

Parliamentary Forum on Housing (PFoH)

BACKGROUND.

The **Parliamentary Forum on Housing (PFoH)** was officially incorporated and registered on **20th July, 2023**. It was established with the primary objective of addressing poor housing conditions in Uganda by empowering the most vulnerable communities to overcome the persistent lack of decent and affordable housing.

PFoH serves as a platform for **Members of Parliament** to deliberate on matters related to **low-cost and affordable housing** in Uganda. Additionally, it provides an avenue for **legislators, housing experts, and real estate development partners** to collaborate, discuss challenges, and formulate effective policies aimed at improving housing conditions across the country.

THE MAIN OBJECTIVES FOR WHICH THE FORUM WAS ESTABLISHED ARE:

- 1. Enhancing Visibility and Public Awareness.** PFoH aims to increase its visibility across Uganda by promoting its existence, relevance, and impact. This will be achieved through active engagement in affordable housing initiatives, ensuring that the forum is well known to the general public.
- 2. Advocating for Effective Regulations on Affordable Housing.** The forum seeks to champion the development and implementation of strong sectoral regulations that support affordable housing. This will help address the challenges of housing poverty and promote policies that ensure access to decent and affordable housing for all.
- 3. Conducting Operational Research for Informed Decision-Making.** PFoH is committed to conducting research to identify gaps in affordable housing and provide evidence-based insights. This research will support policymakers in formulating informed and effective housing policies.
- 4. Ensuring Sustainability of PFoH.** To maintain its long-term impact, PFoH will focus on resource mobilization strategies that sustain its operations and initiatives. This includes securing financial and technical support to enhance the forum's longevity.
- 5. Advocating for Rational Resource Allocation and Utilization.** PFoH will push for fair and adequate resource allocation for affordable housing programs. It also emphasizes the efficient and transparent use of resources to maximize their impact on housing development.

KEY PRINCIPLES.

The **Parliamentary Forum on Housing (PFoH)** works in close collaboration with a diverse range of stakeholders to strengthen cooperation between **Parliamentarians, policymakers, local communities, civil society organizations, development institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector**. This collective effort aims to drive sustainable solutions for affordable housing in Uganda.

CORE PRINCIPLES

1. **People-Centered Approach.** PFoH prioritizes the needs of communities by ensuring that housing policies and initiatives are inclusive, responsive, and tailored to improve the well-being of the most vulnerable populations.
2. **Public-Private Partnerships and Collaboration.** The forum actively fosters partnerships between the government, private sector, and development organizations to create sustainable and scalable housing solutions.
3. **Systems Approach.** PFoH embraces a holistic and integrated approach to housing challenges, addressing them through coordinated policies, strategic planning, and multi-sectoral cooperation to achieve long-term impact.

CORE PRIORITY THEMES OF THE PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ON HOUSING (PFOH)

The **Parliamentary Forum on Housing (PFoH)** focuses on key thematic areas to address housing challenges in both urban and rural settings. These themes guide the forum's initiatives and policy advocacy efforts to ensure sustainable and affordable housing for all.

Category	Core Priority Themes	Description
Urban	Slum Upgrading	Improving living conditions in informal settlements through better infrastructure, services, and housing development.
	Secure Tenure	Strengthening land tenure systems to provide legal ownership and protection for urban residents, reducing forced evictions.
	Disaster Resilience	Enhancing housing structures and urban planning to withstand natural disasters and climate-related risks.
	Inclusive Housing Markets	Promoting housing policies that ensure affordability and accessibility for all income groups, especially low-income earners.
Rural	Affordable Housing for the Vulnerable	Developing low-cost housing solutions tailored to the needs of marginalized and economically disadvantaged communities.
	Human and Social Capital	Investing in community-driven initiatives, capacity-building programs, and social support systems to enhance housing development.
	Economic Capital	Strengthening financial mechanisms, including housing finance options, to support affordable homeownership and rural housing development.

MANDATE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ON HOUSING (PFOH)

The **Parliamentary Forum on Housing (PFoH)** is mandated to advocate for the development and implementation of effective policies and management frameworks to address housing challenges in Uganda. The forum plays a crucial role in:

- **Promoting Policy Reforms** – Engaging with policymakers to develop and implement housing policies that ensure equitable access to safe, affordable, and decent housing.
- **Strengthening Legislative Oversight** – Ensuring that housing-related policies, regulations, and programs are effectively implemented and monitored for sustainable impact.
- **Advocating for Increased Funding** – Lobbying for enhanced resource allocation towards housing initiatives, including affordable housing programs, slum upgrading, and infrastructure development.

