

**REPORT ON
CONFERENCE ON
URBANISATION & HOUSING CHALLENGES
CITIES IN AFRICA
6-8 OCTOBER 2003**

12 DECEMBER 2003

PREPARED BY YASMIN COOVADIA

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1. BACKGROUND

In South Africa's 1994 Reconstruction and Development Planning Programme Government committed itself to ensuring that the basic needs of all South Africans are provided for. One component of the programme was the goal of delivering one million houses by 1999, with the goals actually being met in 2000. Thirty percent of the houses were provided in Gauteng. No targets have been set since then.

During 2001, the GDoH undertook a strategic planning exercise in order to contribute to the national Government's 2002-2005 medium-term strategic and expenditure framework. Central to this process was a comprehensive review of the province's housing policies and programmes that have been implemented since democratic elections in 1994. The outcome of the review was that while the GDoH has met basic compliance requirements, the GDoH recognised the need for planning for the second decade of democratic government (2004 – 2014) and also the preparation of a Housing Strategic Plan for 2030.

From the point of view of these and other planning exercises, the GDoH anticipated that the conference will assist the GDoH through providing insight into African urbanisation and housing trends – in particular, that many of the challenges confronting cities elsewhere in Africa will likewise be found in Gauteng's three metropolises. Similarly it is hoped that considering the shared challenges will inform the urbanisation and housing policies of countries elsewhere in Africa.

The shared challenges include:

- A rapidly growing urban population that in most instances is characterised by poverty, insecurity, vulnerability and displacement (including HIV/Aids)

- The increase in the need for shelter and services (water and sanitation, waste removal etc.);
- Urban land management
- The powers and responsibilities that are needed by city governments and civil society in order to meet the challenges of urbanisation and housing
- Comparative challenges in South Africa's six metros

At another level, cities in the GDoH, the GDoH itself, and cities and governments elsewhere in Africa are also committed to contributing to the realisation of the Millennium Development Goals. The GDoH views the conference as an opportunity to (begin to) articulate an African perspective on this contribution, all the while adopting the view that doing so will improve our understanding of the urban and housing challenges and the appropriate policies.

It is in the light of this growth in urban areas and the vastly increasing demands for shelter and services and for more effective governance that the conference will also point to the need to place urban issues on the African policy agenda, and on NEPAD agenda in particular.

The goals of the Conference were: -

First, the GDoH seeks to be informed by and learn from urbanisation and housing experiences, policies and practices (good and bad) in cities in Africa.

Second, through the use of case studies, mostly from Gauteng and the SADC countries,¹ the GDoH and other participants should be in a position to contrast African experiences with the policy perspectives to be found in UN Habitat, the World Bank and other organisations, all with a view to informing the strategic direction of GDoH's housing policies and also those to be found elsewhere in Africa.

Third, through contributing to ongoing debate and planning initiatives the GDoH and other participants should contribute to NEPAD and help to shape the AfriCities Conference that takes place in December 2003 in Cameroon, the second World Urban Forum that will be held in October 2004 in Barcelona, and other such forums.

2. CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

A) ADHERENCE TO PROGRAMME

Everything went according to programme except for the following:

1. Later than anticipated beginning on 6th October
2. One of the three tour buses for the Alex Tour did not go out on tour due to the driver having absconded
3. Lunch in Alex was late due to the caterers being delayed

¹ The SADC countries are Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

4. One of the Plenary Speakers, Babtunde Agbola, did not make it to the Conference due to problems with getting a visa. The programme was adjusted accordingly on the day.
5. One of the parallel session speakers, Julian Baskin, could not make it because of not having a valid passport and not being able to get an emergency passport in time.
6. Mario de Sousa, one of the parallel session speakers, could not come to SA due to medical problems, but forwarded his paper for presentation by Prof. Tomlinson.
7. Sibongile Mazibuko, the COO of the city of Joburg did not turn up for her presentation during the parallel sessions although she had confirmed, and her replacement from the City of Joburg phone too late on the day to try and work out what was expected and when.
8. John Mokoena from the Benevolence Trust, a CBO, made a presentation during the parallel session although his name did not appear on the programme.
9. There were less people on the evening tour and supper on 7th October than was expected. It seems that many local participants opted not to go on tour.
10. There were also less people than expected for dinner on 8th October due to many people having left in the late afternoon.
11. There was a well-attended press conference held on the afternoon of the 8th October where representatives of all partners participated.

B) PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS

Hard & Soft Copies

Rosemary Janches has been given my files that contains the hard copies of presentations that I had collected at the Conference (in addition this file contains a copy of the box handed out at the Conference). In addition she has all soft copies of all of the papers/presentations.

Posting on Gauteng Housing Website

There have been numerous problems with the Departments computer systems since September 2003. Once the Conference was completed in October 2003, Shon Moodley put some of the papers/presentations on the Web Page with the intention of doing it properly as soon as possible. Given all the continued problems with the computer systems, the work of putting the Conference information on the Website in a more professional way has been delayed to date. Shon has taken full responsibility to put all the information on the Website in the following way:

1. Conference Programme
2. Conference Brochure
3. Photos
4. Papers/Presentations in the order in which they appeared on the Programme according to name of presenter.
5. Contact Details

C) PUBLICITY

Immediately after the conference I requested Keith Khoza to compile a report on publicity. I have still not received the report, and it seems that Keith did not open the email possibly due to problems with his computer. There was TV coverage, a press conference on 8th October, and other media events - Keith Khoza should produce the report as soon as possible (see attached) and hand it to Rosemary. There is a part of the files on the Conference marked "Publicity" which I am handing over to Rosemary.

Information Dissemination at Conference

A copy of documents distributed at the Conference is in the pack of files handed over to Rosemary Janches.

D) ASSESMENT

Rapporteurs Reports

Reports from the Rapporteurs have been completed and form part of the file with the papers/presentations handed over to Shon Moodley. These reports provide a good insight in terms of an assessment of the papers presented at the Conference.

Participants Evaluation

An Evaluation form was distributed to participants on the last day of the Conference. Shon Moodley has the completed Assessment Forms.

Meeting the stipulated Conference Goals

As mentioned before in Section 1. above, the Conference goals were:

First, the GDoH seeks to be informed by and learn from urbanisation and housing experiences, policies and practices (good and bad) in cities in Africa.

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Forum that will be held in October 2004 in Barcelona, and other such forums.

The Conference goals have been met, and it is up to the Department on how it will take forward the issues. A strong partnership has been established between the Department and the Conference partners (UN HABITAT; SACN; Wits University; City of Joburg; and National Department of Housing) Significantly, the Department is now a HABITAT PARTNER. On yet another level, the Department now has a direct relationship with housing and urban development practitioners in many cities in Africa (speakers at the Conference). The Conference also provided an opportunity for South Africans, and in particular government officials and practitioners in Gauteng and some of the metropolitan areas such as Ekurhuleni, Cape Town, Tswane, and Joburg.

Meeting the stipulated Post Conference Goals

During the lead up to the Conference, a suggestion was made for the publishing of a book based on the assumption that the papers/presentations at the Conference would be good enough to put together in Book-format. I approached Dr Marie Huchzermeyer of the Wits University (one of our strategic partners) to see if Wits would be willing to edit and publish the proposed book given their good record of doing so recently with other books. This matter needs to be taken further with Dr. Huchzermeyer.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

R1 622 039.00 was budgeted for the Conference (excludes Consultant fees to Prof. Tomlinson for the Feasibility (provided in 2002/3 FY) and Planning & Design of Conference (2003/4 FY). The actual cost of the Conference amounts to R1 287 820.92 of which R1 272 820.92 has been paid to date (11/12/03) with the outstanding payments (R30 000.00) currently being processed. See Summary report attached.

