

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

PRESS STATEMENT

19th May 2016

over 450 regional leaders gather in kampala to tackle the urban development agenda

Urbanization is here with us and Africa is experiencing the highest Urbanization rates with Kampala at 5%.

“With urbanization, we must be ready to tap its advantages but also be ready to respond to the vast challenges that come with it. We need to realize that Africa is urbanizing younger and at low levels of income than any other continent, this brings in the current challenges of high (youth) un-employment, high rates of slum growths, increased pressure on the existing infrastructure, climate change adaptation challenges among others,” says Jennifer Musisi KCCA’s Executive Director.

At the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD) held in Nairobi in 2012, member countries committed to create National urban forums as a means of strengthening partnerships to respond to challenges of rapid urbanization. This was further emphasized with the recent, February 2016 Abuja declarations on sustainable urban development with a focus on regional urbanization agenda.

As KCCA, responding to the African Ministerial Conference and the 2016 Abuja declaration we realized there was a need for a regional forum to guide the course of Urbanization in the region.

The East and Central African Cities Development Forum was thus conceived to create a platform for Urban Managers, experts, development enthusiasts, Development Partners, and the Private Sector in the region to share knowledge and practical experiences and interventions that will foster sustainable urban development.

This first East and Central African Development Forum (CAC-DeF) is organized under the theme, “Building Inclusive Growth and Livability in African Cities” broken into 8 thematic areas:

- 1: Inclusive growth, Slum Upgrade and Engendering
- 2: Firm Productivity, Trade and Growth of the City Economy.
- 3: Urban Governance, Transformational Leadership and Citizen Accountability.
- 4: Climate Change, Urban Resilience and Disaster Risk Management.
- 5: Spatial Planning, Infrastructure, Mobility and Housing.
- 6: Water, Sanitation and Urban Health.
- 7: Urban Data, Research Capacity and Smart city.
- 8: Municipal Financing, PPPs and Alternative Financing Mechanisms

The 8 thematic areas are holistic and prepared to align our cities in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Over 450 participants from over 45 cities, including urban managers, Development partners, Researchers, Academicians, scholars and urban development enthusiasts from East Africa and beyond will be hosted by Kampala City at Speke Hotel Munyonyo, from the 24th -26th May 2016.

After the 2 days of deliberations, sharing experiences and best practices, the City Administrators will be expected to discuss and

consent to the KAMPALA DECLARATION, which will guide them on the journey to re-shape the African Urban agenda.

Among others, the declaration will propose to have such an urban forum every 2 years

KCCA is glad to have partnered with, The World Bank, IGC, PwC, Huawei, UN-Agencies, Slum Dwellers International, Real Impact Analytics, French Development Agency, Netherlands Government, Alliance France, Water Aid, USAID, International Alert, URA, Uganda Industrial Research Institute among others.

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