



**MINISTRY
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**REMARKS BY THE MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, MMAMOLOKO KUBAYI,
AT THE 2023 INDUCTION CEREMONY OF NEWLY ADMITTED ARCHITECTS,
ACCRA, 26 OCTOBER 2023**

Programme Director

Minister of Works and Housing, Mr Francis Asenso- Boakye, MP

High Commisioner of South Africa to Ghana, H.E. Jeanette Mason

Chairman and members of the Architects Registration Council,

President and members of the Ghana Institute of Architects,

Registrar of Architects

MPs present

Mayor of Accra

Distinguished invited guests,

Representatives of the press corps,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good Morning

It is a tremendous honor for me to stand before you today as we gather to celebrate the induction of a new generation of architects into this very noble profession. I want to express my deepest gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to me on this occasion. I bring you greetings and well wishes from the people of South Africa.

§§1 It is fitting that the theme for the occasion is: "Upholding the Highest Moral and Ethical Standards in the Built Environment." Because matters it refers are of paramount importance not only to your profession but to the entire world. I say this because we live in a continent in which the future social, political and environmental stratification will be defined by how we design the cities that Africa is developing.

Agenda 2063 of the African Union projects that "...the Africa of 2063 will be a predominantly urban future. It is estimated that more than two-thirds of the projected population of 2.5 billion will be living in urban centres by 2063"

It further predicts that because of rapid urbanization "This growth in urban population has many implications: spatial planning; access to housing; provision of basic services; job creation; economic and social development. However, construction of housing to accommodate a trebling of urban population will be a major challenge."

Indeed, we have begun to see this challenge of urban settlement manifesting itself in our countries. The degree may differ in each of our countries but the provision of housing for the poor and the gap market in urban centres has become the greatest challenge for governments across the world. This has led to the growth of slums and informal settlements which are breeding ground for all kinds of social ills. This means that now more than any other time it is opportune for us to mobilize all the skills and other necessary resources at our disposal to tackle this challenge.

In a rapidly changing world, where urbanization is reshaping our cities, architects play a pivotal role in creating spaces that are not only functional but also ethical and sustainable. As the South African Minister for Human Settlements, I am keenly aware of the transformative power of architecture in shaping human settlements, and I believe there is tremendous potential for collaboration between architects in Ghana and South Africa to exchange ideas and impact positively on our cities.

Architects are not just designers of buildings; they are visionaries, problem solvers, and custodians of our built environment. Our cities, with their towering skyscrapers, bustling streets, and green spaces, are the products of your creativity and expertise.

But the responsibilities of architects extend far beyond the external look of buildings and functionality. As architects, you are entrusted with the task of creating spaces that promote the well-being of individuals and communities, that respect our natural environment, and that uphold the highest moral and ethical standards.

In this context, in May 2023, the UN Habitat assembly held in Kenya adopted the Global Action Plan. The intention of the Global Action Plan Framework is to consolidate and amplify efforts for accelerating the implementation of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda in the United Nations Decade of Action and provide a joint vision of partnership and action. Central to this plan is the elimination of slums and informal settlements so that cities can provide livelihood and for leaving no one behind and be more sustainable.

In the context of human settlements, architects can be a force for positive change. Our cities face numerous challenges, from housing shortages and inadequate infrastructure to environmental degradation and social inequalities. Architects have the ability to address these challenges through innovative design, sustainable practices, and a deep commitment to ethical principles.

Upholding ethical standards in the built environment is not just a moral imperative; it is also essential for the long-term success and sustainability of your profession. As architects, you must always act in the best interests of your clients and the broader society. This means adhering to a code of conduct that includes transparency, accountability, and integrity.

Architects must also be mindful of the impact of their work on communities and the environment. You have a duty to design buildings and spaces that are accessible, inclusive, and environmentally responsible. This involves considering the needs of all members of society, including the most vulnerable, and minimizing the ecological footprint of your projects. As architects you have a responsibility to contribute to the creation of the Africa we want as envisaged in Agenda 2063.

I firmly believe that collaboration between architects in Ghana and South Africa can lead to the exchange of ideas and the creation of innovative solutions to the challenges faced by our respective countries. Our experiences may differ, but our common goal of

improving human settlements unites us. By sharing our knowledge and expertise, we can learn from each other and collectively contribute to the betterment of our cities.

I arrived in your beautiful country two days ago and I am leading a delegation that includes the business with the aim of strengthening cooperation and collaboration between South Africa and Ghana. Forging technical, trade and business relations in the built environment will not only be boon for our two economies but more importantly it will give practical expression to Africa free trade agreement.

I propose that we establish a platform for architects from Ghana and South Africa to collaborate on projects that address pressing urban challenges. This could involve joint design competitions, knowledge-sharing workshops, and research partnerships. Together, we can leverage our collective wisdom to develop sustainable, ethical, and inclusive solutions that benefit our societies.

In conclusion, as we celebrate the induction of a new generation of architects in Ghana, let us commit ourselves to upholding the highest moral and ethical standards in the built environment. Let us embrace our role as architects of positive change in our cities and explore the possibilities of collaboration with our South African counterparts. Together, we can create a future where our cities are not only functional and beautiful but also just, sustainable, and ethical. As President Mandela taught us, he said: "If you want the cooperation of humans around you, you must make them feel that they are important and you do that by being genuine and humble". Thank Minister Francis Asenso-Boache for being humble and genuine in your cooperation with us.

Thank you and may your journey as architects be marked by excellence, integrity, and a profound sense of purpose. Let us work together to build the Pan Africanist dream of a free and prosperous Africa that our forefathers dreamt about when they fought for liberation all those years ago.

I thank you