

Uganda's First Female PhD in Architecture

Dr. Assumpta Nnaggenda-Musana

Email Contact: nagendaa@gmail.com;

Doctorate Studies: KTH, Royal Institute of Technology, School of Architecture and the Built Environment, Stockholm 2005 -2008.

Doctorate Research Area: Urban Planning and the Environment

Title of Doctorate research: "Housing Clusters for Densification within an Upgrading Strategy. The Case of Kampala, Uganda."

Dr. Assumpta Nnaggenda-Musana was the first female Architect to hold a doctorate in Uganda in 2008. Since then, her world has changed for the better. She is currently a Lecturer in Architecture and Physical Planning at CEDAT, and also serves on several Government technical task committees and professional boards in the areas of Architecture and Urban Planning. One of these is the Presidential Initiative for Banana Industrial Development, PIBID, where she has chaired the Master Planning Committee.

"Architecture is a male-dominated field and many people think it is complicated. My experience has proved to me that it is not that complex. It calls for commitment, just like many other professions. I advise ladies who want to pursue Doctorates in this field or any other field, to do so as soon as possible especially if they intend to start or have already started families," she says.

For her Doctorate, Dr. Nnaggenda-Musana looked at Uganda's informal settlements. "I studied how informal settlements develop on private and public land in Kampala. This included examining houses in the informal settlements and finding out ways in which appropriate housing can be provided for the urban poor. My research recommends regularisation of informal settlement and low-rise vertical construction of houses as opposed to horizontal spread out," she explains. As a result of her Doctorate, Nnaggenda-Musana feels she now teaches students in a better manner, for she is more informed and aware of the vast research accomplished in her field.



Innovations

Dr. Naggenda-Musana with a team of five others, are proposing to construct a mobile toilet for informal settlement. The premise is that due to the lack of appropriate road networks in the informal settlements it can be difficult for cess-pool trucks to access pit latrines in such places, in order to empty them. Mobile toilets would allow the users to empty the toilets on self-help basis. The research is still at concept level. (<http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/633103-makerere-designs-metallic-mobile-public-toilet.html>)



The smart portable trailer toilet will be constructed using metallic materials and will cater for the needs of disabled people. It will utilize solar energy in the functioning. Target deployment areas include suburbs with high water tables that make it difficult to construct pit latrines.

Supervision

She is currently supervising

- One Doctorate student in the area of Gender Sensitive Architectural Designs;
- Three Masters students researching on informal settlements.

Membership to Professional Organizations

- Member, Uganda Society of Architects;
- Member Architects Registration Board.

Outreach services

- Member, National Habitat III Committee;
- Board Member, Nsambya Hospital;
- Technical Adviser, National Planning Authority;
- Member, Board of Directors, Technology Consults Ltd.