- **Enhancing Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration** – Facilitating partnerships between Parliamentarians, government agencies, private sector actors, civil society organizations, and development partners to drive housing sector improvements.
- **Promoting Sustainable Housing Solutions** – Supporting initiatives that integrate environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and innovative housing technologies.

Through its mandate, PFoH strives to ensure that every Ugandan has access to **safe, adequate, and affordable housing**, contributing to improved living conditions and national development.

VISION

Sustainable Access to safe and affordable housing for all.

MISSION

Housing for all through policy, partnership, and people.

VALUES

The **Parliamentary Forum on Housing (PFoH)** upholds the following core values that guide its actions and decision-making processes in advocating for sustainable and affordable housing solutions in Uganda:

1. **Transparency.** PFoH is committed to openness and accountability in all its operations, ensuring that information is accessible to stakeholders and decisions are made with integrity.
2. **Teamwork.** Collaboration is at the heart of PFoH's initiatives. The forum fosters strong partnerships among Parliamentarians, policymakers, civil society, the private sector, and development institutions to achieve common housing goals.
Accountability. PFoH upholds the highest standards of responsibility, ensuring that all resources, policies, and initiatives are implemented efficiently and in the best interest of the public.
3. **Integrity.** The forum operates with honesty, ethical conduct, and fairness, ensuring that all engagements are driven by a commitment to justice and the greater good.
4. **Social. Inclusion.** PFoH advocates for housing policies that are inclusive and equitable, ensuring that vulnerable and marginalized communities have access to decent and affordable housing.
5. **Professionalism and Excellence.** The forum upholds a high level of competence, diligence, and efficiency in all its engagements to ensure impactful and sustainable housing solutions.

THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT.

The **Parliament of the Republic of Uganda** plays a critical role in shaping the country's housing sector through policy formulation, legislative action, and budgetary allocations. As the legislative arm of government, Parliament has the responsibility and opportunity to drive impactful housing reforms by ensuring the adoption and implementation of policies that promote equitable and sustainable housing solutions.

- 1. Prioritizing Housing as a Catalyst for Equitable Development.** Parliament should recognize housing as a fundamental driver of human development, poverty alleviation, and economic growth. Ensuring access to adequate housing and upgrading informal settlements are essential to shaping the future of urban development in Uganda.
- 2. Comprehensive Approach to Informal Settlement Interventions.** Addressing housing challenges in informal settlements requires an integrated approach that includes **tenure security, basic services, climate resilience, and active community participation**. These elements should be incorporated into urban planning policies, recognizing informal settlement residents as key stakeholders rather than passive beneficiaries.
- 3. Promoting Informal Settlement Upgrading as a Global Development Priority.** Despite decades of international aid focused on health, education, economic growth, and climate change, investment in housing solutions for informal settlements remains limited. The government must **prioritize funding for informal settlement upgrading** as a transformative strategy to improve living conditions and promote sustainable urban development.
- 4. Strengthening Housing Data and Knowledge Systems.** Reliable data is crucial for effective policymaking. However, significant gaps exist in housing-related data, which can hinder informed decision-making. Parliament should support **community-driven data collection initiatives** and integrate this knowledge into national housing policies to ensure that development plans are based on accurate and up-to-date information.
- 5. Ensuring Inclusive Participation of Informal Settlement Residents.** Informal settlement residents play a vital role in urban economies. Sustainable housing improvements cannot be achieved without **their active engagement** in decision-making processes. Parliament must advocate for **inclusive governance structures** that empower these communities to contribute meaningfully to housing solutions.
- 6. Enhancing the Capacity of Local Land Committees.** Strengthening local government land committees is essential for **improving land governance, tenure security, and efficient service delivery**. Parliament should push for **capacity-building programs** and advocate for clearly defined qualifications and competencies for committee members. Additionally, increased funding and strategic partnerships with stakeholders will enhance the effectiveness of these committees in addressing housing-related concerns.
- 7. Allocating Resources for Equitable Housing Policy Implementation.** Uganda's **rapid population growth, urbanization trends, and rural-to-urban migration** are increasing the demand for affordable housing. However, inadequate funding has resulted in many urban dwellers being forced into informal settlements.

Parliament, in collaboration with the **Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Urban Development (MLHUD)** and the **Parliamentary Committee on Physical Infrastructure**, must **lobby for increased funding** for the Directorate of Housing and housing finance institutions. Policies related to housing must uphold the fundamental **right to adequate housing** as a guiding principle for sustainable development.

CONCLUSION

By taking decisive action in policy development, resource allocation, and stakeholder engagement, Parliament can drive significant improvements in Uganda's housing sector. Ensuring **inclusive, sustainable, and affordable housing solutions** will not only enhance living conditions but also contribute to national economic growth and social well-being.

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