

## MESSAGE FROM THE UCLGA PRESIDENT



Father S. Mkalshwa  
Inaugural President of the UCLGA

This being an edition dedicated to the 4<sup>th</sup> Africities Summit, a conference whose thematic foundation is the burning challenge of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), I consider it appropriate to reproduce an address I made on the MDGs at the Commonwealth Local Government Forum's Kampala Symposium on 26 April 2006:

### Introduction

Common among us all is the conviction that all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are equal priorities, especially in Africa, where a conspiracy of slavery, imperialism, colonialism, civil wars, poverty and back-breaking debt has effectively compromised and undermined the speed of development. For my contribution to the Symposium I propose to unpack priorities we have to interrogate and implement, from a local government perspective, if we are to achieve the MDGs. The United Cities and Local

Governments of Africa (UCLGA), over which I preside, has twelve priorities for African local government, but I will focus on ones critical for the realisation of the MDGs.

In our promotional blurb for this Symposium we rightfully refer to the formal endorsement of the CLGF Aberdeen Agenda by Commonwealth Heads of Government. We also point to the publication of the Commission for Africa report. Significantly, we zero in on the report's highlighting of the importance of strengthening local government capacity in order to realise the MDGs. We also recognise the important link between the timing of our Symposium with the increasing official recognition of the importance of local government in 'localising' and delivering the MDGs, and of the need to strengthen local democracy, good governance and local government capacity.

### Priorities Relating to the Role of Local Government

Indeed, centralising the role of local government towards achieving the MDGs is a crucial paradigm shift promising to speed up meeting the MDG deadlines.

It should not escape us, however, that this is a conceptual framework adopted, first, by a forum – the Commonwealth – in which only a limited number of African countries sit; and second, by another forum – the G8 – in which no African country at all sits. Both forums by no means represent the reality on the ground, even with regard to at least some of the African countries which are members of the Commonwealth. This, however, should not blind us to the groundbreaking significance of that framework as an evolving understanding of the indisputable centrality of local government in the development of countries and their individual communities. Neither should it blind us to the fact that its progressive adoption, which we are increasingly seeing also in Africa, brings with it challenges we must prioritise for local government on the continent.

In a sentence, Chairperson, the effectiveness of African local governments in the attainment of MDGs depends largely on national governments. That explains why a critical priority for African local government is to ensure that – even as it becomes adopted by forum after forum – the idea of local government as the centre of MDG implementation should also be practically supported by all the countries of Africa, both in their individual capacities and their collective existence as the African Union (AU). That is why we, the UCLGA, representing as we do the united interests of African local government, have proposed a

## EDITORIAL

Valued readers

As you know, we have now reached the much anticipated 4<sup>th</sup> Africities Summit, a conference into which a lot of political, strategic, logistical and technical work has gone to ensure the success all of Africa would like to see.

The Government of Kenya has undertaken to make this the best of all the Summits held to date. "The Government of Kenya is ready, ALGAK is ready, and the people of Kenya are ready to welcome all African and overseas delegates to the beautiful safari country of Kenya," said Mr Josiah Magut, Chairman of the Association of Local Governments of Kenya (ALGAK).

The Summit's theme is "Building Local Coalitions for the Effective Realisation of the Millennium Development Goals in African Local Governments". At the heart of this is an acknowledgement of partnerships as vehicles with which to drive the continental programme on MDGs. Indeed, it is to the extent that Africa builds local development coalitions that the continent will graduate from poverty and underdevelopment to prosperity and sustainability.

Central to coalition-building is communication, hence the Africities Summit – a platform for the exchange of ideas and experience. Hence, as well, our dedication of this edition of the UCLGA newsletter to the 4<sup>th</sup> Africities Summit. Through it we hope that one more

person will get to know one more thing about the MDGs. We also hope that it will spark a question or two on the MDGs, for it is in a context of interrogation that innovative solutions are found to socio-economic development challenges.

As some of the information herein shows, given current trends and contexts, with a few exceptions Africa as a continent will not meet most of the MDG targets within the set timeframes. More than ever, then, the continent needs to enter into dialogue with itself and collectively evolve plans and strategies to equip itself to meet the challenge of development effectively.

This edition is one aspect of the UCLGA's contribution to that dialogue. May the 4<sup>th</sup> Africities Summit be another step in Africa's ongoing quest for partnerships for sustainable development!

**For comments, and to submit local government articles of interest, please write to:**

**The Editor**  
**United Voices Bulletin**  
**P. O. Box 13695**  
**The Tramshed 0126**  
**Pretoria 0001**

**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**  
**Tel: +27 83 292 8265; +27 73 296 5757**  
**Fax: +27 12 358 4693**  
**Email: [enquiries@uclgafrika.org](mailto:enquiries@uclgafrika.org)**  
**[ldodzo@uclgafrika.org](mailto:ldodzo@uclgafrika.org)**



formal relationship with the African Union so that, as national and local authorities, we can develop a common understanding of this idea as well as its implications - mainly financial - for local government given its status as a junior sphere of government to national and provincial governments.

Ensuring a continent-wide positioning of local government as a vehicle for the attainment of MDGs must be our priority because upon it hinges two other priorities on which the development capacity of local government depends. The one is to ensure that local government is legislatively recognised as a distinct but subsidiary sphere of government. The other is to statutorily prescribe equitable funding for local government. These, I beg to argue, will also enhance good governance as they both imply accountability.

