

## Reflections on 2013

The African Union for Housing Finance (AUHF) has had another great year, with a number of developments. We have welcomed 6 new organisations to our membership and we have added Zambia onto the list of countries in which the AUHF now has representation.

In March we introduced our new mailing system which enables us to track our mailing list's areas of interest in our newsletters. We have continued to use our networking platforms, LinkedIn and Twitter to share news on housing finance in Africa. We have adjusted our newsletter to include a 'Member News' section which highlights developments among our members.

As is part of the AUHF strategy, the AUHF had its first regional seminar in Nigeria on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April. The seminar was hosted by our members Abbey Building Society and it explored the state of housing finance in Nigeria.



In May some of the members of the AUHF board attended a Housing Finance Seminar in Zambia, where Mr Colin Chimutsa got to present on the AUHF. As a result of this, we have a new member from Zambia and expect other Zambian practitioners to also join us.



In June, some of our board members also attended the International Union for Housing Finance (IUHF) Congress where Mr Colin Chimutsa was designated a member of the IUHF executive committee, joining Mr Cas Coovadia, who is the vice president of the IUHF, having previously been the president. The representation of African practitioners on this body is a very important opportunity for our association.

Finally, the main event of the AUHF - the annual conference and AGM – was held in Mauritius in September, hosted by the Mauritius Housing Company. The event was a huge success with over 110 delegates from across Africa, Asia and Europe.



This was the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the AUHF and we are now looking forward to the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary conference which will be hosted in Kenya, where the AUHF was first registered in 1984.

We have done a lot this year and we have seen a lot of activity with our members in the news. We trust that you all had a good year and we look forward to working together again next year in promoting housing finance on the African continent.

*FINANCING HOUSING in Africa is a monthly publication of the African Union for Housing Finance for its members. Please submit material for inclusion to Kecia Rust, at [kecia@housingfinanceafrica.org](mailto:kecia@housingfinanceafrica.org) or Lorraine Nzimande at [lorraine@housingfinanceafrica.org](mailto:lorraine@housingfinanceafrica.org).*

### AFRICAN UNION FOR HOUSING FINANCE

The AUHF is an association of now thirty-nine mortgage banks, building societies, housing corporations and other entities involved in the mobilization of finances for the development of shelter and housing on the African continent. The AUHF is a non-governmental association and has its presence in some sixteen countries across the continent of Africa. See [www.auhf.co.za](http://www.auhf.co.za)



The AUHF Conference Report is available for download: <http://www.auhf.co.za/wordpress/assets/2013-Conference-Report-Final.pdf> Also download the conference presentations and check out the gallery for photos of the event: <http://www.auhf.co.za/conference/mobilising-capital-for-housing-finance/gallery/AUHF%20Conference%202013/10/>



## In the news

This month in African housing & finance

### West African News

#### **\$300 million approved for Nigeria's Mortgage Refinance Facility**

The Nigerian government has approved a \$300 million loan facility to be accessed from the International Development Association (IDA – a soft borrowing facility of the World Bank) to boost mortgage financing. The bulk of the loan (\$250 million) will be used to establish Nigeria's Mortgage Refinance Facility, a tool aimed at increasing access to housing finance through the primary and secondary mortgage market. The remaining \$50 million will be split: \$25 million will be used to establish a mortgage guarantee product, targeted at low income borrowers and the other \$25 million will be lent to housing micro finance institutions. Source (7 Nov 2013): [AllAfrica](#).

#### **Nigeria needs Housing Finance at 10% of GDP**

Mr Femi Johnson, the president of the Mortgage Banking Association of Nigeria (MBAN), has stated that there is an urgent need to increase the level of housing finance in Nigeria to 10% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), from its current 0.5%. Mr Johnson stated this in his address at the 3<sup>rd</sup> MBAN Housing Finance and Investment Conference and Exhibition which was themed; 'Mortgage Banking- A Catalyst for Capital Market Growth in Nigeria'. He emphasised that a well-functioning housing finance system is imperative for a prosperous economy. Source (25 Nov 2013): [AllAfrica](#).

#### **Nigerian government has disbursed US\$100 million in Housing Loans**

Dr Hannatu Adamu Fika, Executive Secretary of the Federal Government has reported that the Federal Government has disbursed over US\$100 million in housing loans to civil servants to date, since 2009. Dr Fika said that there was a desire to promote an effective and efficient public service housing loan scheme since the government has refrained from the direct provision of houses. Source (3 Nov 2013): [AllAfrica](#).

### Southern African News

#### **Namibia's Bank Windhoek's Mortgage lending Book increases**

Bank Windhoek's mortgage lending book for the year 2012/13 increased by N\$32.4 million from the previous year. According

to Bank Windhoek's Executive Officer of retail banking services, Chris Matthee; mortgage lending, particularly residential home loans, continued to be the largest contributor to the growth in the Bank's loans and advances to customers. Source (5 Nov 2013): [AllAfrica](#).

