



PRESS RELEASE ON WORLD HABITAT DAY CELEBRATIONS TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 7th OCTOBER 2019 AT BUSIA MUNICIPALITY - BUSIA DISTRICT

Introduction

Uganda will join the rest of the World to commemorate World Habitat Day on Monday 7th October 2019.

The UN General Assembly resolution of 17th December 1985 set aside the first Monday of October each year to be observed worldwide as World Habitat Day. The day provides countries, communities and all stakeholders in the housing sector an opportunity to reflect on the state of human settlements and the basic human right to adequate shelter. It is also a reminder to the world of its collective responsibility to the future of the human habitat. All stakeholders in the housing sector are reminded to pause, reflect and review their performance in the past year, recommit themselves and martial resources to improve the state of their human settlement and housing conditions for the next year.

Theme

The theme for this year's World Habitat Day is "***Frontier Technologies as an Innovative Tool to transform Waste to Wealth***".

Relevancy of the theme

This year's theme is relevant to Uganda's situation as we grapple with challenges of Waste Management. At a national level, the challenge of Waste Management is accelerated by rapid population growth more especially in urban areas resulting in enormous waste generation.

This year's theme therefore rallies the international community to identify innovative ways of converting waste in order to help eradicate epidemics; increase (health) life expectancy; reduce emissions in space; automate manual and repetitive tasks; create decent jobs and improve quality of life. Such innovative ways may include;

- Managing the policy challenges of frontier technologies;
- Closing the technological gaps in order to bridge the technology development divide;
- Deliberate national innovation systems to foster technological progress and make it appropriate

The theme for this year calls upon all leaders in society to put Waste Management at the Centre of development by creating awareness for behavioral change, promoting innovative approaches such as sorting of solid waste and recycling as well as allocating adequate resources to manage the process.

The Venue and activities

This year's World Habitat Day international celebrations will be marked in Yaonde-Cameroon while in Uganda, the National celebrations will be at Busia Municipality in Busia District.

Amongst the activities to be undertaken to mark the day include a public rally where all members of the Public are invited to attend. Furthermore, painting and essay competitions for primary and secondary school children,

respectively, are still ongoing. In addition to the above, there is the Keep Busia clean and home improvement campaigns which are ongoing.

Although the National celebrations will be in Busia Municipality, other urban areas are encouraged to hold their local celebrations and showcase measures being taken to convert waste into wealth creation

Guest of Honor

The Guest of Honor at the National Celebrations in Busia will be H.E the Vice President of the Republic of Uganda, Edward Kiwanuka Ssekandi

Partners

This year's World Habitat Day celebrations are being organized jointly by my Ministry, Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development (USMID) Program, National Housing and Construction Company Ltd, Housing Finance Bank, Cities Alliance, Shelter and Settlement Alternatives (SSA), Habitat for Humanity Uganda, Uganda National Housing Co-operative Union, Association of Real Estate Agents of Uganda and Busia Municipal Council.

Other developments and initiatives undertaken by my Ministry

My Ministry has initiated a number of policies, measures and interventions geared at implementation of the New Urban Agenda to address the Key Issues in the sector namely:

1. Developed the National Housing Policy (2016) which provides a framework for housing development in the country.

2. Developed the National Urban Policy (2017) which provides a framework for managing the urbanization process in the country
3. Enacted the Condominium Property Act (2001) that provide for vertical housing developments especially in the urban areas to help contain urban sprawl
4. Enacted the Physical Planning Act (2010) that declared the whole country a Planning rea to provide for orderly spatial development
5. Developed the Landlord Tenant Bill (2018) that provides for a harmonious relationship for the parties
6. Developed the National Slum Upgrading Strategy (2008) that provides for strategic interventions in slums
7. Developed the model rules for residential condominiums (2008) to help in the management and use of residential condominiums
8. Developed the National Waste Management Guidelines
9. Developed energy efficiency guidelines in buildings.
10. Operationalised twenty ministerial zonal offices to bring land services nearer to the people
11. Established the National Urban Fora as to discuss and debate urbanization and housing as development concerns
12. Currently developing the National Physical Development Plan (NPDP) to guide spatial and human settlements developments in the country

Conclusion

- World Habitat Day for this year will be marked on Monday 7th October 2019 at Busia Municipality.

- The theme for this year's World Habitat Day is **"FRONTIER TECHNOLOGIES AS AN INNOVATIVE TOOL TO TRANSFORM WASTE TO WEALTH"**.
- All stakeholders in the Housing and Urban Development sector and the general public have been invited to attend and participate in the activities to mark the day.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

Dennis Obbo Dfroh

for: PS, MLHUD

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