The legislative recognition of local government as a distinct sphere of government brings with it a clear delineation of its mandate, something which in itself promotes effective delivery and accountability. Clearly defined funding parameters also enhance planning and, with their accounting implications, demand sound corporate governance principles and practices. In this, then, is a meeting of delivery and corporate governance, both of which are critical for the attainment of MDGs.

An extrapolation one makes, therefore, from the acknowledgement of local government's role in the realisation of the MDGs is that three priorities become immediately identifiable, and they are:

- One, ensuring an across-the-continent conception of local government's central responsibility in projects and programmes to achieve the MDGs.
- Two, legislatively – throughout the continent – recognising local government as a distinct but subsidiary sphere of government to the higher spheres of national and provincial or regional governments.
- Three, providing for statutory and equitable funding for local government based on its legislative mandate.

### The Current State of Africa with Regard to Millennium Targets

Chairperson, I am prepared to dare even aver that without some significant move on these three priorities Africa will not achieve the MDGs – certainly not within the target dates, and most probably not beyond. I say this not for melodramatic purposes but in a context where, with less than ten years before the deadlines of most of the MDGs, the picture we see in Africa is as follows:

- At least six and a half (6.5) million people are exposed to starvation, with many millions more without access to proper nutrition.
- Some statistics suggest up to five people die from AIDS every minute.
- The number of people living on less than a dollar a day is increasing.
- The continent is paying 14 billion dollars a year in debt service.
- Our share of world trade is a paltry 2%.
- Both GDP and per capita income growth are in a state of decline, and it is estimated that, at current rates, it would take the continent up to two hundred years to reach nutrition, primary education and child mortality targets – all of which have a direct bearing on the long-term economic competitiveness of countries.
- Local government expenditure per capita by country can be as low as \$6.
- At least 70% of the urban populations of

Sub-Saharan Africa live in slums.

- Less than 20% of households in Africa have connections to water pipes.

All these challenges exist in a context of runaway urbanisation, with most cities' infrastructure overcome by waves of rural influx into the urban areas. The unpalatable but inescapable reality, then, is that Africa is in many ways behind schedule with regard to the MDG timetable.

### Financial, ICT and Skills Priorities

It would be reassuring if the situation could simply be addressed by attending to the three priorities we have already catalogued. The truth, however, is something else, with other priorities inevitably having to be confronted.

For one, if one concedes that billions of dollars are annually pumped by donor, development and loan agencies into African local government, but that development is rather slower than the inflow of money, then one has to admit that something, somewhere, is amiss. Our – admittedly basic – research as the UCLGA points to a largely uncoordinated pumping of financial resources into local government on the continent, with subtle geopolitical rivalries seemingly dictating the funding rather than the collective interests of the continent. This often leads to wasteful duplication and inconsistent development.

It is a matter of priority, then, for African local government to ensure some coordination and synchronisation in the deployment of financial resources pumped into the sector. It is necessary, for example, to develop a detailed and empirical register of priority local needs per village, town or city; per country; and per region so that funding can be targeted at real needs consonant with the level of development of various regions.

It is important, as well, to recognise that, in an increasingly globalising and technologising world, local government theory and practice is changing too fast for most African countries – the majority of which are still struggling with entry into modern information and communication technologies, let alone running complex planning, budgeting and billing systems which are at the heart of local government delivery of even the most basic of services today.

The resultant priority, then, is the development of a highly sophisticated – in its impact – system of sourcing, exchanging and applying practical knowledge as cost-effectively as possible. This system must be founded on an unprecedented exploitation of local, regional, continental and world networks, with an emphasis on Africa beginning, first, by searching for successes within itself before venturing outside the continent.

Pursuant to that end our other priority must be to develop a high-level, accurate database which must always point to any skill, funding or other resource required by any local authority in Africa and link that authority with the counterpart blessed with, or source of, that resource.

I am positing, Chairperson, that our capacity to deliver on the MDGs is dependent, as well, on our capacity to effectively harness all the intellectual, human, financial and other resources at the disposal of our local governments. We have to revise our attitude to knowledge and information, including the technologies associated with their generation and accessing. It goes without saying that this must be accompanied by a readiness to invest considerably more in the technological

infrastructure required to produce, maintain, update, access and share all the knowledge and information we shall be having to mutually develop one another.

### Learning from African Achievement

This is the most opportune moment in one's presentation to emphasise the fact that Africa is not a story of seemingly insurmountable challenges only. Part of the reconstruction of the continent – including with regard to the realisation of the MDGs – is the philosophical challenge of rediscovering our self-confidence as a continent. Towards this end it is important that African examples of best practice be identified, studied and emulated.

Among these is our host Uganda's management of the HIV/AIDS pandemic to a point where infection numbers have been stabilised and the ravages of the scourge reversed. An abiding lesson for the rest of Africa – based on the Ugandan government's and President's practical involvement in the country's war against HIV/AIDS – is how the HIV/AIDS battle requires as much financial investment as political commitment. Also worth studying is the South African government's training of its eye on numbers relating to the country's performance vis-à-vis the MDGs, and its progressive increase of financial allocations to programmes aimed at achieving the MDG targets. The result is that, considered against time elapsed and time outstanding, in quite a few MDGs the country is effectively ahead of current targets.

