

## **Shelter Afrique calls the NMRC distribution of N1BN for Mortgages and increase of its Share Capital, a Welcome Development**

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Shelter Afrique the Pan-African finance institution exclusively supporting the development of affordable housing and real estate sector in Africa has commended the NMRC for the strides it has taken in recent weeks to address the housing shortage in Nigeria.

Speaking from their Nairobi Headquarters, the Managing Director of Shelter Afrique, James Mugerwa called the activities a welcome development, noting that "The NMRC recently approved the increase of its share capital at the AGM level, we find this exemplary, corporate governance should always be in lockstep with corporate strategy and with this the NMRC will open new vistas for housing development and access. We are always dealing with issues of share increase and subscription, so we want to commend management, the board and the AGM for taking a bold step".

Mugerwa also commented on the recent decision of the NMRC to disburse N1Bn to Imperial Homes, calling it a step in the right direction and a step necessary to galvanise the mortgage industry in Nigeria. Stating that Nigeria is currently facing a deficit of 170 million houses and will need more interventions like this to close that gap and make affordable housing available to all.

Speaking on the matter Mugerwa added "there is sufficient data to back up the claim that the mortgage market in Nigeria is still inadequate and nowhere robust enough to make a dent in the housing deficit, what it will take is more interventions like that of the NMRC and government still has a part to play, by creating infrastructure and taking that burden off developers, untangling land registration costs and laws".

"We have always stressed that housing deficit, not just in Nigeria, but across Africa, will be solved by large projects of scale, collaborations between federal governments, the state governments, the private sector and international finance partners like ourselves"

Commenting on the plans Shelter Afrique had for Nigeria, Mugerwa hinted that there were plans to float a Nigerian bond, to reduce the cost of local funds for developers pointing to a recent Moody's report which rated the organisation as stable. Mugerwa also noted that Lines of Credits to MFI's were planned for on-lending for construction, renovation or purchase, much like the NMRC had done.

Concluding, Mugerwa noted that Shelter Afrique was especially proud to see the NMRC hit its stride, having played a part in its creation; he added that Shelter Afrique would continue playing a part in revitalising the mortgage market in Nigeria and looked forward to working closely with the new government.

### **About Shelter Afrique:**

SHAF is a Pan-African company for habitat and housing in Africa, an international housing finance and development institution which has its headquarter in Nairobi, is also located in Nigeria. And it is backed by 44 member countries, the Africa Development Bank (AFDB) and Africa Reinsurance Company (Africa RE).

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