

**REPORT TO GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARIANS ON HABITAT (GPH) AFRICA CHAPTER MEETING -NAIROBI UN HABITAT –GIGIRI 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2011BY HON MARGARET NANTONGO ZZIWA (PRESIDENT –GPH AFRICA)**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The GPH Africa Chapter welcomes you to this important meeting of GPH and appreciates all your contributions you have made since we last met to make human settlement in your countries better,

Since we last met here in Nairobi on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009, several activities have been undertaken by the Board and although some await to be accomplished and I am sure after today direction will be given on several of these activities. The following Board members who were elected have steered the GPH Africa chapter activities and these are:

1. Hon Margaret Natongo Zziwa (EALA)President GPH Africa.
2. Hon Mariam Nalubega (MP Uganda) Altrenate President.
3. Hon Theo Diegaart ( MP Namibia) Vice President
4. Hon Njoki Ndugu ( MP emeritus Kenya) Secretary
5. Hon Tubwita Grace (MP Uganda) Treasurer.

It was resolved that each region should elect a vice chairperson to facilitate the effective coordination of GPH activities among the Parliaments in that region. However this has not been done due to the various challenges like the country election programmes in the various capitals. Allow me to report on some of the activities so far undertaken.

**1. GPH AFRICAN CONFERENCE KAMPALA UGANDA 18<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST2010**

This Conference was hosted by Parliament of Uganda, courtesy of the Speaker Hon Sekandi and the Uganda GPH Forum. Under the theme, “Making better laws and Policies for Better cities, the Conference was

organized to sensitize the Parliamentarians on the plight many African cities face; eminent City challenges like slums, poor social services; congestion and the proposed policies and plans in place to redress such calamities. Uganda being taken as a case study, key speakers from government were invited to give the status of housing and human settlement and the policies in place in Uganda. Hon Werikhe, Minister of State housing and Mr. Mabala, the Commissioner of Housing presented papers to the Conference participants. Also Mr. Peter Wegulo talked about UNDPs country programmes in Uganda that are geared towards supporting improving human settlement.

Other papers presented included sharing on the best approaches Parliament that will facilitate Parliamentarians to make good laws. Participants who included Parliamentarians, local government coucillors, and members of Civil Society organizations among others attended this conference. Strategic recommendations were drawn which were to be carried on by the Uganda GPH forum. Over 82 participants took part in this conference. The report of this conference was circulated to GPH members.



*Some of the Participants to the GPH Africa Conference –Parliament of Uganda Kampala Rt. Hon Sekandi-Speaker( Middle black suit); Hon Werikhe (Back row middle); Hon Zziwa (Front row in blue); Hon Nalubega (Front row in suit); Hon Tubwita (front- Cream and red)*

## **11. PARTICIPATION IN WORLD HABITAT DAY –WASHINGTON DC USA**

The GPH board members attended the World Housing day in Washington; USA in October 2009. The high profile occasion, was graced by the Executive Director (emeritus) of UN habitat, high profile US government officials, including the Secretary of State for Housing. Under the theme “ Better Cities ; key players in the housing sector and in urban studies made show cases on the tremendous achievements made by respective governments and civil societies and even personalities in the field of human settlement. The report was circulated on the UN Habitat website.

## **111: GPH General Council meeting and the Board Meeting – Washington DC USA:**

These important meetings took place at the German Embassy in Washington, as side events to the World Habitat day celebrations. The members during the Board meeting received reports from the various GPH chapters and assessed the key challenges. For Africa region, it was emphasized that there was need to mobilize Parliamentarians to join GPH and to increase their oversight role on the pro-poor housing programmes instituted by government. It was also observed that the institutional mechanisms and the financial support to enable its functioning. It was agreed that another meeting be held in Africa to discuss these challenges and Hon Makuza offered that Nigeria will host the next GPH Africa Chapter.

The GPH General Council considered the Activities in the forth coming period including the World Urban forum (WUF) activities due in Rio de Janero in Brazil in March. A Round table activity for Parliamentarians was organized and the GPH Chapter for Latin America including the Mayor for Rio, offered to organize and facilitate the event. The minutes of the meeting were circulated by the office of GPH President.

### **1V. The World Urban Forum (WUF) In Rio De Janero.**

The WUF is a major activity in the UN Habit Programme of Activity and many Stakeholders and players in Human Settlement Agenda. This was a major Conference on the Improvement of World Cities and how world leaders commit themselves to this cause. Hon Nalubega -the Alternate President and Hon Tubwita attended the WUF on behalf of GPH Africa. The minutes of the meeting were circulated.

## **V. GPH Board Meeting in Beijing China- 13h October 2010:**

This Board meeting was organized at Lufthansa Centre at the Office of Konrad Adenauer – Stiftung in Beijing China.

The change of UN habitat top leadership was communicated and the New Executive Director Joan Clos had taken office and issues concerning the next GPH General council to be held in Zadar Croatia 18<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> May 2011 were discussed . It was also suggested that a Charter for GPH be drafted to be discussed and approved in Croatia and various Chapters were asked to make comments and give views. The Alternate President Hon Nalubega attended on behalf of GPH Africa.

## **V1. THE GPH AFRICA FORUM IN NAIROBI UN HABITATA HEADQUATERS 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER2010:**

This forum was organized and took place in Nairobi after the offer to hold the same in Nigeria was not realized yet the issues to be discussed were important before the UN General Council 23. The need to reorganize the Africa Chapter was stressed and an elaborate Agenda was drawn which included the Action Plan , Election of Office bearers, Discussion of GPH statute, preparations for the GPH in Croatia and the 23<sup>rd</sup> UN General Council. Because of the low confirmation to the session, the event was turned into a GPH board meeting and the Agenda was adjusted accordingly and items of general nature to the Board were discussed. Issues of financing the GPH activities, sharing of best laws on housing, and the proposed charter characterized the discussion. It was agreed that the GPH Africa chapter general meeting be held alongside the UN Habitat GC23 on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2011. The meeting was chaired by Hon Zziwa and was attended by over 15 members. The minutes of this meeting were circulated to members by the GPH Coordinator.

Once again I want to thank all the GPH members who promote the Habiata Agenda in their respective Parliaments and who are committed to passing good laws for better human settlement. I also thank those who always fund the GPH activities including the contribution through air fares and facilitating meetings. I want to welcome members who have carried with them some of the good laws we need to emulate and I hope they will be circulated for all participants to benefit.

I hope that today we shall thoroughly deal with the issues on our Agenda; and let me take this opportunity to wish you a good meeting.

Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa; ( MP EALA)

President GPH Africa Chapter.