### Corporate Governance

All my postulations so far assume that we are all mindful of the perception, rightly or wrongly, that our continent is corrupt, and that part of the reason for the slowness of our development agenda is our failure to use local development monies donated to us for that purpose. It would, in my view, be foolhardy to enter into any debate with anybody on that accusation, suffice to say the best proof of our financial integrity can only be a prioritisation, on our part, of the establishment of sound financial and accounting systems. I speak of systems which, in real time, can produce updates of activities and the resources invested in them. I cite this as a priority because it is increasingly becoming a precondition for donor and loan support to African municipalities and, in the context of our discourse on MDGs, with the target dates and quantification involved, it would be a perfect monitoring and evaluation tool.

A related priority, then, based on the principle that self-accounting is best ensured in a context of external and independent support processes, is the institutionalisation of a peer review system – akin to the African Union's – even within the local government milieu on the continent. Assuming a developmental rather than punitive system, this should go a long way towards demonstrating African local government's commitment to clean corporate governance as part of the software required to develop the capacity to implement the MDGs, specifically, and achieve development broadly.

While we must, as we have done, view corporate governance fundamentally from a financial perspective, we would do well to include, within its definition, public participation, and therefore categorise this, too, as a priority in the achievement of MDGs. This becomes particularly clear when we consider the fact that the thrust of our discourse is "localising" the MDGs. Localisation must not be reduced to simply the role of local governments but should be stretched to include the involvement of communities at the very grassroots. Only with people directly involved in decisions and

interventions affecting them directly will they be prepared to actively contribute towards their success.

It should be our priority, then, to ensure that maximum public participation processes are developed by African local governments as part of the goal of attaining the MDGs. Consider, for example, a model where public works consciously and, as a matter of policy, are based on the maximum use of labour-intensive approaches. Consider the multiple benefits of this both in terms of public involvement and the creation of jobs, poverty reduction and the attendant improvement in the nutrition and health of people, thus in one stroke contributing to the targets of a number of MDGs.

#### **The Priority of Networking and Building Strategic Alliances**

Chairperson, three weeks ago I was a panellist at the 13<sup>th</sup> Forum on Global Issues in Berlin, Germany. One of the points I made there, and which is perhaps even more relevant for this particular colloquium, is that given the human, financial, intellectual and technological resources required, the challenge of local development in Africa clearly requires that African municipalities and local authorities – which are by and large poverty-stricken – enter into strategic networks and alliances to tap into what both sister local authorities and the world have to offer.

Sadly, what the Ghanaian academic, WE Abraham, said in 1962 is still largely as true today as it was then, namely that, "Africa is probably the richest continent in the world. Like the Soviet Union and continental America, it certainly has inside itself all that it could need for its industrial development, barring skill and capital." It is that acknowledgment, ladies and gentlemen, which makes it necessary for us to build developmental networks and alliances as part of our menu of priorities for our local authorities to be effective.

While, however, it might seem easy to enter into relationships, the reality is that the development of fundable proposals and Memoranda of Cooperation has become more complex. A two-pronged priority, therefore, is the development of the capacity to formulate fundable proposals and the actual creation of developmentally beneficial relationships rather than merely symbolic friendships. The effectiveness of governments, at all levels, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, is ultimately dependent upon their networking and alliance-exploiting skills. African local government has to prioritise this if it is to achieve the MDGs. That is the rationale behind the UCLGA's consideration of itself as a vehicle to facilitate networks and alliances for and within its members as well as to capacitate the members to develop and manage them.

The relations the UCLGA is developing with institutions such as NEPAD, the CLGF, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Cities

Alliance, UN-Habitat, the Development Bank of Southern Africa and the First National Bank of South Africa, among many, are consistent with that ideal, intention and objective.

Of course, where foreign aid is concerned, the operative principle must be that African local government itself sets the agenda in terms of its own priorities. As His Excellency our host President Museveni once cautioned, "Africa should reject arrogant interference in the internal affairs of the continent."

#### **Conclusion**

On that note, ladies and gentlemen, allow me please to conclude, but not before retracing my steps and reiterating the point that while most of the world is grappling with the question of resources to achieve the MDGs, for most of the local authorities in Africa the priority is still to convince their national governments about their – that is local governments' – centrality towards the achievement of the MDGs; the importance of establishing local governments as distinct spheres; and funding local authorities equitably and in line with their developmental mandates.

Without these actions, sadly, the journey towards the MDGs will be that much slower, and the destination that much further.

## **MESSAGE FROM THE UCLGA SECRETARY-GENERAL**



**MR JEAN PIERRE ELONG MBASSI**

Given the role of PDM – of which I have been Secretary-General over so many years – in the conceptualisation and implementation of the Africities Summit over the years, Africities 4 is a special event for me – so special that I dedicate my usual space to it:

Africities 2006, the fourth African Summit for local authorities, is expected to bring together



### **THE AFRICITIES 4 SUMMIT**

#### ***"Building Joint Coalitions For The Effective Realisation Of The Millenium Development Goals In African Local Government"***

at least 5 000 participants from all over Africa and Europe in a common goal to forming local coalitions for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Held every three years and supported by numerous international organisations, the Summit is a rendezvous of principal decision makers from African villages, towns and cities.

It accords participants the space to articulate their analyses of and suggested solutions to the challenges confronting local government in Africa.

This year's Summit focuses on building local coalitions for the effective implementation of the MDGs by African local governments. As the Secretary-General of the United Nations so aptly avers, it is the local authorities, in collaboration with the private sector and civil society, which are best positioned to respond meaningfully to the challenge of achieving these goals.

