

Speech

By

***Mr. Mathias Katamba
Managing Director, Housing Finance Bank Uganda***

At the

African Union for Housing Finance Conference 2017

17th October, 2017

Your Excellency,

Honorable Ministers

Honorable Members of Parliament

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Your Excellency, it is an honor and a privilege to welcome you and all the delegates here from across the continent to the 33rd African Union for Housing Finance Conference under the theme, “Engaging the Housing Value Chain for Growth.”

This conference builds on the local dialogue that we have had over the last two years that galvanized key players and stakeholders in the housing value chain with a view to transforming housing as a key infrastructure component on the journey to building a middle income country. The dialogue highlighted a number of issues facing the sector and focused on improving access to housing finance and growing the housing finance sector.

Your Excellency, I am glad to note that over the last two years, progress has been made to tackle some of the challenges facing the sector as evidenced in the new National Housing Policy that was approved by Cabinet last year, the work being done by the Ministries of Finance and Lands on the development of a Mortgage Liquidity Facility for Uganda, the implementation of a mortgage insurance guarantee facility between Housing Finance Bank and the Home Finance Guarantors and finally the gazzeting of the Real Estate Investment Trust regulations by the Capital Markets Authority which shall unlock the capital markets to large scale developers.

This year, we are delighted to partner with the African Union of Housing Finance to host the 33rd Annual Conference and AGM of the AUHF. Through this partnership, we shall be able to draw from the

wealth of experience of our counterparts across the African continent to further enrich our development agenda by learning from case studies, innovations and solutions that have been successfully implemented by partners across the continent to tackle challenges faced in the Housing Sector.

Your Excellency, the agenda over the three days of the conference has been set to address both the demand and supply side bottlenecks that have inhibited the growth of the housing sector. We shall begin by looking at “Engaging the housing value chain for Growth in Africa” with a private sector keynote from Ms. Debra Erb who is the Managing Director of Housing Programs at the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) followed by a panel discussion on the same. Debra you are most welcome to the conference.

We shall then tackle issues to do with land tenure systems, digital innovation in the housing space, preparing housing projects on large scale and the impact of housing on the economy with case studies from Tanzania, South Africa, Uganda and Nigeria. This will take us into a panel discussion on African countries can innovate to address the challenges facing the sector. We are delighted to have the Chief Executives of the National Housing Corporations of Botswana, Tanzania and Uganda to take us through these pertinent discussions in addition to the Executive Director of the Financial Sector Deepening Program and Shelter Afrique to address these topics.

Your Excellency, on the second day, we shall look at public private investment in affordable housing, taxation of the housing value chain and promoting sustainable investment in affordable housing. This will lead us into a discussion on Mortgage Liquidity Facilities and we are delighted to have the Chief Executive Officers of the Tanzania and Nigeria Mortgage Liquidity Facilities and the Housing Finance Regional Leader for Sub Saharan Africa at the International Finance Corporation (IFC) who will share practical experiences of how these facilities can be used to unlock liquidity for mortgage lending.

We shall then have a discussion on the various approaches to financing affordable housing at scale focusing on the financing incremental housing with case studies from Zambia and Mozambique. This will lead us into a discussion on breaking cultural barriers to mortgage lending which will address the myths and mindsets about credit that impede the growth of the housing finance sector from a social perspective.

Finally, on the third day of the conference, we shall have the Annual General Meeting of the AUHF and a Housing Microfinance Academy that is being hosted by the Habitat for Humanity Terwilliger Center for Innovation in Shelter.

Your Excellency, alongside the conference, we have an exhibition that will be showcasing the works of industry players in the housing value chain of Uganda; we shall be honored to have you tour the exhibition and see the initiatives that local stakeholders have undertaken to make affordable, decent housing a reality for Ugandans.

Finally, I would like to thank our partners, Bank of Uganda, National Housing, Capital Markets Authority, Umeme, Centenary Bank, Jubilee Insurance, Universal Multipurpose properties, the Centre for Affordable Housing Finance in Africa and the Secretariat of the AUHF for rallying towards the call to make this event possible, and with those few remarks, let me invite the Chairman of the AUHF to deliver some remarks.

Thank you

17th October 2017

- **Kampala Serena Hotel.**