

Brief Remarks by the Managing Director of Shelter Afrique, James Mugerwa at The
Opening Cocktail of the African Housing Conference

Distinguished guests.....

Welcome to Nairobi!

It is a great honour to welcome you to the African Housing Conference 2014. Thank you for travelling great distances to be here.... We are honoured to have delegates from

Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Cameroon, Mali, Rwanda,

I am both honoured and humbled that you have taken time to be here.

Shelter Afrique is the only pan-African finance institution that exclusively supports the development of the housing and real estate sector in Africa.

A partnership of 44 African Governments, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Africa Reinsurance Company, Shelter Afrique builds strategic partnerships and offers a host of products and related services to support the efficient delivery of affordable housing and commercial real estate.

These include project finance, institutional lending, equity investments & joint ventures, trade finance, and social housing. We also offer practical advice and technical assistance to a wide range of industry stakeholders

We are now seeking to have a conversation around rental housing. Can we explore this as an option to the housing crisis in Africa? Is this how we can ensure all our people have decent housing? How can private sector and government come together in the pursuit of providing this basic human right?

Those are the thoughts that inspired this conference theme. Seeing the overwhelming response from you, I see that this was a topic worth discussing.

So I encourage you to fully engage with the topic. Let our deliberations bring a solution to this continental problem.

But tonight I will ask you to suspend all formality and enjoy each other's company as friends and acquaintances; what we are particularly proud about is that we have gathered people from a wide field; technical experts, government representatives, academia, private developers and civil society organisations.

In this room you will find any range of interesting topics, I encourage you to take full advantage of that and let your hair down.

With those few remarks, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the business hub of Eastern Africa.

Karibu Kenya!!