The concept of partnership advocated by the Summit is perfectly symbolised by the collaborative efforts of the Local Government Ministry of the Republic of Kenya; the City of Nairobi; PDM; MDP; and the Executive Committee of the UCLGA, in its capacity as the Political Committee of this the 4<sup>th</sup> Summit, in planning this year's event.

The involvement of the UCLGA is particularly important as future Summits, beginning with the 5<sup>th</sup> one, will be under the total control and direction of organisation. The experience gained by the UCLGA in holding strategic and political meetings to assess the state of readiness of the Government of Kenya to host a successful Summit, as well as in mobilising support from other local authorities such as the Cities of Johannesburg and Tshwane in South Africa, should hold the organisation in good stead as it assumes the responsibility of making future Summits the success they should be.

*(Continued on page 4)*



*Former President Joaquim Chissano First Honorary Member Of UCLGA*

The highlight of this year's Africities Summit is undoubtedly the conferment of the First Honorary Membership of the UCLGA to His Excellency Mr Joaquim Chissano, the former President of the Republic of Mozambique who, as former Chairman of the African Union, gave the then process of establishing the UCLGA the firm political support it required from continental central government leaders. His visionary support for local government has since been emulated by other Heads of State and Ministers, and it is hoped that this Summit will add further impetus to that momentum of support to a point where the dream of a continent-wide establishment of local government as a distinct but subsidiary sphere of government can be realised sooner rather than later.

## THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: AN EXPOSITION

Adopted by the United Nations in 2001 as key targets for the developing world, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), simply put, seek to free men, women, and children from the dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty. These goals are also commonly accepted as a framework for measuring development progress.

### THE EIGHT MDGS ARE:

1. Eradication of extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achievement of universal primary education
3. Promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women
4. Reduction of child mortality
5. Improvement of maternal health
6. Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
7. Ensuring environmental sustainability
8. Development of a global partnership for development

According to the World Bank, slow growth in Sub-Saharan Africa has meant increases in both the poverty rate and the number of the poor in the 1990s, leaving it as the region with the largest proportion of people living below \$1 a day. Forecasts anticipate per capita growth averaging 1.6 percent over the 2006-15 period – a reversal of the region's long-term decline. But even this is far short of the growth needed to reduce poverty to half the 1990 level. In fact, the number of poor people is expected to rise from 313 million in 2001 to 340 million people by 2015. Sub-Saharan Africa also remains highly dependent on commodity exports and is still experiencing political and economic instability.

Sub-Saharan Africa, however, is a region with diverse performers. There are a few countries, such as Uganda and Ghana, which have sustained remarkable growth and achieved some progress in poverty reduction and other MDGs. A recent survey indicates that Cameroon is also making some progress towards achieving the poverty target.

In other developments efforts to achieve education for all in many African countries have resulted in significant enrolment increases at the primary level, a situation which is pressurising governments to expand secondary education.

On the health front, while other regions of the world are expecting better health services and outcomes over the next 20 years, Sub-Saharan Africa alone is anticipating further deterioration in its health services and stagnation or worsening of health outcomes, especially among the poor. The few successes in disease control (vitamin A deficiency, river blindness), fertility reduction, or health policy (new WTO rules on pharmaceutical patents) are insufficient to meet the unique challenges facing Africa: severe shortages in health workers; an over-reliance on donor support; chronic poor nutrition and reproductive health; the unprecedented burden of HIV/AIDS; and the resurgence of malaria and tuberculosis.

Not all is lost, however, as the UCLGA and its member municipalities join forces with national governments, the donor community, development agencies, the private sector, NGOs and civil society in the ongoing struggle to halt and reverse the effects of poverty and underdevelopment on the people of Africa.

## PROGRESS TOWARDS THE MDGS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA 1990-2015

	1990	2000	2015 (Target)
MDG1: People living on less than \$1(PP) a day (% of population)	45	46	22
MDG2: Primary education completion rate (% of relevant age group)	57	55	100
MDG3a: Promoting gender equality: primary education (% of girls in school)	0.82	0.87	1
MDG3b: Promoting gender equality: secondary education	0.75	0.82	1
MDG4: Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	187	174	62
MDG5: Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)	920*	917	230*
MDG6: Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases HIV/AIDS – In 2001 youth prevalence was 13% for men and 6% for women  Malaria – Only 7 out of 27 Sub-Saharan countries with above 5% incidence use bed nets for prevention. Tuberculosis (TB) – had a prevalence of 350 per 100,000 in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2001	-	-	-
MDG7a: Access to improved water source (% of pop.)	54*	58	77
MDG7b: Access to improved sanitation services (% of population)	54*	55	77
MDG8a: Official Development Assistance flows (% of donors' Gross National Income)	On the Decrease	Increased to 0.3%** in 2003	0.7% as Agreed in Monterrey
MDG8b: Debt sustainability	N/A	As at 2004 12 African Countries have reached completion point	

Source: Economic Commission for Africa 2005c

The synopsis below gives a summary of the Millennium Development Goals and their targets, as well as African countries most likely to achieve the targets, according to statistics obtained from the Economic Commission for Africa.

## ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

GOAL 1

### TARGETS

Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than a dollar a day

Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

**Poverty:**  
Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Lesotho, Libya, Mauritius, Morocco, South Africa, Tunisia and Uganda

**Child Malnutrition:**  
Botswana, Chad, Egypt, Gambia, Mauritania, Sudan and Tunisia.

**Overall Undernourishment:**  
Algeria, Angola, Egypt, Ghana, Libya, Malawi, Morocco and Tunisia

## ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

GOAL 2

### TARGETS

Ensure that by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

**Both Net Enrolment And Completion Rate:**

Algeria, Botswana, Cape Verde, Egypt, Gabon, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, São Tomé & Príncipe, Seychelles, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia and Zimbabwe

## PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY

GOAL 3

### TARGETS

Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and in all levels of education no later than 2015

**Primary Level Education:**  
Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Swaziland and Zimbabwe

**Secondary Level:** Algeria, Botswana, Lesotho, Libya, Namibia, Tunisia and Rwanda

## REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

GOAL 4

### TARGETS

Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

Algeria, Cape Verde, Egypt, Libya, Mauritius, Morocco, Seychelles and Tunisia

## IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

GOAL 5

### TARGETS

Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio

Algeria, Botswana, Cape Verde, Egypt, Gambia, Libya, Mauritius, Morocco and Tunisia

## COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA & OTHER DISEASES

GOAL 6

### TARGETS

To have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

To have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

**Hiv/Aids:**  
Algeria, Botswana, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe

**Malaria:**  
Algeria, Benin, Cameroon, Central Africa, Comoros, Egypt, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Rwanda

**Tuberculosis (TB):**  
Algeria, Angola, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Libya, Madagascar, Morocco, South Africa, Swaziland, Tunisia and Zambia

## ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

GOAL 7

### TARGETS

Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse loss of environmental resources

Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

**Sustainable Development (Forest Area):**  
Algeria, Cape Verde, Egypt, Gambia, Libya, Morocco, Swaziland and Tunisia

**Access To Safe Drinking Water (Rural):**  
Algeria, Botswana, Burundi, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa and Tanzania

**Access To Sanitation (Urban):**  
Algeria, Egypt, Ghana, Libya, Mauritius, Morocco and Tunisia

# DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

GOAL 8

- Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system
- Address the special needs of the least developed countries; (includes enhanced programme of debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous official development assistance (ODA) for countries committed to poverty reduction)
- Address the special needs of landlocked countries and small island developing states
- Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term
- In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth
- Cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries
- In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication

Source: Economic Commission for Africa 2005c

## INTERGRATING THE MDGS INTO NATIONAL PLANS – SOME AFRICAN EXAMPLES

- **In Rwanda** - MDGs have become targets for an interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). In addition, Government and civil society groups, taking the MDGs as common ground, discussed issues related to post conflict recovery;
- **In Tanzania** - MDGs have provided a framework for long-term planning, with a PRSP that operates on a three year cycle;
- **In Senegal** - The MDG report in 2001 stimulated greater participation in the PRSP process at a local level;
- **Zimbabwe** - Had a UN-supported consultative meeting with stakeholders who included private organizations in an effort to contextualize MDGs at the national and local level and identify the most relevant goals for the country;
- **In Ethiopia** - The country's Sustainable Development Poverty Reduction Paper (SDPRP) refers to MDG relevant sector development programs in education, health, water and roads. Most SDPRP targets are in line with the MDGs.

Source: Economic Commission for Africa

## MDG SUCCESS STORIES IN AFRICA

### UGANDA'S HIGHER ECONOMIC GROWTH LEADS TO HIGHER ENROLMENT

Uganda has achieved a doubling of gross primary enrolment between 1996 and 1999. This happened after the country's President, Yoweri Museveni, abolished school fees for up to four children per family, simultaneously sending a message to citizens that smaller families may be more affordable.

Even though enrolment did rise after 1996, getting those children through the door required more than lower fees. The Ugandan government was able to meet its objectives in the area of primary education because, as a prior condition, it established macroeconomic stability and prioritised social spending.

Uganda demonstrated political will by raising enrolment so quickly. But, as its Education Ministry pointed out, the government's ability to do so was closely related to the nation's emergence from two decades of war and instability to one of the highest economic growth rates in the world.

Source: Clemens et al, 2004

### GAMBIA ON TRACK TO REDUCE MATERNAL MORTALITY THROUGH SYNERGY ACROSS GOALS.

Gambia has accomplished a 30 per cent reduction (from 1 050 per 100 000 in 1990 to 730 in 2000) in maternal mortality. At this pace, the West African nation might reach this MDG by 2015. With some discrepancy between the investment in health undertaken in the more prosperous south and in the northern subregion, there is still a way to go. To reach the Goal, Gambia must bring its maternal deaths down by at least another 60 per cent, to 262 deaths per 100 000 live births. In addition, halving the proportion of underweight children under five years old (an indicator of hunger) is a target likely to be met by 2015, provided the current trend continues or improves. A closely linked target, increasing access to safe drinking water, is already achieved. The country reduced the percentage of the population without sustainable access to safe water from 48 per cent in 1990 to 16 per cent in 2000.

Source: Government of Gambia and UNDP, 2003

## POWERFUL WOMAN ELECTED TO LEAD UCLGA EAST AFRICAN REGION

The UCLGA East African Region has elected Dr Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, Mayor of Kigali City and President of the Rwandese Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA), as the new Vice-President for the UCLGA East African Region. She was elected in August 2006 during the East African Local Government Association's meeting in Kigali, Rwanda. Dr Kirabo Kacyira is a veterinary doctor by profession, and she is a former Member of Parliament. She joins two other female African local government leaders on the UCLGA Executive, namely, Mrs Florence Benstrong, Mayor of Victoria, Seychelles, and Ms Rosina Hoabes, President of the Association of Local Authorities in Namibia (ALAN).



