward to deepen EAC integration," said Hon Muhongayire, who has been

a legislator at national, then regional level since 1994. The Minister replaces Hon Monique Mukaruliza who has been at the helm of the Ministry since 2008. The appointment of Hon Muhongayire was a pleasant



surprise for a section of EALA Members attending a planning meeting in Arusha. The Speaker of EALA, Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa broke the news and wished Hon Muhongayire well. "I wish Hon Muhongayire, who was the Chairperson of the Accounts Committee well in her new assignment.

I thank President Paul Kagame, the appointing authority for his wisdom in appointing Hon Muhongayire", the Speaker noted.

EAC holds SG's Manufacturer's Forum



EAC Secretary General's Manufacturers' Forum was officiated by Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera on 22nd July 2013 in Kampala, Uganda. Amb. Dr. Sezibera noted that the event was marking the formal launch of a series of thematic-based SG-

CEO Forums to give a deeper insight and a more stable platform to address key challenges affecting the businesses at national and regional levels. The EAC Secretary General reiterated that manufacturing offers a wide range of opportunities in the EAC Partner States and the Heads of State across the region have always expressed commitment to the development of the manufacturing and micro,

small and medium enterprise sectors. East African Business Council in partnership with Trade Mark East Africa and EAC Secretariat hosted the Forum that was attended by Members of the EABC, Uganda Manufacturers' Association (UMA) and the Media.

TMEA Regional Director, Private Sector and Civil Society, Ms. Lisa Karanja informed the CEOs that with the establishment of the EAC Secretary General's CEO Forum in 2012, there is great opportunity for both the Chief Executive Officers and the Secretary General to dialogue on how to enhance the EAC integration process for business and trade, as well as improve the operating environment for businesses.

At the Forum, UMA presented some of the key policy issues and a horde of Non-Tariff barriers affecting its members requiring urgent redress at regional level.

EACJ to hear cases

East African Court of Justice, First Instance Division will start its 3rd quarter sessions from 20th August to 13th September 2013, in Arusha Tanzania.

This session will in Total handle a number of cases 18 matters of these 13 are References, 4 Applications coming up for hearing and scheduling conferences and 1 Judgment to be delivered.

Among the cases coming up for hearing include; *Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) Vs The Hon. Attorney General of The United Republic of*

Tanzania on August 20th -21st, 2013; *Democratic Party Vs Secretary General of the East African Community & 4 Others* - August 22nd; *Hon. Sitenda Sebalu Vs The Secretary General of The East African Community* - August 23rd; *Democratic Party (2) Mukasa Fred Mbidde Vs The Attorney General of the Republic of Uganda* on Aug 27; and *Alcon International Limited Vs Standard Chartered Bank of Uganda and 2 Others* coming up for delivery on September 2, 2013.





1. Speaker of EALA, Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa, the Chair, EAC Council of Ministers, Shem Bageine and EAC Secretary General, Amb Dr. Richard Sezibera. The trio will play a fundamental role in ensuring the EAC contributes to realising adequate housing and enhancing the habitat
2. Hon Abdullah Mwinyi makes his contribution on the floor of the House. Legislaion is key in the housing sector
3. A section of EALA Members address a press conference. EALA and GPH are expected to collaborate further in realising the set out objectives
4. EALA staff Members participate in a tree-planting session in Uganda. Plant a tree: conserve the environment should be the clarion call
5. A section of staff pay keen attention to proceedings at a past EALA Plenary
6. Hon Jeremie Ngendakumana, EALA Chapter Chair, Burundi asks a question during the Plenary Session in Kigali, Rwanda
7. **The Assembly on plan:** A section of EALA Members admire the EAC model plan surrounded by trees. It is necessary that tree-planting is actualised
8. **In action:** Hon Shem Bageine, Chair, Council of Ministers (centre), Hon Nancy Abisai and Hon Joseph Kiangoi (right) are joined by a top Burundi official during tree-planting at Buganda district in Bujumbura. It is now a policy that EALA conserves the environment by engaging in the activity at every Plenary
9. President Pierre Nkurunziza, EALA Speaker, Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa, Hon Mike Sebalu and Hon Nancy Abisai engage in community work in Bujumbura. All stakeholders must collaborate to realise the MDGs and progressive development
10. EALA Members during a visit to a cattle keeping project in the Kitazigurwa Model Village in Muhazi Sector, Rwanda
11. Hon Juliana Kantengwa (left) Vice President of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) and EALA Member Hon Mumbi Ngaru. EALA and PAP have discussed MDGs at various conferences
12. **WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT:** EALA Speaker visits a stall during the African Women Economic Policy Network (AWEPON) Meeting. Women play a critical role in development



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12



By Rt. Hon. Zziwa Nantongo Margaret

LET EALA AND GPH HELP EAC FOCUS ON HUMAN SETTLEMENT

...move shall help region attain MDG 11



What are we doing to achieve the MDG 11 on “Shelter for all by 2015”?

