INUGURAL LECTURE

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Exploring Human Settlements Development in Africa: Situating Local Economic Development at the centre of Sustainable human settlements.

Prof Prudence Khumalo

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Acknowledgements

" If you want to walk fast walk alone, but if you want to walk far walk together"

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Presentation outline

Overview of the Project

➢ Introduction

➢ Aims

➢ HS challenges on continent – threats to attaining SDGs

➢ Current trends and critical factors

➢ Policy directions and

➢ Opportunities

Introduction

- Human settlements are critical:
  - ✓ Human dignity
  - ✓ Economic purposes
  - ✓ Health and prosperity

- Human settlements encapsulate a number of SDGs

- Directly linked to:

- Indirectly impacting the rest e.g: Peace, justice and strong institutions

Human Settlements

Priority 1 - First 10 years of the Agenda 2063:

Prosperous Africa - inclusive growth and sustainable development

Priority areas – modern and liveable habitats and basic quality services

Goal – high standard of living, quality of life and well being

Aims

Exploring pertinent issues facing African cities with regards to human settlements

Current state of human settlements in Africa focusing on challenges facing national governments in addressing ever mounting complexities

Develop model for HS development and management - contextual realities and historical developments of region

Significance of project irt Agenda 2063 and SDGs: Importance of HS in socio-economic advancement of communities

Objectives and deliverables

Establish current state of human settlements in the continent

Build concrete resource on human settlements in the continent

Propose strategies for Africa to tackle HS issues effectively

Develop possible policy guidelines on human settlements for the continent

HS challenges in Africa– threats to attaining SDGs

➢ Challenges of migration – relook at the question of housing and accompanying services in African cities
➢ Fastest urbanizing continent (1980-28% urban ppln and in 2018 – 40%) mostly young people (Albert & Lawanson 2019)

➢ Perpetual informal settlements (zones of vulnerability and conflict) and homelessness need urgent attention and comprehensive solutions

➢ ± 30% of world's slum dwellers (238 million) are in sub-Saharan Africa (UN-Stats 2018)
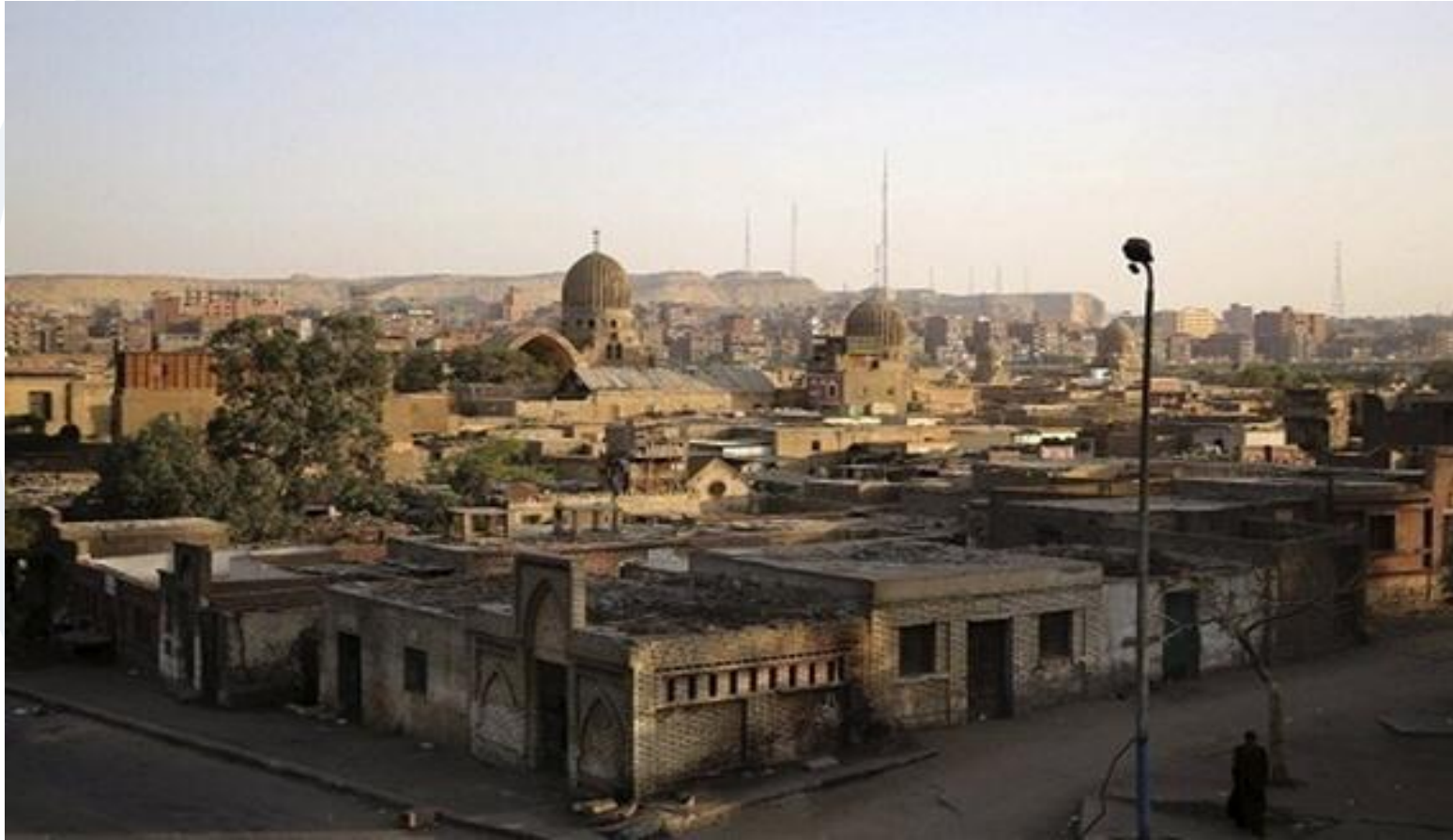
HS challenges in Africa – threats to attaining SDGs