DR. AISA KIRABO KACYIRA, MAYOR OF KIGALI CITY AND NEW VICE-PRESIDENT, UCLGA EAST AFRICAN REGION.

## THE UCLGA AT THE WORLD URBAN FORUM, VANCOUVER, CANADA, JUNE 2006

June 2006 will long be remembered in local government for the World Urban Forum held in the scenic city of Vancouver, Canada, where some 10 000 participants from over 100 countries converged and paved the way for a new drive forward on the international urban agenda in a world of rapidly growing cities. Ministers, mayors, academics, community-based organizations, federations of

non-governmental organizations, and the private sector shared their insights and experiences on what would improve the quality of life in the world's growing cities.

Participants agreed on the following:

- All urban players – citizens, local governments, state and provincial governments, national governments, the private sector and civil society organizations – should work harder to solve urban problems and challenges. There was widespread agreement that they all must do their part, rather than simply transfer responsibility to others.
- Risk-taking and the pursuit of innovation must characterize municipal leadership if cities are to achieve sustainable development. Vancouver's example in taking the lead in such areas as air and water quality, public transit and planning, was mentioned often in this context.
- Appropriate engagements, partnerships and relationships need to be built in an inclusive manner to better understand challenges and develop practical solutions. Participants from many parts of the world presented examples that can serve as guideposts for these strategies.
- The importance of transparency and accountability. Citizens need to be informed of challenges and steps taken by governments to address them.

Transparency goes hand-in-hand with accountability, which speeds up the process of enhancing actions that work and curtailing those that do not work.

Father Smangalisso Mkhathshwa, President of the UCLGA, delivered a statement in his capacity as co-President of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) at the Plenary Session of the Opening Ceremony.

The UCLGA also held its Donor/Development Partners Session during the WUF III. The Session was

attended by members of the UCLGA and development partners from, inter alia, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Netherlands, the United States International Development Agency (USAID), the Japanese Development Agency, the Swedish Development Agency (SIDA), the Region Ile de France, the European Union, the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF).

The Session served to:

- Introduce the UCLGA to the donor and development community;
- Present the UCLGA's Programme of Action for institutional development and programme implementation; and
- Set in motion a process of partnership building between donors and development agencies and the UCLGA.

More direct relationships are being pursued with these development partners, and it is the UCLGA's intention to see them result in specific development programmes for the local communities of Africa.

For more on some of the issues related to the WUF III, please visit: [www.wuf3-fum3.ca](http://www.wuf3-fum3.ca)

## WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN AFRICA: SOME STATISTICS

Number Of Municipalities Surveyed: 298

Countries surveyed: Ghana, Uganda, Seychelles and South Africa

### Councillors



### Mayors



Source: United Cities and Local Governments World Secretariat

## THE UCLGA RECEIVES MINISTERS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA AND THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE

On Tuesday 29 August 2006, the UCLGA Interim Secretariat was honoured to be visited by the Minister of Local Government of the Republic of Kenya, Honourable Musikari Kombo, and his Zimbabwean counterpart, Honourable Dr Ignatius Chombo. The two Ministers' visit was a courtesy call en route to the Pan African Ministers of Local Government meeting they were both attending in Maseru, Kingdom of Lesotho. Just the day before, Father Smangalisso Mkhathshwa had himself paid a visit to Dr

Chombo in Harare, Zimbabwe, to seek his political support for the UCLGA and to assure the Minister that the UCLGA would be working closely with the recently-established Zimbabwe Local Government Association (ZILGA), a merger of the Urban Councils' Association of Zimbabwe (UCAZ) and the Association of Rural District Councils (ARDC). In his interaction with Father Mkhathshwa Dr Chombo emphasised the need for a structure such as the UCLGA – a critical vehicle, he said, for the successful

implementation of development programmes in the continent.

For his part Minister Kombo assured Father Mkhathshwa – as Chairperson of the Political Committee of the 4<sup>th</sup> Africities Summit - that the Republic of Kenya was ready to host a successful Summit. He said Kenya was on track and that political, security and logistical arrangements were now in place to receive the over 5000 delegates expected to attend

the Summit.

The meeting with the two Ministers symbolises the UCLGA's commitment to consolidating and solidifying its relations with central governments in Africa. This is a crucial aspect of the UCLGA's project to demonstrate that its call for local government to be established as a distinct sphere of government is made in the context of subsidiarity and the need to more effectively streamline development by taking it as close to its target – the people – as possible. Without consultation with national and central governments both the UCLGA and its member municipalities will achieve none of their goals and objectives. With the support of central and national governments and other key stakeholders nothing would be beyond the achievement of local governments of Africa.



Left to right: Honourable Musikari Kombo, Minister of Local Government in Kenya; Father Smangaliso Mkhathshwa (centre), UCLGA President; and Honourable Dr Ignatius Chombo, Minister of Local Government in Zimbabwe.

## FOCUS ON ZIMBABWE

Fresh from its recent establishment from an amalgamation of the Urban Councils' Association of Zimbabwe (UCAZ) and the Association of Rural District Councils (ARDC), the Zimbabwe Local Government Association (ZILGA) has committed itself to lobbying the Government of Zimbabwe for a comprehensive legislative system for local authorities. Mr Jerry Gotora, President of ZILGA, said there is a need to harmonise laws that deal with local authorities and consolidate them into a single local government Act.