Thirteen years after UN Member States committed themselves to improving the livelihood of their citizenry, we can today reflect to see how much governments have done for each of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target lines considering the timelines given.

All MDG targets are crucial and actually tackling some can immensely improve others. For instance, in tackling poverty and hunger, MDG1 can help MDG 2 on education or MDGs 3,4 and 5 and so on). However with a critical outlook, one appreciates that there are intricacies in achieving each of these MDGs. For instance are we doing enough to achieve the MDG 11? “Shelter for all by 2015” The clock is ticking pretty fast, but are we about to attain shelter for all?

Shelter is a basic human need, it is a governance issue, it is a gender issue; it requires planning, resources, constant direction and monitoring. Our people (women and children) live in deplorable

Shelter is a basic human need, it is a governance issue, it is a gender issue; it requires planning, resources, constant direction and monitoring.

conditions, in shanties, in slums with no services or utility provisions, yet the population in the cities are growing by day. Our Cities are characterized by congestion, pollution, and poor or no planned areas for housing. Some of our governments have left this role entirely to local governments with little or no tools, meager resources and inadequate human capacity to handle the challenge.

Global Parliamentarians for Habitat (GPH) and EALA can help in keeping EAC Partner States focused



We should progressively move away from the Nyakatsi roofs

on housing. The Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community may not have a specific Article to address human settlement or housing but Article 5 (b) on economic development, Article 7 (2) on various rights and social justice and Article 120 on social welfare, generally point in the direction of service and utility provisions. More explicitly, the Bill of Rights spells out *inter alia*, the Right to housing, Right to clean and safe environment which are the core aspects of the Habitat Agenda.

This can be a strategic entry point for EALA in to the sector. It is a fact that the housing situation in East Africa leaves a lot to be desired, where mud and wattle walls and dust floors are still a predominant phenomenon both in cities and villages alike. A good number of homes are more so, still roofed by grass or other biodegradable material making them very insecure for the dwellers. Statistics reveal that over 70% of East Africans still habit in sub-standard housing.

In December 2010, EALA moved a resolution (Resolution of the Partner States Urging the EAC Partner States to quickly undertake concrete policies for adequate Housing for all EAC Citizens) calling on Partner State governments to put in place practical policies and measures to tackle poor housing, slums, traffic congestion, pollution so that as the Common Market phase of integration takes form, our cities can facilitate investment and can be appealing to Foreign Direct

Investments (FDI) and promote growth. Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH) is a forum for Parliamentarians from UN Member States under the auspices of UN Habitat who have committed themselves to advocating for better laws to take care of planned Cities, adequate resources to housing, descent and affordable housing and access to land. To GPH, it is very absurd and humiliating for any Parliamentarian to seek for a vote from a household head in a shanty dwelling without offering any hope. With the renewed commitment during the UN General Council 23 in Nairobi, GPH Africa offered to follow passionately on the Habitat Agenda drawn in Istanbul, Turkey in 1985.

Policies like slum upgrading policies, low cost housing policies, land policies, urban development policies put up by our governments must be supported to ensure that adequate resources are appropriated to these policies. Even in cases where the laws have been enacted, implementation has remained in abeyance. GPH has taken a strong resolve to remind our governments to “walk the talk”. Good and planned cities testify to the orderliness and the strategic nature of the people.

The EAC Summit should take a close look at the MDG 11 and evaluate the gaps which need to be plunked in the remaining 2 years (up to 2015). Fellow Parliamentarians, take up your oversight role(s)..... are Ministries of Housing, Urban Development, Lands and other stakeholders doing enough?

Editors Note: Rt. Hon Margaret N. Zziwa is also President of GPH Africa.



Better planning is necessary but the clock is ticking very fast



By Hon. Pierre Celestin Rwigema

GRANITES INDUSTRY PROMOTING LOCAL ENTERPRISE AND GIVING BACK TO THE ENVIRONMENT

EALA Members seized the occasion on the sidelines of the 5th Meeting of the 1st Session of the 3rd Assembly in Kigali, Rwanda to tour the East African Granite Industries (EAGI). The East African Granite Industries inaugurated by H.E Paul Kagame on July 6th, 2012, is a US\$ 15 million factory built on 72 hectares of land, located in Nyagatare District (between the Eastern Province and North Eastern part of the country).

In his speech, President Kagame said that the industry was one of the starting points to attain Rwanda's dream of self-sustainability and advised it to enhance production to become reliable suppliers on regional and international markets while ensuring the environment was protected.