#### **Tanzania's NSSF embarks on low cost housing project**

Tanzania's National Social Security Fund (NSSF) has embarked on a low cost housing project to enable its members to buy houses at affordable prices. The houses under this project will be loaned at an interest rate of 11.44% per annum and the loan term is 15 years. The average size of each house will range from 75m<sup>2</sup> - 125m<sup>2</sup>, with two to four bedrooms each. The houses will sell for Sh64 875 310 (US\$40 307.77) to Sh112 500 000 (US\$69 897.52). Source (21 Nov 2013): [AllAfrica](#).

#### **Namibia's GIPF ready to grant housing loans**

The Namibian government has reviewed the restrictions regulating the granting of housing loans by pension funds. An old regulation of the Pension Funds Act which required that 16% interest be charged on direct home loans has been amended to repo rate plus four. The interest rate is under this arrangement is therefore 9.5%. With this development, the Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) is ready to give housing loans. The GIPF's initiatives to introduce a pension backed home loan scheme are also at an advanced stage. Source (12 Nov 2013): [AllAfrica](#).

#### **Slums to be transformed into affordable housing in Tanzania**

Since the Tanzanian government committed to formally recognising informal settlements and pledge to support the upgrading of informal settlements for better human settlements in the country, an informal settlement upgrade project valued at US\$3.58 million is underway. The project is aimed at promoting affordable housing for low income earners by the year 2015. Source (28 Nov 2013): [IPP Media](#).

### East African News

#### **Support for Uganda's mega housing project**

Uganda's low cost housing project has received support from the Water and Sanitation for Africa (WSA), a pan African intergovernmental agency. The project aims to build 6000 housing units for low income households and had stalled due to lack of funding. The project is now in its advanced stages and the building is expected to commence before the end of this year (2013). Source (23 Nov 2013): [NewVision](#).



## Member News

### Shelter Afrique signs \$5 million loan agreement for low cost housing

Shelter Afrique has signed a loan agreement of \$5 million with a French Development Agency (Agence Francaise de Development) to build more low cost houses. The loan will be extended to local microfinance banks for onward lending to low income earners. Source (29 Nov 2013): [Standard Digital](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

2014

- 28 Feb** [The 2nd Hague Housing Conference](#). The Hague, Netherlands.
- Feb** African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD). N'Djamena, Chad.
- 5-6 Mar** [4<sup>th</sup> Annual Africa Banking & Finance Conference](#). Laico Regency Hotel. Nairobi, Kenya. Discount for AUHF members brings fee to \$500.
- 20-21 Mar** [10<sup>th</sup> Global Microfinance Forum](#). Vienna, Austria.
- 2-4 Apr** [5<sup>th</sup> Annual Affordable Housing Projects](#). Singapore.
- 5-7 Apr** [World Urban Forum 7](#). Medellin Columbia.
- 26 May - 26 Jun** Developing Social Housing Projects 2014. For details email: [lhs.study5@gmail.com](mailto:lhs.study5@gmail.com)
- 16 – 18 Jun** City Development. Cape Town, South Africa. Contact Mavis Yong for details [mavisy@marcusevanski.com](mailto:mavisy@marcusevanski.com)
- 3-7 Aug** [International Union of Architects World Congress](#). Durban, South Africa.

Visit <http://www.auhf.co.za/events/> for event details

The Centre for Affordable Housing Finance in Africa has launched a Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/HousingFinanceAfrica](http://www.facebook.com/HousingFinanceAfrica)

## Members:

1. Please submit any current news on your organisation, for the Member News section. Please also feel free to submit any content you may find useful for the newsletter.
2. Please remember to send back the AMCHUD questionnaire by Friday, 6 December 2013.

Any submissions can be sent to Lorraine Nzimande on [Lorraine@housingfinanceafrica.org](mailto:Lorraine@housingfinanceafrica.org)

## Recent tweets



**AUHF** @AUHF\_Housing  
2000 #slums to be transformed into #Affordable #Housing in #Tanzania  
[ippmedia.com/frontend/index...](http://ippmedia.com/frontend/index...)



Mobilising Capital for #Housing #Finance. Conference Report now available [auhf.co.za/wordpress/asse...](http://auhf.co.za/wordpress/asse...)



**AUHF** @AUHF\_Housing  
@ShelterAfrique signs a \$5million loan agreement for development of #LowCostHousing #Housing  
[standardmedia.co.ke/business/artic...](http://standardmedia.co.ke/business/artic...)



**AUHF** @AUHF\_Housing  
#Uganda receives #funds for its 6000 #LowIncome #housing unit project  
[newvision.co.ug/news/649748-ke...](http://newvision.co.ug/news/649748-ke...)



**AUHF** @AUHF\_Housing  
#Tanzania National Social Security Fund #NSSF embarks on #LowCost #Housing Project  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201311210791.html> ...  
Expand