Cities, Communities and Homes: Is the Urban Future Livable?

• Paper / Proposal Title:

What is ‘Adequate’ About Adequate Housing in Nigeria? Assessing Housing as a vehicle for Community building and Development

• Format:

presentation

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• Abstract (300 words):

“We shape our buildings, and afterwards, our buildings shape us.” SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL, British Prime Minister (1940-1945).

Amidst conditions of dwindling national resources, rising inflation rate and other development challenges, many countries in the Global South are grappling with the seemingly intractable policy target of providing ‘adequate housing for all’. Despite experiencing rapid population growth coupled with expanding housing backlog, most of these countries, if not all, are falling gravely short of this vaunted target. In this losing
‘development race’ to mass produce housing, many nation states and shelter organisations hardly stop to consider how exactly houses provided have contributed, like in the opening quote, in shaping individual lives, community ethos and sustainable cities. The current study assesses the nature and strength of community connectivity in three public housing estates in Enugu, Nigeria, with a view to highlighting the determinant social, cultural and spatial factors. This process was carried out using social network analysis which helped to define the major nodes (individual actors or places) and their ties or links (interactions and/or relationships). Surveys were conducted in the estates in order to generate base data that were analyzed, using Social Network Visualizer (SocNetV). The study found out in the study area that the function of housing as a vehicle for community building and development is dependent on community formation between the dwelling units and nearest neighbours, engendered by community interests.

**Keywords:** Adequate Housing, Global South, Mass Produce Housing, Shelter Organisations, Sustainable Cities.

• **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):** SHORT BIOGRAPHY

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2. **Dr Victor Udemezue Onyebueke** is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Urban and Regional of the University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus (Nigeria), where he is involved in teaching, research and consultancy. Onyebueke holds a Ph.D. degree in Geography
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