



# SHELTER NEWSLETTER

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# Annual General Meeting

The SSA Annual General Meeting took place on September 25 at the Fairway Hotel. Network members gathered to discuss this year's budget, project activities and strategic planning. The outgoing board of directors was given a proper send off and thank you for all their hard work over the last six years. The day ended with ballots being cast for a new board of directors and chairperson. Congratulations to the new chairperson of the SSA board, Mr. Collin Semakula!

## Women's Spaces Project Workshop

On September 26 a workshop was held at the Fairway Hotel for SSA network members and the newly elected board. A presentation was given on The Women's Spaces Project to ensure everyone in attendance could gain a strong understanding of this major SSA activity. A presentation was also held on housing rights in both international law and Ugandan law. Important discussions were held on finding solutions to project challenges, as well as housing inequalities in Uganda. SSA benefits greatly from network members' valuable ideas for change to promote housing equality for all Ugandans.



Mr. Collin Semakula (first from right) with SSA staff, network members and paralegals



SSA Annual General Meeting



# Land Management Conference

On September 27th SSA participated in the Kampala Capital City Land Management Conference at Mestil Hotel Kampala. The conference agreed that land ownership is a human rights issue; there is need for participation and involvement of multiple layer of stakeholders to have meaningful and sustainable orderly engagement. Land management in the city should be a joint venture involving public private partnerships and the slum communities themselves. Affordable housing and orderly planning can only be achieved with inclusive, integrated and orderly planning and development.

The conference being the first of its kind was the opening of a critical conversation that will continue at different levels in order to address the numerous land management challenges that the city faces.



# Women's Spaces Project: stories from the paralegals

When Shelter and Settlements Alternatives (SSA) gave Entebbe paralegals the task of leading sensitizations on marriage, Emily Naava Nabatte (an Entebbe community paralegal and member of the Action for Liberty and Economic Development group) knew she had to plan a strong event.

Reflecting on the importance of marriage sensitization, Emily noted: “many individuals lacked comprehensive information about the legal, social and emotional aspect of marriage leading to uninformed decisions and potential issues”.

Using what she learned from her SSA paralegal training on the laws of marriage in Uganda, she also made sure to discuss the important legal benefits of marriage. “...For example; financial support, legal benefits like inheritance rights and access to healthcare benefits”.

By being able to hold regular meetings, paralegals like Emily can use the information gleaned from SSA and the Women’s Spaces Project to inform their communities about their inherent legal protections within a marriage. This will help to reduce domestic violence, land rights violations, and promote equality between husbands and wives.



Entebbe Paralegals



# Upcoming Events:



→ The Uganda Housing Symposium takes place October. 5 where experts gather to exchange ideas on addressing the housing needs in Uganda. This years theme: **Affordable Housing in Urban Informal Settlements as a Driver for Economic Growth**

→ On October. 10, Swedish partner We Effect will be visiting SSA project sites in Bujuuko and Namuwongo

→ Mid October an online exchange will take place between Women's Spaces paralegals and our South Africa partner SERI's Inner City Federation

→ On October. 18 the official SSA board of directors handover and orientation will take place

**And so much more!**