Informal settlements (City of the Dead) in Cairo (P. Khumalo 2017)

HS challenges in Africa – threats to attaining SDGs

2 million people are living in tombs in Cairo (Al-Hurra TV channel 02/10/2013)

Poverty

➤ The triple tragedy of poverty, unemployment & homelessness

➤ More than half of world's poor live in Sub-Saharan Africa. By 2015, more than 413 million lived on ≤ US$2 per day

➤ This group of people cannot afford adequate housing from the housing market

Vulnerability

A river passing through Kibera informal settlements (P. Khumalo 2017)

Adverse weather conditions
(Climate Change related)

Cyclone Idai (Mozambique); image by AFP – Adrien Barbier

Existing and potential conflicts

Due to conflict in different parts of the continent, many people are displaced and have no access to adequate Human Settlements (silencing the guns..)

Current trends and critical factors

➢ By 2050, world's urban population will nearly double

➢ Urbanisation one of 21st century's most transformative trends (New Urban Agenda 2016)

➢ By 2030 6 out of every 10 people in the world expected to reside in urban areas

➢ Over 90% of growth will take place in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Caribbean

➢ In the absence of effective urban planning, consequences to be dramatic (UN-Habitat 2018)

Case of Kibera (Soweto East) – Nairobi, Kenya

Conversations with former slum dweller and Slum upgrading supervisor in new housing units
Community participation was key to the success of the project-despite the competing interests

Concerted effort needed to unleash stifled LED potential in informal settlements

Kibera (Soweto East) – Nairobi, Kenya

Creating space for economic activity for former slum dwellers

Policy implications

Policy Brief: Rethinking informal settlements in the Global South: Imagining a new approach of tackling informal settlements in Africa (Submitted to the AUC in November 2018).

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Policy implications

Policy brief draws from the findings of the Book chapter and underline a couple of interventions including:

1 Review of land use management and ownership mechanisms that ensure a people owned and inclusive development

2 Review of outdated and restrictive policies that do not serve ends of inclusive and sustainable development

3 Rethink what an African city should be - context and historical cornerstones

Policy directions & Opportunities

1 Applicability of new building technologies that suit context of different African countries

2 Energy sufficient human settlements (solar harvesting and storage)

3 Tailor-made human settlements catering for different groups of people, especially the handicapped

Policy directions & Opportunities

4 — Improving rural economies to allow citizens choice

2 — Development of platform for sharing advances in HS

3 — Full-blown study of 11 countries to give a more indicative picture of state of HS in each country

Some of the published works from the project

- Khumalo, P. 2021: **Human Settlements and Tourism Development in Kenya: Prospects for Tackling Urban Risks in Informal Settlements** in Llewellyn, L., Musavengane, R. and Siakwah (Editors), Routledge, Taylor & Francis

- Chikodzi D & Khumalo, P. 2021: **Social and physical vulnerability of settlements to hydro-climatic induced disasters: Lessons from Cyclone Idai in Zimbabwe** in Nhamo G (Editor) Cyclones in Southern Africa Vol 2: Implications for Sustainable Development Goals, Springer

- Khumalo, P. 2019: **Rethinking informal settlements in the Global South: Imagining a new approach of tackling informal Settlements in Africa** in Albert IO& Lawanson T (Editors).2019. Urban Crisis and Crisis Management in Africa. A Festschrift for Prof. Akin Mabogunje. Austin TX, Pan African University Press.

- Khumalo P.2019:**Is Access to Adequate Human Settlements Still a 'Wicked' Problem for Africa? Revisiting South Africa's Policy and Strategy Landscape.** The 4th Annual Conference on "Democracy, Elections and Administration in Africa" International Conference on Public Administration and Development Alternatives.

Thank you

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