



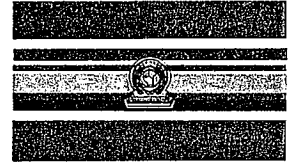
# EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**HON. ZZIWA NANTONGO MARGARET**

*P. O. Box 6728 or 7178 Kampala, UGANDA*

*Tel: +256 712 404393, +256 414 286472, +256 772 404393, +256 752 204393*

*E-mail: mzziwa@gmail.com*



The Speaker,  
East African Legislative Assembly.

Rt. Hon Speaker Sir,

**RE: REPORT ON GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARIANS ON HABITAT  
(GPH) AFRICA CHAPTER CONFERENCE KAMPALA 20<sup>TH</sup>  
AUGUST 2009.**

The GPH (Africa) Conference took place in Kampala on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2009 at the Parliamentary Conference Hall hosted by Parliament of Uganda. The Conference was officially opened by the Speaker Parliament of Uganda, Rt. Hon. Sekandi and was presided over by the Minister of State in Charge of Housing, Hon Werikhe.

The conference was attended by 63 participants, members of Parliament, Practitioners in the Housing and Urban development sector, Local Government officials, civil society, and members of the Press and media.

Following the 22nd UN General Assembly in Nairobi in April 2009 and the strong resolutions made by GPH, the main objective of the Conference was for Parliamentarians to take up their role towards the commitments of provision of decent human settlements and safe and good urban cities to assess their progress in terms of legislation and good laws and to popularize the Habitat Agenda.

Well researched papers were presented which enabled participants to come up with fruitful deliberations and resolutions which will be carried to the World Habitat Day in Washington 2009.

Members of EALA Uganda Chapter were represented by myself and Hon Dora Byamukama and I am pleased to enclose a report and the presentations made during the GPH Conference. I wish to thank you Rt. Hon Speaker of EALA for the support to this Conference.

I wish to thank the Parliament of Uganda, the Speaker Parliament of Uganda, and the staff who provided a excellent facilities for hosting of this event.

Margaret Zziwa Nantongo

**MP EALA**

*C.C. - GPH PRESIDENT ✓*

CC: Clerk - EALA

**GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARIANS ON HABITAT (GPH) AFRICAN CHAPTER**  
GPH Africa Chapter Conference 20<sup>th</sup> August 2009, Parliament of Uganda.

**Welcome speech by GPH President Hon. Margaret Zziwa (MP EALA)**

Rt. Hon Speaker of Parliament of Uganda,  
Hon Minister of State, Lands Housing and Urban development in charge of  
Housing;  
Hon Ministers,  
Hon Members of Parliament of Uganda,  
My colleagues MPs of East African Legislative Assembly,  
The resource persons to this GPH conference,  
Our invited guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen

I wish to take this opportunity to welcome you to this important Conference of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH) African Chapter. I wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Rt. Hon Speaker for accepting to host this event here in Uganda, and more so for personally gracing the occasion by his presence. We are honoured. I wish also to welcome and appreciate the GPH Uganda Chapter who is also co- host of this event.

Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH) is a forum for Parliamentarians under the umbrella of UN member states are committed to popularize and ensure good laws for the implementation on the Habitat Agenda. Habitat Agenda is the term adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on Human settlements (UN) that took place in Istanbul in June 1996 which preceded the one in Rio de Janeiro of 1992 committed to sustainable development. The earlier UN General assembly in Stockholm on human Environment in 1972 and Vancouver in 1976 had expressed concern at the 'deplorable world housing situation' and the challenges on rapid urbanization.

Habitat Agenda addresses broad principles and broad commitments on 'Sustainable human settlements' and 'Adequate shelter for all'. The two broad principles, the major indicators were adopted under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to focus on issues of human settlement which include better housing, rapid urbanization, the state of cities, slum eradication among others. Through the provision of better planned cities, provision of utilities, and attending

to the resulting challenges associated to bad living like poor sanitation, poor drainage, poor garbage disposal, congestion, traffic jams, crimes, unemployment. Governments will be answering to the aspirations of Habitat Agenda. Our respective governments who are UN member states signed commitments to fulfil the MDGs by certain dates and most often we hear slogans like Education for all by the year 2020, Shelter for all by the year 2015; among others.

The facts and figures show the deplorable living conditions of our 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, 14% of this is urban but 93% of this live in slums areas. This remains a paradox whether the question of appropriate housing has yet been drawn into policy construction agenda in Uganda. The situation is not much different in many cities of East Africa. The continuous traffic jams which not only follow peak hours, the huge tonnes of garbage, the floods and poor drainage, the shanties are becoming a daily occurrence in many cities of Africa. With this kind of scenario, the challenge of achieving the millennium development goals (MDGs) by 2025 still feels very far.

As Parliamentarians we have a role to play. We must demand appropriate housing policies which are not only good at conception and formulation (policies on paper) but must be comprehensive in implementation with adequate financial and human resources. We must assess the government programmes and actions to see whether our countries are genuinely committed to the goals and principles of Habitat Agenda. It is our role to ensure that housing is kept on the government priority agenda particularly in the face of the global financial crisis. Legislation is a useful indicator to a country's commitment to any cause and here parliamentarians have a role to play to ensure that there is effective action to mitigate any human calamities. As parliamentarians, we need to become proactive, to ask questions to Ministers about the housing conditions of our people.

We have to internalize the housing economics which is becoming contentious in the current global financial crisis. We need to appreciate the dynamics of mortgage markets, the cost of provision of housing and the complexities of access and affordability to housing because they are the major precipitants to poor housing and slums. Where governments are not forthcoming, let us move private members bills that favour better housing and urban development. Let us demand substantial budgetary allocations to sectors that are responsible for the implementation of the habitat agenda. Let us hold our governments

accountable to its people, let us respond to the needs of the people we seek votes from and together we shall deliver a better HABITAT for HUMANITY.

As GPH African chapter we shall ensure that the resolutions we made during the UN General Assembly 22 are followed through and we will work in collaboration with UN Habitat to keep monitoring the successes and the failures within our states. I wish to congratulate UN Habitat for its commitment to this cause of human settlement and call for continued corporation in this cause. I wish to however call for improved collaboration and support to GPH to enable us to remain committed to this Agenda. The interface with the Executive Director of Un Habitat Mrs. Ann Tibaijuka during the GC22 in Nairobi revived the GPH members' commitment to Habitat issues. We look forward to participating further in the crusade for better Housing for humanity both in the World habitat day events in Washington and in the world urban Forum in (WUF) due in Rio de Janero next year.

I wish to bring you greetings from the speaker of East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) and I wish to introduce the GPH Executive Board ( African chapter) which was elected during the UN General council in Nairobi in April 2009.

The Board of GPH Africa

Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa (MP, EALA)	President
Hon .Mariam Nalubega (MP Uganda)	Alternate
Hon Theo Diegraant ( MP Namibia)	Vice President
Hon Njoki Ndugu ( MP Emeritus Kenya)	Secretary
Hon. Tibwita Grace (MP Uganda)	Treasurer.

The Uganda chapter is chaired by Dr. Chris Baryomunsi and has an executive whom he will introduce at an appropriate time.

We are honoured to have the Minister of Uganda in charge of Housing who has just been the immediate chair of the UN GC.

I welcome all of you dear participants and encourage you to listen to our resource people and I invite you interrogate the prospects out of the habitat Agenda to our people.

I thank you for listening to me.



Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa (M.P)  
President GPH Africa Chapter