Consultant fees to Prof Tomlinson amounted to:

Feasibility	R 54 711.00 (2002/3 FY)
Planning & Design of Conference	R239 488.00 (2003/4 FY)
<u>Overtime</u>	<u>R 99 360.00 (2003/4 FY)</u>
	<u>R 393 559.00 Total</u>

The above mentioned Consultants fees were paid from Programme 2 budget.

Speakers

None of the speakers were paid to present their papers, or paid any sort of honorarium. Instead, their travel and accommodation costs were paid in full. Speakers from within Gauteng Province were not paid any travel costs or provided with paid accommodation. When guests checked in, they were informed that: -

- The Department paid for their accommodation;
- That their meals were provided for during the Conference and therefore any room service, or any other hotel service was for their own account.

CBO/NGO representatives invited to Conference

NGO/CBO representatives who did not have transport to and from the Conference on a daily basis, and would have had difficulty in traveling due to the long hours involved, were provided with paid accommodation. When guests checked in, they were informed that: -

- The Department paid for their accommodation;
- That their meals were provided for during the Conference and therefore any room service, or any other hotel service was for their own account.

Departmental Staff

Departmental staff who were required to work extended hours due to the programme were provided with paid accommodation at the Hilton Hotel with the other guests.

When guests checked in, they were informed that: -

- The Department paid for their accommodation;
- That their meals were provided for during the Conference and therefore any room service, or any other hotel service was for their own account.

Sponsorship

UN HABITAT: UN HABITAT did not provide direct transfer of funds to the Department, but rather:-

- International publicity that helped to give the Department an international profile;
- Posters and publications for distribution at the Conference;
- Payment of air tickets for 2 UN HABITAT staff members who were key speakers at the Conference.
- Ongoing direct assistance and support for the design and planning of the Conference since April 2003, with specific support in helping to assist in the identification of topics/issues as well as potential speakers. This extended to inviting the Department to the meeting of the Governing Council in May 2003 to enable the Department to establish a network of speakers and identify topics.

SACN: South African Cities Network sponsored the dinners on the night of 7th October after the tour of the Inner City. This amounted to approximately between R25 000.00. The CEO was an integral part of the Conference since the planning of the Conference in May 2003.

DBSA: The Development Bank of Southern Africa had indicated willingness to provide some sponsorship during the Feasibility stage (Jan – March 2003) and closer to the time of the Conference. There were no guidelines or preferences for the type of activity they would sponsor, but required that we submit some application to them and they would then consider it. This offer of sponsorship was not pursued due to the vagueness on the part of the sponsor.

ARP: The Alexander Renewal Project hosted the celebration of World Habitat Day on the morning of 6 October and carried the cost of such.

WITS UNIVERSITY BRAZIL TOUR: Besides receiving sponsorship as outlined above, the Department provided sponsorship to post graduate Housing students to go on a trip to Brazil just after the Conference. During the Conference students sold

copies of books and publications as a means of fundraising, but by the end of the Conference and factoring in other big sponsors, they had a shortfall of R40 000.00. The HOD agreed to provide part funding for the tour to the value of R40 000.00. In return the students and the university agreed to take along one staff member from the Department on the tour, to hold a seminar for senior management on their return, to share the knowledge and information gained in Brazil since it was directly relevant to the Department's housing programmes, and to incorporate such information into the proposed book on the Conference.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The Department identify a champion to take forward the recommendation made at the Conference that the Department continue to hold such a Conference annually.
2. The Department decide on how to use the proposed annual conference as a tool that will effectively be a powerful platform of collaboration articulating an African perspective to drive development on the continent.
3. Research and information in general, and specifically that which is used at the proposed conferences, be reliable and accessible.
4. The Department note and consider further research on the following topics as identified at the Conference:
 - Increase in evictions due to non-payment for housing related services
 - The accessibility of Housing Finance
 - Review of policy, laws and legislation related to Housing
 - Issues raised in the Rapporteurs reports
5. The Department note and consider the role of SACN as a regional advisor on matters related to urbanization and housing, and how the Department may take forward this partnership.