The plant currently has the capacity to produce a minimum of 150, 000 square meters and a maximum of 200, 000 square meters annually. The industry has the capacity to meet up to three quarters of the

region's annual demand which currently stands at between 250,000-300,000 square meters. In addition, it may have surplus to export to the region. Already, EAGI is exporting the authentic Granite and Marble

EAGI is however committed to providing its consumers with the highest quality craftsmanship in the region owing to their offer of the finest granites selections.

products to Uganda fostering economic growth and development for the region.

According to the General Manager, Mr. Gentil Kangaho, EAGI has a vision to become the premier



EAGI General Manager, Gentil Kangaho (right) explains the process of finishing granites to a section of Members when they visited the plant



President Paul Kagame during the official inauguration of EAGI in July 2012

producer of dimensional stone products in Africa using modern technology. With this, it shall continue to unveil and exploit Rwanda's natural stone beauty.

Mr. Kangaho believes that the sky is the limit. The major benefits of the factory are: Utilization of local untapped raw material, job creation and transfer of new skills, wealth creation especially for the middle class, reducing inflation by cutting dependency on imports but promoting exports thus earning the region the much needed foreign exchange and reducing the balance of payment deficit.

At the same time, EAGI shall utilise new technologies diversifying markets, support electrification and participation in local economic development and introduction of environment friendly industries.

Diversification is one of the outcomes of this exceptional economic project. For instance, EAGI is investing in the construction of power lines, road network and water lines.

It also intends to set up a water treatment plant so that the community could benefit by accessing clean piped water and produce cobblestone from granite waste rocks to use in road construction that is the key in enhancing interconnectivity.

From here, East Africans would fully take advantage of their world's largest reserve of natural resources and focus on uplifting their welfare because they are the first to benefit from the integration process. The factory has to contend with cheap imports and



Try this at home: Sparkling granite and marble finish

counterfeits in the region. EAGI is however committed to providing its consumers with the highest quality craftsmanship in the region owing to their offer of the finest granites selections.

EALA Members who visited the plant noted with satisfaction the Rwandan government's contribution to the integration process. The Members remarked that enhanced infrastructure, basic manufactured products and regional production chains were vital for the region to create employment and promote export diversification. This could offer new and dynamic opportunities for exports and enhance overall competitiveness of the EAC economies.

The Future is certain. The granites industry in Rwanda continues to supply stone for building, monuments, and memorials all over the EAC, with enough stone still to be quarried to meet demand for centuries to come.



By Hon. Mariam Nalubega

FAST TRACKING THE ROLE OF GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARIANS ON HABITAT IN ADVANCING THE AGENDA FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENT



Rt. Hon. Zziwa Nantongo Margaret with some of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH) Board Members

Parliamentarians are important partners in the field of human settlements because they are in a position to influence the formulation and revision of public policies. They enact laws and regulations and strengthen the capacity of public institutions at the international and local levels.

The Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH), the only international parliamentary group with activities directly related to human settlements, holds a Global Forum every two years to follow-up on the agreements and commitments undertaken during the Second Conference of the United Nations on Human Settlements.

Its 4th Global Forum, held in Berlin in May 2003, adopted the Berlin Declaration calling on governments, *inter alia*, to increase financial support for the realization of the United Nations Millennium Development Goal of improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020. Governments were also called upon to ensure the availability of predictable financial resources for UN-HABITAT to strengthen its work on poverty alleviation.

The Global Parliamentarians on Habitat met in April 2009 in the UN premises in Nairobi during the GC22, discussed and exchange views on how to strengthen the GPH as well as its regional fora to make them more active in promoting the housing and human settlements agenda as well as achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) under current financial crisis and climate change.

More than 50 Parliamentarians from 17 countries attended the meeting and passed a Resolution in support of UN-HABITAT's main theme of the 22nd Governing Council (GC22) and presented in the closing session. Furthermore, the meeting established the African Parliamentarians chapter of GPH and the office bearers were elected by African Parliamentarians as its Board of Directors.

In 1998, **GPH** initiated an Annual Parliamentary Forum during the United Nations Habitat Governing Council. The primary goal was to develop the role of parliamentarians in international politics by organizing a GPH Parliamentary Forum at each Governing Council meeting. The first Forum was held in September

1996 in Istanbul-Turkey As a result of **UN-Habitat's** involvement of MPs; governments now routinely include Parliamentarians on national delegations to the Governing Council.

At these fora, **GPH** members not only have the opportunity to discuss pressing issues with other members from around the world, but also with Parliamentarians who are not members, such as high-level government and intergovernmental officials and experts, whom they might not have ever met otherwise. GPH is also a member of the world urban campaign for HABITAT 111(WUC111).

