



# **PGA's Side Event on Legislators and Environmental Health Initiatives.**

**April 2012 – New York**

**Legislative Initiative (LI) on Sustainable  
Urban Planning in Tanzania.**

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# Presentation Outline

- Background
- Functions of the Legislature
- Challenges on Sustainable Urban Planning (SUP)
- Impact of challenges on SUP
- Legislative Initiatives on SUP in Tanzania
- Recommendation and conclusion

# Background

A sustainable city (SC) or eco-city is a city designed with consideration of environmental impact, inhabited by people dedicated to minimization of required inputs of energy, water and food, on the other hand checks waste output of heat, air pollution - CO<sub>2</sub>, methane, and water pollution

# Background (cont...)

- SC should meet the needs of the present without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- However, a SC should be able to feed itself with minimal reliance on the surrounding countryside, and power itself with renewable sources of energy.

# Functions of Legislature

- From the Constitution of URT 1977 Art. 63 and UDHR 1948 Art 21, the role of legislature is: -
  - Legislative role (including policy, law making and ratification of International Conventions)
  - Approving Govt. Budget
  - Oversight role to the Government
  - Representation and Leadership role

# Challenges of Sustainable Urban Planning

- Cities like Dar es Salaam, Nairobi, Kampala, Lagos, Accra are faced with big flow of people from rural areas.
- More than 50% of worlds population live in urban , by 2030 it is expected more people will be living in urban to about 70%.
- Challenges faced are lack of the ability of government to build essential urban infrastructures.
- Rapid and often unplanned urban growth, which result in environmental degradation, lack of health care, waste management, clean and safe water, public transport and energy sustainability.

# The Impact of Challenges

- The result of these challenges affects economical, social and political status of the communities
- Social: placing human health at risk including substandard housing, high rates of infection, inadequate sanitation, overcrowding, air pollution, inadequate waste collection, waste water management, insufficient or contaminated drinking water and struggle for services.
- Economical: increased motor vehicle traffic which reduce production, stress associated with poverty and unemployment among others.(developing countries)
- Political: Loss of peace and harmony by frequent riots and demos



# LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES ON SUSTAINABLE URBAN PLANNING IN TANZANIA

- These initiatives are divided into three groups: -
  - Laws and Policies Making
  - Approving Budgets
  - Overseeing the Government
  - Representation and Leadership Role





# LI on Laws and Policies Making

- Legislating laws and policies for balancing rural and urban areas economically, such as creating economic opportunities in rural areas.
- Making and implementing policies that address problem of urban population by looking at the root cause.
- Making policies to encourage development in rural areas such as subsidizing agriculture inputs.
- Making more practical policies regarding the process of urbanization to ensure cities manage to absorb the population through Public Private Partnership (PPP).
- Promoting rural development policies, through local government authorities and encouraging public private partnership in rural areas development
- Making Policies to encourage Private Investors

# LI on Approving Budgets

Approve enough Budget in the Parliament for:

- Sustainable urban infrastructure such as Roadways, power grids, telecommunication lines, public transport, health care as well as systems which rely on strong infrastructure to handle demand.
- Sustainable development in rural areas including SMEs, Business and vocational training centers to enable self employment.

# LI on Overseeing The Government

- Overseeing the government in order to see if the Government implements its obligations.
- Overseeing the Government at National level in National Assembly
- Overseeing the Local Government at Regional level, District Councils level, and Village Government.

# LI on Representative and Leadership Role

- Sensitize the Public on sustainable urban planning
- Engage the Public in all plans/strategies geared towards sustainable urban planning
- Fully participation of MPs in Local Government Authorities Programmes that aimed in curbing Rural – Urban migration

# Recommendations

- Leadership commitment on sustainable cities development
- Parliamentary committees on land, natural resources and environment should effectively engage other stake holders in dealing with urbanization issues
- Capacity building for the parliamentarians on issues of urbanization and health environment to help them make informed contributions and hence quality decisions
- Tracking projects which identified to tap local capacities for sustainable development
- Tackle bigger issues of corruption which hamper and distort progress towards growth of cities

# Conclusion

- Legislators have to make sure that their governments consider the development of comprehensive and inclusive programmes for rural-urban migration to bring rural-urban relationships into a mutually beneficial balance
- Draft model legislation as developed by UN Habitat (Nairobi, 2010) on human settlements, has to be disseminated from which legislators & Govts can borrow from. (Domestication)

# Conclusion (cont.)

- Basing in the fact that programmatic initiatives tend to get stuck in ministries, parliamentarians and particularly committees on land, natural resources, environment have to make sure that things are moving forward using their constitutional powers for the betterment of their constituents and cities
- Networking between UN agencies, related stakeholders and parliamentarians on settlement issues have to be maintained

**Thank you for your  
attention and welcome  
to Dar es Salaam**

