



MINISTRY OF NATIONAL HOUSING AND SOCIAL AMENITIES

PRESS STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL HOUSING AND SOCIAL AMENITIES, HONOURABLE DANIEL GARWE ON THE SHELTER AFRIQUE AGM TO BE HELD IN ZIMBABWE FROM 25-29 JULY 2022 IN VICTORIA FALLS

Zimbabwe will be hosting the 4th Shelter Afrique Annual General Meeting and symposium in Victoria Falls from 25 to 29 July 2022. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will bring on board Ministers of Housing, housing financiers, built environment and climate change experts drawn from 45 African countries.

Shelter Afrique is a Pan African finance institution that exclusively supports the development of housing in Africa. It is a partnership of 45 African Governments, the African Development Bank and the Africa Reinsurance Corporation. Its origins date back to 1982 when African nations, signed a Memorandum of Understanding that gave birth to the organisation. Full operations of the organisation started in 1985. The mandate for Shelter Afrique is to build strategic partnerships and offer a host of products and related services to support the efficient delivery of affordable and sustainable housing and commercial real estate.

A series of events lined up on the sidelines include a groundbreaking ceremony by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe for the construction of walk-up flats, a business exhibition and a symposium aimed at creating an avenue for collaboration and synthesizing emerging lessons, knowledge sharing, best practices and innovations in housing and social amenities development.

Over the past two years, global attention has been drawn to the COVID-19 pandemic. The world is also experiencing dramatic

climate-induced changes that are negatively impacting the built environment. This impact has given rise to the formation of the theme; ***Climate Change and the Built Environment***.

Climate change has a significant influence on the social and environmental determinants of health: clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food, and housing security among others. More so, member countries are not strangers to extreme weather patterns which include excessive floods, winds, cyclones ones among others which directly impact on human settlements. The proposed AGM will provide an opportunity for member countries to showcase their responsiveness to climate change in the built environment.

Zimbabwe formally joined Shelter-Afrique in November 1993 and is one of the five countries that have fully paid-up capital subscription. Zimbabwe continues to be an active member in the Class A Shareholder category and has often led the region in being the base of Shelter Afrique's investments. To date, Shelter Afrique has invested USD\$58.2 million in Zimbabwe accessed by local financial institutions. The company has also extended a Sovereign Loan Facility in excess of USD25million to Zimbabwe and other member countries.

Zimbabwe successfully hosted the 37th AGM in Victoria Falls in 2017 and their return after 5 years for the 41ST AGM demonstrates the renewed interest in Zimbabwe as an investment destination and will provide a window of opportunity for the Government to shape the human settlements narrative as we journey towards modern and affordable houses. This is in tandem with the National Development Strategy engagement shows the significance of engagement and re-engagement drive as insinuated by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

The AGM and Symposium provide another opportunity for Zimbabwe to welcome and host African counterparts and stakeholders. It is also key to note that Zimbabwe will be assuming Chairmanship of the Bureau of the General Assembly taking over from the Republic of Cameroon at this gathering. The assumption of the chairmanship will put Zimbabwe on the map as the country will lead key programmes

and deliverables related to human settlements and the built environment across the continent.

The Minister of National Housing and Social Amenities will be the incoming Chairman and will be seized with the responsibility to oversee the implementation of various declarations made at the AGM. This will be an opportunity for Zimbabwe to foster strategies aimed at improving the status of the built environment within the Pan-African spectrum.

The USD 25million Sovereign loan facility will see the construction of 3000 plus housing units and the establishment of a material production plant for new construction technology in Zimbabwe.

Those willing to participate can register online on the Ministry or Shelter Afrique websites. An invitation is further extended to those who would like to exhibit their goods and services.

I look forward to hosting you in Victoria Falls from the 25th to the 29th of July.

I thank you.

For more information please contact:

Sikhanyisiwe Ncube - Deputy Director Communications and Advocacy – 0780829198/0776359624

Or Pardon Gotora the Acting Director Urban Housing -- 0772867857/0713667133