Since 1996, **GPH's** Annual Fora have been held internationally. Some years, the Annual Forum is held as part of a side event (Parliamentarians'roundtable) alongside the UN-Governing Council, World Urban Forum or World Habitat Day.

Parliamentarians are important partners in the field of human settlements because they are in a position to influence the formulation and revision of public policies.

Now come August 2013, GPH will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary across the World, the European chapter will be held in Split, Asia shall communicate its venue while for the African Chapter, It shall be hosted by the Chapter President and Speaker of EALA Rt. Hon. Margaret Zziwa.

We hope to be with you there as we advance the HABITAT Agenda.

Since the 1996 forum in Istanbul, past Annual Foras for Global Parliamentarians on Habitat have been held in the following countries:

- 1998 in Cancún, Mexico
- 2000 in Manila, Philippines
- 2003 in Berlin, Germany
- 2005 in Rabat, Morocco
- 2010 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- 2011 in Zadar, Croatia

Other events and activities

The Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH) actively



Peter Götz MP, President of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, invited Parliamentarians from around the world to discuss current challenges in the field of sustainable urban development and to develop solutions

participate in conferences revolving around the subject of Habitat. And below are some of the activities that GPH has actively and positively contributed to;

- 2013, 25th Governing Council of UN-Habitat, Nairobi, Kenya
- 2012, World Urban Forum VI, Naples, Italy (Theme: Cities as engines of sustainable growth. the role of parliamentarians)
- 2011, World Habitat Day, Aguascalientes, Mexico (Theme: Cities and climate change)
- 2011, 23. Governing Council of UN-Habitat, Nairobi, Kenya (1st election of GPH-Africa chapter)
- 2010, World Habitat Day, Shanghai, China (Theme: Better city, better life)
- 2010, World Urban Forum V, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil(Theme: The right to a city. bridging the urban divide)
- 2009, World Habitat Day, Washington DC, USA (Theme: Planning our urban future)
- 2009, 22. Governing Council of UN-Habitat, Nairobi, Kenya (Theme: Promoting affordable housing finance system in the face of global financial crisis and climate change)
- 2008, World Urban Forum IV, Nanjing, China (Theme: Harmonious cities)
- 2008, World Habitat Day, Specialist conference, Launda, Angola (Theme: Harmonious cities)
- 2012, 24th Governing council of UN-Habitat, Nairobi, Kenya (Theme: Sustainable development, the role of cities in creating improved economic opportunities for all)

Editors Note: Hon Mariam Nalubega is the MP for Butambala in Uganda.



By Hon. Frédéric Ngenzeuhoro

THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS IN BOOSTING ADEQUATE HOUSING FOR ALL CITIZENS IN AFRICA

At 6 am on 22nd July 2013, I turn - on the button of my radio to follow the news on Radio Burundi. The journalist reports that six thatched houses belonging to the Batwa (an ethnic group) have burnt to ashes and nothing has been saved.

I am shocked to my bare knuckle but I also feel guilty. I have been a Member of the Burundi Parliament for 16 years and now I am at EALA. Some Burundians still live in inadequate houses like the ones consumed by the fire. What have I done to boost adequate housing in my country? while I could act upon national policy in this sector and improve the life of my voters?

Later while perusing through literature on the issue of adequate housing, I came across interesting but shocking analysis about African cities.

The analysis indicates that African Cities present a contradictory picture: "On the one hand we have Cities that are geometrically organized, relatively better serviced in terms of representational welfare, sanitation and security needs.

This part of the City exudes post-colonial aesthetic with an eclectic mix of colonial and post-independence

monuments, architectural design and gardening concepts. Simply put, the ambience is inspirational. This is the domain of the rich-newly arrived or long-standing inhabitants of the City.

The other side of the City is disorderly, unplanned, usually unsafe and under serviced. It is the informal section, where the 'not so well to do born- citylites' and newly arrived villagers eke out their lives. Houses are huddled higgledy-piggledy, polythene bags are strewn everywhere, as are scrap metal and discarded tyres. Open sewers prevail and there is lots of dust or mud, as the season dictates.

Pigs and ducks have the honorable job of inspecting open sewers as a matter of course and survival. The State in this part of the City is neither a protector nor a provider of services. Rather, it is a perforated apparatus that selectively dispenses law and order". This high differentiation of living among the same citizens can be source of conflict leading to bloodshed in many African countries where the reality is what the above analysis describes.

Let us recall that we still have households which live

in houses completely covered of thatch or tins, without windows, without walls, without roofs, without floor.