Zimbabwe currently has three local government systems. Other laws with a bearing on municipal councils are the Regional, Town and Country Planning Act; the Traditional Leaders Act; and the Licensing Act.

"There is disharmony when it comes to applying these laws together with the Urban Councils

Act or the Rural District Council Act, (a situation) culminating in disorder and confusion at times.

There is an urgent need to come up with a single local government legislation. The enactment of a single local government law will culminate in a single local government system," Mr Gotora said.

Mr Gotora said his organisation would also lobby the Government to provide for local authorities in the country's Constitution instead of the current situation in which, he says, local governments exist "at the mercy of Parliament". "By a single Act of Parliament, local government can be abolished. But when it is enshrined in the Constitution, a referendum is needed, which takes us back to the voters, who are the custodians of local governments, to decide whether to abolish local government or not. A local government system by way of a Constitution is more legitimate and more

stable than one by an Act of Parliament," Mr Gotora said.

Mr Gotora also said ZILGA would continue lobbying the central Government to provide funding to local authorities. "The more funding they get, the better the services they can provide."

On some of the reservations generally expressed about local government, Mr Gotora said while there were ills bedevilling the local authorities in Zimbabwe, a lot of good things were also happening. He said the formation of ZILGA was a milestone as it was in line with regional and international trends.

## THE UCLGA MEETS NEPAD



Professor Firmino Mucavele, CEO of the NEPAD Secretariat

In a critical development for the ongoing renaissance of Africa, the President of the UCLGA recently held meetings with the Chief Executive of the NEPAD Secretariat, Professor Firmino Mucavele, to explore ways in which the UCLGA and NEPAD can partner and implement joint programmes.

"The UCLGA is a practical association, an implementation tool which has come at an opportune moment for NEPAD and which will

be of great assistance to NEPAD in its implementation of local government projects. I am excited at this prospective partnership. In fact, UCLGA and NEPAD should have held this meeting last year immediately after the founding of the UCLGA. I will ensure that UCLGA and NEPAD create a joint technical team which will look at practical ways in which the two organizations can move henceforth to address projects and programmes related to cities and local government in Africa. NEPAD supports the UCLGA 100%!" said Professor Mucavele.

In his own comments, Father Mkhathshwa highlighted the alignment and balance needed between the UCLGA's Programme of Action and NEPAD's principles, objectives, strategic focus, priorities, desired outcomes and Programme of Action. He also highlighted NEPAD projects upon which possible cooperation can be explored, including Capacity Building, Infrastructure, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT),

Agriculture and Food Security, Human Development, Environment & Tourism, Science and Technology, Governance and Public Administration, the Integration of NEPAD Priorities into National Development Plans, Domestic Resources Mobilization, Reinforcement of Partnerships, Civil Society and Gender, and the Review of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals.

Among the results of that important meeting are the following agreements:

- The establishment of a Joint NEPAD-UCLGA Task Team to investigate possible areas of cooperation.
- A commitment to a Workshop to develop a Joint Programme of Action.
- The development of a Memorandum of Cooperation to be signed before the end of 2006.

## IN PURSUIT OF SELF-SUSTAINABILITY: THE UCLGA HOLDS A 20-YEAR PLANNING WORKSHOP

From 16 to 18 August 2006 the town of Benoni, South Africa, saw over 80 local government and development practitioners from at least 15 African countries and Canada gathered to brainstorm on the possible contents of UCLGA 2025 – a 20-Year Plan whose essence is progressive self-sufficiency, through market-based strategies, by the UCLGA and its member associations and municipalities.

providing basic services within a context of revenue generation; local economic development; tourism; and municipal investment; the Workshop presented a platform for deliberations and recommendations which will be processed and refined to develop a realistic and implementable Plan to transform African local government into an effective, primarily self-reliant and sustainable development vehicle.

Centred around the themes of building sustainable organizations;



*Over 80 Delegates from 15 African Countries Attended the Workshop*

The specific objectives of the Workshop were:

- Building the UCLGA and its regional/national associations into organisations with the capacity to sustain themselves in a context of minimal donor funding.
- Reflecting on strategies to empower African municipalities/local authorities to generate their own revenue to the maximum extent possible within their national governance frameworks.
- Developing effective local economic development paradigms, based on lessons learnt around the continent and elsewhere in the world, to empower African municipalities to promote and facilitate LED for broad development and revenue-generation.
- Evolving guidelines, based on proven results, for UCLGA member municipalities to follow in pursuit of bigger slices of domestic and international tourism markets.
- Equipping the UCLGA's member municipalities with investment knowledge and strategies for continuous financial growth and asset building.



*The 20-Year Planning Workshop Delegates Applauding a Presenter*

A Draft Framework of the 20-Year Plan will be developed by a Technical Committee which will meet at the 4<sup>th</sup> Africities Summit.

# 4<sup>TH</sup> PAN-AFRICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, MASERU 29 AUGUST TO 1 SEPTEMBER 2006

Truly deepening democracy lies in affording the people a chance to participate in matters that affect their development in their own communities, the Premier of Lesotho said on Wednesday 29 August 2006 when he officially opened the Fourth Pan-African Conference of Ministers of Local Government and Decentralization in Maseru. The Honourable Pakalitha Mosisili said he strongly believed that the African continent was now poised to uphold the principles of good governance.

