

PRESS STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE FIDELIS MHASHU,
MINISTER OF NATIONAL HOUSING AND SOCIAL AMENITIES –
HEAD OF THE ZIMBABWE DELEGATION AT THE 22ND SESSION
OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS
COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS ; 30 MARCH – 3 APRIL,
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The people of Zimbabwe have been successful in forming an ALL INCLUSIVE GOVERNMENT drawn from across the political divide. The immediate task of the All Inclusive Government is to ensure that the basic social services which include education, health and housing infrastructure are restored and the manufacturing industry starts operating to create employment for the people.

In order to jumpstart this mammoth task the new Government has adopted the “Short Term Economic Recovery Programme” which spells out the sectors that need urgent attention. Housing is one such sector that has been prioritized under the Short Term Economic Recovery Programme.

The existing housing infrastructure i.e. water and sewerage reticulation need to be upgraded to cater for urban expansion which is a result of current high rate of urbanization which is projected at 7 % per annum. Local authorities

and building societies need to be recapitalized so that they are able to effectively play their respective roles of providing the requisite housing infrastructure and housing finance.

The attendant situation undoubtedly calls for capacity building at both central and local level government levels in terms of the requisite human resources and equipment. There is currently a critical shortage of technical and professional staff in both public and private sector.

The new Government is aware of the budgetary limitations and the magnitude of the work required to achieve the targets set under the Short Term Economic Recovery Programme. Hence it is calling for renewed co-operation with the international community in implementing its development programmes. Zimbabwe needs development assistance to complement the current humanitarian assistance. Both the public and private financial institutions need access to off-shore lines of credit in order to stimulate activities in the housing economy.

We equally call for private investment in housing and urban infrastructure. There are lucrative opportunities in medium and high cost housing where

land developers are assured of a good return on their investment. Government is therefore considering a number of incentives to attract foreign private investments in housing development.

THANK YOU