And in many cases, large families live in such houses, especially in rural areas. We cannot vouch for their durability even when there are no accidents like fire or floods. As decision-makers, as elected representatives of our people, we must cause change of such situations and give citizens opportunity to enjoy safe habitation. As Representatives of our people, we have to realize that there is a strong link between adequate housing and health. An overcrowded thatched house is source of diseases like tuberculosis



A typical grass thatched house. Such are found in some of the cities



New and modern highrise apartments in the city. Parliamentarians can contribute to the pursuit of adequate housing

clauses of the legal instruments and to implement them.

While some States have registered notable progress in helping citizens to dwell in adequate houses, others have failed in that area and people continue to live in unsafe conditions. It is a shame!

As Representatives of our people, we must play our watchdog role and put pressure where necessary, so that the policy of adequate housing can be achieved for citizens without discrimination. Otherwise, we shall have failed in our responsibility and we shall lose credibility. Even though the issue of adequate housing is a

and other respiratory infections due to inadequate ventilation, and the burning of coal and wood. This creates a lot of psychological problems, especially among young persons. That is why young people leave the rural areas and prefer to live in the city slums.

As Parliamentarians, we must regularly ensure that housing policy is correctly implemented and is catered for sufficiently in the national budgets.

When people live in inadequate housing, they feel unsafe. They may lose all their little wealth resulting from fires or other domestic accidents. Consequently those people are permanently under stress and often develop hypertension. We could easily lose their lives.

We Parliamentarians must be aware that access to adequate housing is a fundamental right that can be considered as the basis of other rights and is the condition of human dignity.

The access to adequate housing is recognized in numerous International Conventions like the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1976) as a basic human right.

By signing the international legal instruments, our States agree to abide by the enforcement of the

responsibility of the governments, it cannot remain purely theirs. In many cases, it has been noted that governments lack political will to address the critical issue. They prefer to put their priorities elsewhere. The bureaucracies which often characterize many governments can hinder the achievement of that goal. Some governments lack enough resources and often decide to defer the achievement of that international obligation. That is why the private sector must be interested and be involved.

In other situations, instability and corruption within governments can lead to the perpetual postponement of that critical goal to the detriment of the citizens' welfare.

That is why I say that Parliamentarians must be involved and play a visible role through enhanced advocacy and oversight.

As Parliamentarians, we must regularly ensure that housing policy is correctly implemented and is catered for sufficiently in the national budgets.

We have the responsibility of sensitizing the population to change their mentality and to build adequate housing even if it requires additional effort.

We could also sensitize the Private Sector to establish partnerships with governments to boost adequate housing at affordable costs for the citizens. It is imperative that we cause citizens in this 21st century to live in adequate housing without discrimination.

Parliamentarians have the responsibility of contributing to this noble goal by fully playing their Parliamentary roles.



EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS



Hon. ZZIWA Nantongo Margaret
(SPEAKER, EALA)



Hon. Shem Bageine, Current Chair,
Council of Ministers and Minister for
State, East African Affairs (UG)



Hon. Phyllis K. Kandie, Cabinet
Secretary, East African Affairs,
Commerce and Tourism (KE)



Hon. Léontine Nzeyimana,
Minister for EAC Affairs (BU)



Hon. Samuel Sitta, Minister for
EA Co-operation (TZ)



Hon. Jacqueline Muhongayire
Minister for EAC Affairs (RW)



Hon. Dr. Abdallah Sadala Abdalla,
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Hon. Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera,
Secretary General – EAC



Hon. Wilbert T. Kaahwa –
Counsel to the Community EAC



REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



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Hon. MOSSI Hafsa



Hon. NDAHAYO Isabelle



Hon. NDARUBAGIYE Leonce



Hon. Dr. NDUWIMANA Martin



Hon. NENGO Emmanuel



Hon. NGENDAKUMANA Jeremie



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Hon. NSABIMANA Yves



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Hon. BONAYA Talaso Sarah



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Hon. PARENO Judith Nayiai R.



REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



Hon. BAZIVAMO Christophe



Hon. HAJABAKIGA Mugorenejo Patricie



Hon. HARELIMANA Abdul Karim



Hon. Dr. NDAHIRO James



Hon. RWIGEMA Pierre Celestin



Hon. NDIKURYAYO Straton



Hon. NYIRAHABINEZA Valerie



Hon. Dr. NYIRAMIRIMO Odette

One slot vacant following the appointment of Hon Muhongayire as Minister for EAC Affairs



