

August Public Lecture Series 2012

THE SCRAMBLE FOR THE CITY – URBANIZATION IN NAMIBIA

Increasing numbers of rural dwellers move to town in search of employment. They are driven by the scarcity of rural resources, and attracted by urban life. Since 1991, Namibia's urban population more than doubled. At present, 42% of the country's 2.1 million live in urban areas.

Namibia's cities face severe challenges. As informal settlements of the marginalized poor grow in number and size, affluent suburbs also expand. Cities grow apart, spatially and socially, reflecting intensifying social inequalities of post-independence Namibian society.

Research-based evidence on urban housing and living conditions in Namibia is still sketchy. What triggers mobility? With unemployment and poverty persisting, why do shack dwellers hold out? How do urban authorities respond? What are the government's developmental policies to confront rapid urbanization and further social marginalization?

The **August Public Lecture Series** at the University of Namibia, now staged in its seventh year, offers a forum for information and critical debate. It is jointly organized by the Department of Sociology at UNAM and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. The general public is cordially invited to attend and actively contribute to the debate.

Lectures are free for everybody.

- 1 August 2012** *Housing the urban poor: the national picture*
→ Anna Muller (Namibia Housing Action Group)
- 8 August 2012** *Housing Windhoek's poor: a community perspective*
→ Edith Mbanga (Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia)
- 15 August 2012** *Migrants to cities and towns in Namibia: the dynamics of investing in urban versus rural areas*
→ Andrew Niikondo (Polytechnic of Namibia)
- 22 August 2012** *Managing urbanization: demographics of the capital city and registration of rights to municipal land for the urban poor*
→ Faniel Maanda and Brownie Mutrifa (City of Windhoek)
- 29 August 2012** *No job, no income, and yet settlements grow - a research project in Hakahana, Havana 6 and 8ste Laan*
→ Ndeshi Namupala and Volker Winterfeldt (University of Namibia)

Lectures follow a format intended to both inform and allow the audience to actively engage in a debate after the presentations. Presentations are limited to 30 to 45 minutes, to leave ample scope for the ensuing discussion.

All lectures/events take place on **Wednesday evening, 18.00 to 20.00 hrs, at the Library Auditorium, University of Namibia**, Mandume Ndemufayo Avenue, Pioneerspark.

For further information:

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