The three-day conference, themed "Strengthening competencies for participatory planning and budgeting for effective local level delivery of services", was attended by Ministers of Local Government and Decentralization from 28 sub-Saharan countries. Honourable Mosisili said Ministers of Local Government and Decentralization and development partners were in the forefront of strengthening people's competencies to participate effectively in planning and budgeting for effective service delivery at the local level.

He indicated that many challenges remained unaddressed and the ideal of a good life for all on the African continent was still a distant mirage. "Half the population of our continent lives on less than one US dollar per day. Only 58% of the population has access to safe drinking water. Our life expectancy at birth pales in comparison to that of people in the developed world. The HIV and AIDS pandemic is reversing many of the gains we had made in the last decades. Some regions of Africa are still riven by conflict and, for a continent so richly endowed with natural and human resources, the majority of our peoples remain desperately and unaccountably poor," he said.

Participants reviewed leadership in Africa with respect to the involvement of citizens in development planning and budgeting at the local level, and discussed issues related to capacity-building for decentralized governance and poverty reduction.

Reflecting on the continuing challenge of real decentralization on the African continent, and speaking during the Opening Ceremony, the President of the UCLGA, Father Smangaliso Mkhathshwa, said while the past two decades have been a period of popular elections in Africa, the continent still faces the challenge of translating popular elections into popular participation. Making a distinction between decentralization and participatory budgeting and planning, he said:

*In some ways the Conference tacitly assumes the existence of decentralization on the continent but, given that decentralization in Africa right now obtains only to a severely limited and restricted extent, one would say concomitant with the examination of participatory*

*budgeting and planning should be an interrogation of decentralization as genuine democracy – which means the true empowerment of the masses through protected processes of participation in their own communities and underpinned by the principle of subsidiarity. That, we humbly submit as the UCLGA, begins with recognition for local government as a distinct but not different sphere of government to translate national macro development frameworks into action at the local level and account to the national spheres of government. Decentralisation for us is according local governments legislative or constitutional recognition and protection, including adequately resourcing them, and holding them accountable for basic service provision and participatory development on the ground in line with the development agenda set by national governments.*

He went on to argue that due regard had to be made for the need for Africa as a continent, and at the level of the AU, to unambiguously pronounce, in line with the Cardoso Report (commissioned by the UN) and the Arbedeen Agenda of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, on the centrality of local government as an empowered sphere of government in true decentralization and the delivery of development on the ground. It was through local government that the people on the ground would palpably feel national and provincial governments, and it was through local government that national and provincial governments would be in intimate contact with the people.

NEPAD had confirmed and acknowledged the importance of local government even for nationally and continentally driven development in Africa. The CEO of the NEPAD Secretariat had, during a meeting with the UCLGA a few months back, acknowledged that in some parts of the continent the success of some NEPAD projects had been seriously constrained by the lack of participation by local communities. He had also stressed that it is local governments which are best placed to mobilise, together with civil society formations, the meaningful involvement and participation of local communities in their own development.

In conclusion, Father Mkhathshwa emphasized that it is a politically and developmentally mature relationship between central and local governments which Africa has to master if public participation in various processes is to be effectively realized within a model of decentralized governance.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE MINISTERS' CONFERENCE, PLEASE VISIT:

<http://www.mdpafrica.org.zw>



## PROFESSOR AKIN L. MABOGUNJE

# AFRICA NEEDS SPECIAL CONSIDERATION IN THE URBAN POVERTY RESEARCH AGENDA

Professor Akin Mabogunje, Cities Alliance Policy Advisory Board member and Chairman, Presidential Technical Committee on Housing and Urban Development, Abuja, Nigeria, presented a keynote paper at a well attended seminar organised by the Comparative Urban Studies Project (CUSP) of the Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars in Washington D.C. on 1 February 2006. Titled Global Urban Poverty Research Agenda: The African Case, the paper was part of a series of seminars organised by CUSP to identify new research and activity emerging from the field on issues facing policy makers and practitioners working to alleviate urban poverty.

Four questions relating to deepening urban poverty in sub-Saharan Africa formed the foundation of Mabogunje's paper: 1. What is 'urban' about poverty and how is it different from problems facing rural areas? 2. Why is chronic poverty in sub-Saharan Africa a special case? 3. How can that peculiarity be explained? 4. What have societies done to cope with poverty?

Urban poverty is multi-faceted, said Mabogunje, detailing aspects of urban settlements that characterise urban poverty: inadequate income, asset bases, shelter, and access to public infrastructure and basic

services, the absence of safety nets, poor protection of human rights, and the general voicelessness and powerlessness within political systems of the poor.

Mabogunje then addressed urban poverty in the African context, citing the special significance of the continent's colonial history. Rural-urban migration has been fuelled by a high concentration in cities of health, education, and other public facilities that are rarely found in rural areas. Yet inadequate industrial growth has driven increasing proportions of the population – up to 70 percent – to the informal sector economy. Thus, Mabogunje summed up, people come to the city because of rural deterioration and they move into urban areas that are undercapitalised.

Commentary on Professor Mabogunje's paper was presented by William Cobbett, Senior Urban Upgrading Advisor of the Cities Alliance, and Jane Guyer, Visiting Professor, Department of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University.

THE COMPLETE TEXT OF PROF. MABOGUNJE'S PAPER CAN BE ACCESSED HERE:

<http://www.citiesalliance.org/doc/newsletter/march-06/mabogunjepaper.pdf>