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



Hon. BHANJI Shy-Rose Sadrudin



Hon. KIMBISA Adam Omar



Hon. KIZIGHA Angela Charles



Hon. MURUNYA Bernard Musomi



Hon. MWINYI Abdullah Ally Hassan



Hon. Dr. NDERAKINDO Perpetua Kessy



Hon. NYERERE Charles Makongoro



Hon. TASLIMA Twaha Issa



Hon. YAHYA Maryam Ussi



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



Hon. BYAMUKAMA Dora



Hon. KIDEGA Daniel Fred



Hon. MUKASA Mbidde Fred



Hon. MULENGANI Bernard



Hon. NAKAWUKI Susan



Hon. OPOKA-OKUMU Chris



Hon. SEBALU Mike Kennedy



Hon. TIPERU Nusura



Rt. Hon. ZZIWA Nantongo Margaret (Speaker, EALA)



RWANDA IS WELL POSITIONED TO BE THE SINGAPORE OF AFRICA



The Kigali Skyline that defines the capital city of Rwanda

LAND LOCKED, tiny in area and regarded as more densely populated than any other country in sub-Saharan Africa, Rwanda has at the same time achieved what a leading British development expert; Paul Collier fittingly calls “the hat-trick” of rapid growth, sharp poverty reduction and reduced inequality, within a comparatively short period of time.

For a country that still harks back to the genocide of 1994, when close to a million people were murdered in the spate of 100 days of sustained mayhem while the world watched, this is no mean achievement.

Even then, I and my colleagues in the East African Legislative Assembly, continue to marvel at the breathtaking panoramic view of the city, and more specifically, at the cleanliness of every facet of the environment obtaining herein.

Indeed, so much is the ambiance and orderly life of the city that many of our membership have confided that the Kigali sojourn during Plenary is often a deserved three weeks break from the comparatively unprecedented hazy skies, pollution and traffic snarl-ups that now defines a working day in Nairobi, Dar and Kampala.

I will bet that EALA Members would grudgingly have wished that the sessions ran a little longer, with a tongue-in-cheek suggestion to transfer the planned sittings in other Partner States to Kigali, as they rejoice in the morning and evening jogs past carefully cut grass lawns amidst the sweet scent from the fresh flowers, alongside hundreds of locals.

But that alone is not what Rwanda has got to show since its miraculous return from the abyss of history nearly two decades alone. Rwanda’s GDP growth is expected to be in the region of 6.3% this year, while its free health care system already covers about 90% of the population.

The KivuWatt Project, one of Rwanda’s most ambitious projects, is furthermore expected to increase the mountainous country’s power generation by a third. This is a symbol of revival and

Rwanda is further capable of attracting regional and international capital and draw on the biggest banking and financial institutions already operating in the East African Community

turning a potential disaster into an engine of growth and reinvigoration.

Coupled with the massive infrastructural developments taking place all across the country and the astute and visionary political leadership that has placed emphasis on the philosophy of “*Duharanire Kwigira* – Striving for Self-reliance,” Rwanda could be poised as the new Singapore of Africa.

In more than many ways, Rwanda and Singapore share common characteristics. They could variedly be described as economic miracles who have achieved much within a short span of time and in spite of their lack of natural resources.

All that the Eastern African state now requires to do is to, like Singapore, exploit further its own strategic entrepot location in the Eastern, Central and Great Lakes region as well as orient its local population to embrace the spirit of hard work and unshackle their mindset from the horrendous experience of the yesteryears.

Singapore's economic leap and massive increase in wealth as one of the four Asian Tigers is premised on sound economic fundamentals, strong regulatory frameworks and an even stronger pro-business environment and diversity. Like the revered Lee Kuan Yew, Rwandan President Paul Kagame presently enjoys singular popularity for his personal charisma, no-nonsense approach and a commitment to pursue what he thinks is right for the common good of the country.

Under his benevolent guidance, Rwanda is further capable of attracting regional and international capital and draw on the biggest banking and financial institutions already operating in the East African Community, for which he is one of its leading cheerleaders.

Apart from banking, there is of course, need to develop a more liberal foreign exchange bureaus underpinned by a strong reputation for trust and integrity – in a way intended to scoop a major share in the expected African economic boom. I am hoping that the decay and obtaining economic malaise in Europe would have been aggravated whilst the current

excitement over China and India dissipates in the next few years

Again, Singapore roared on to become the world's fourth leading financial center, not because it possessed its own enormous wealth, but largely because of its ability to re-export and refine already imported goods. This concept of adding value to raw materials from the neighboring countries could possibly be harnessed in Rwanda.

During the last visit by the EALA MPs, we toured a mining site in Muhanga District where an excited General Manager of the Pyramid Company, Mr. Mahmoud Saleh, informed the group that indeed on the insistence of the President, they planned to be a re-packaging facility for all raw minerals in the region. In Nyagatare District in the Eastern Province, the appropriately named East African Industry produces quality granite materials that are already a delight in the region.

Kigali and the immediate outlying areas could also be marketed as the ideal international venue for meetings, conferences, seminars and as the desirable get-away place to work from, reflect, packaged as the ultimate destination in the Eastern Africa region. The diversity of the Rwandese folks transcends the local Kinyarwanda dialect to encompass a commanding grasp of both English and French languages.

Moreover, Rwanda's determination to develop its telecommunication infrastructure; and its endeavor to wire up every citizen to the information highway, has since made it one of Africa's top 10 ICT-savvy nations. It will not therefore be difficult to create an e-lifestyle amongst the Rwandese population. This will allow everyone from the village level to chat, take lessons,

make business and banking transactions, apply for government services or even simply watch a movie on demand.

An extensive connectivity coupled with a pro-business environment and legal and regulatory framework should make Rwanda the ideal e-commerce hub and thus attract the regional and international venue it ought to be in the next decade.

Above all, Rwanda's relatively corrupt-free and transparent management of public affairs is perhaps the single largest tempting reason after its environmental management policies that should beckon both investors and tourists in equal measure.



The General Manager of Pyramid Company, Mr. Mahmoud Saleh explains to EALA Members the process of mining



By Dr. Patrick Mwesigwa Isingoma

THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: HOW FAR HAS EAST AFRICA GONE?

The MDGs were developed out of the eight chapters of the Millennium Declaration signed in September 2000. There are eight goals with 21 targets and a series of measurable indicators for each target. Except for Goal 7 none of the goals directly focuses on the improvement of the basic services in spite of the fact that every single one of the eight goals is directly affected by the lack of improvement in water, sanitation, transport, roads, electricity and solid waste. Health, welfare, the economy, education, the environment and the like are all dependent on the improvement of the basic

services described above. And given the poor state of delivery of these basic services in East Africa, it is clear that much needs to be done to achieve the MDG goals.

Even the 19th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union held in July 2012 agreed that much remains to be done for Africa to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

The table below adapted from a recent United Nations Millennium Development Goals Report summarizes the position in East Africa and show that overall, the region is unlikely to achieve the MDGs

in the short-term. Even the claim made that East Africa is on track to meet one aspect of Goal 7 through improving water supply is contested as most reports indicate that the goal of halving the number of people in the region who do not have access to safe drinking water by 2015 will not be met. It is argued that it will take until 2040 for the water MDG to be met in East Africa and until 2076 for the sanitation MDG to be met.

Efforts to meet the targets are being undermined by a number of factors the effects of which have



Children in school. It is vital to target Universal Primary Education for all

Progress towards achievement of MDGs in East Africa

MDGs	UN MDGs REPORT ASSESSMENT
Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	Off track
Goal 2: Achieve Universal primary education	On track: net enrollment
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women	On track
Goal 4: Reduce child mortality rates	Off track
Goal 5: Improve maternal health	Off track
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other infectious diseases	Off track
Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability	On track: improved water supply
Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development	

been underestimated. These include drought caused by climate change, poor management of existing clean water sources, deforestation, pollution and rapid population increase and movement.

And given the poor state of delivery of these basic services in East Africa, it is clear that much needs to be done to achieve the MDG goals.

In all of this, women and children continue to be triply oppressed as their empowerment can only come about if they are freed from the daily chores of finding wood for fuel, fetching drinking water and caring for the households, the sick and animals. And it is through the delivery of basic services that some of their time will be freed making them able to realize the goal of empowerment of women. In a nut shell, the achievement of the MDGs is directly related to the delivery of basic services.

This therefore may necessitate a paradigm shift that would involve moving towards an approach to development and achievement of MDGs, which builds on local knowledge to define public policy via deliberate and locally-based processes. It is clear that most of the MDG targets fall under local governments competences, and given that local governments are

closer to citizens than other public institutions, they are better positioned to make significant contributions in terms of efficient, equitable and accountable delivery of basic services (education, health, water and sanitation, roads), building democratic institutions and effective administrations. They can only achieve this with the support of national Parliaments who as the controllers of national budgets will need to appropriate sufficient resources to enhance the provision of basic services. It is common knowledge that resources directly appropriated to local governments by East African Parliaments still represent a very limited proportion of the national budgets, ranging between 10 to 23 percent in all the EAC Partner States. It is apparent that this will have to change if local governments are to be expected to make a significant contribution to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

As we celebrate 25 years of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, it is important to reflect not only on the successes but also the failures. Where did we go wrong on the MDGs and what can we do to ameliorate the situation?. Finding answers to these questions will help us re-orient our focus and enable us achieve our targets in the next MDG agenda.

I wish EALA and the entire EAC fraternity happy GPH celebrations.

Editors Note: Dr. Patrick Mwesigwa Isingoma is the Secretary General, East African Local Governments Association.



Women and children continue to be triply oppressed as their empowerment can only come about if they are freed from the daily chores of finding wood for fuel, fetching drinking water among others





WHY DRR, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MUST BE CLOSE TO EALA'S HEART

The date was March 17, 2012. EALA Speaker *Emeritus*, Rt. Hon Abdirahin Abdi and I, had successfully wound up a three-day meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change - hosted by the Parliament of Bangladesh and attended by various Parliamentarians from the globe. In between, we had sampled some of the finest Bangladeshi delicacies courtesy of Hon Saber Chowdhury. We wheeled off to the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport precincts, past the duty free shops and went on board Emirates. The flight was just about to take off when a moderate and shallow earthquake struck in a very highly populated area in Chingong Division, Dhaka Province, not too far from the airport.

Thank God, there was little damage to the area and community around and the flight eventually hovered off the skies. It could have been a major disaster. The experience taught me that disasters neither possess 'eyes nor ears' and they have little or no time for protocol or for 'who is who' in the society.

But more fundamentally, the analogy narrates how well prepared we always need to be on matters dealing with disasters. Ideally, we must have what optimists call 'plan B'.

Today, Society has to come to terms with this reality. The Rio+20 conference that took place last year sent a succinct message by opting to delve on matters of Disaster Risk Reduction, investing in the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty reduction as well as in the insulation of necessary institutional frameworks.

In essence it was for good measure to witness businesses, governments, civil society and multilateral development banks announce hundreds of voluntary



Minister for EAC, Burundi, Hon Leontine Nzeyimana (left) and Hon Hafsa Mossi among other Members, plant a tree at the St Lawrence Schools and Colleges, Paris a Palais Campus in Bukoto, Uganda



Participants at the Rio+20 pose for a group photo

commitments to shape a more sustainable future for the benefit of the planet and its people. The full package of agreements, actions, commitments, challenges, initiatives and announcements made at Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, addresses a range of global issues that includes access to clean energy, food security, water and sustainable transportation. From where I stand and in my two cents worth, I opine that all stakeholders must of

necessity put efforts in reversing the gains of environmental challenges. That is why, back home, I find the decision by EALA to tackle the issue head on, absolutely positive. Specifically, EALA is contemplating enacting a regional DRR Law. The 3rd Assembly has picked up on the Bill whose groundwork was started during Rt. Hon Abdi's regime.

I recall that during the Bangladesh meeting, participants lauded Senator Loren Legarda, the UN Champion for DRR and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) for Asia and the Pacific, for ensuring the passage of climate-responsive laws and for mainstreaming the CCA and DRR mechanisms into the national political agenda in the Philippines.

As a matter of fact, Philippines' laws on CCA and DRR are the "best in the world," and the UN and Ban Ki Moon's special envoy on Climate Change, Ms. Margareta Wahlström has confirmed as much.



UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon during the Rio +20 conference in Brasil

EALA has initiated its own Tree-Planting initiative known as the Green Bunge project to help conserve the environment by planting 50,000 trees in the Partner States.

Notably, at the moment, no Partner State has a specific law on DRR though respective Environmental Management Acts tackle issues related it.

A regional law on DRR would provide a responsive and proactive manner to address root-causes of disasters, transform the way in the region deals with disasters in the face of intensified global climate change and recognise and strengthen the roles of the local communities.

I am a layman when it comes to matters on DRR no doubt. But many ordinary citizens like me continue to bear the brunt of flash-floods, drought, environmental degradation among others. Climate Change is a cross-cutting issue and the time to act is now. I foresee

the Bill tackle certain fundamentals which must encapsulate adherence to the universal norms and principles of DRR- including the Hyogo Framework for Action, an integrated and multi-sectoral approach to DRR, building capacities in disaster preparedness and perhaps in instituting a DRR Fund for the region.

The Assembly has in the past undertaken oversight by visiting related projects in the Partner States. Such have included on-spot assessments by the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources to the areas of ecosystem management systems/shared resources including: Lake Jipe, Lake Natron, Mt Kenya Conservation programme and the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Programmes.

With this, EALA has continued to advocate for remedial measures to be taken to protect the environment. EALA has initiated its own Tree-Planting initiative known as the Green Bunge project to help conserve the environment by planting 50,000 trees in the Partner States.

Essentially, all systematic efforts towards management of disasters by reducing vulnerabilities and enhancing capacities is a priority. Beyond the enactment of the crucial Bill, EALA should continue to co-ordinate with local governments, CSOs, and academia to address DRR and exercise its oversight role. Partner States need to demonstrate political goodwill to push the agenda on DRR and sustainable development and allocate resources as part of the adaptation for remedial measures.





SAUTI YA EALA

